

GATEWAY ARCH EAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

September 2014

<http://gatewaymusicteachers.org> Illinois State Music Teachers Association

President: LeAnn Halvorson; Vice President/Programs: Mary Anderson; Secretary: Stephanie Owen; Treasurer: Karen Koch

Please send newsletter information to: Karen Koch, 618-224-7102, kk@musicmarket.com



Apples for our Teachers!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thur, Sept 11** Deadline (now past) for submission of entries for South District Auditions, ISMTA
- Fri., Sept. 19** GAE Meeting at Miller Music, 10 a.m. by Kristine Konrad and Heidi Hammernick "Working with Students with Learning Disabilities"
- Fri, Oct 3** "Musical-i-tea" at Gill Cerbin's home has been CANCELLED for this date. Watch for a future reschedule date.
- Fri., Oct. 17** "Improvisation and Composition," 10 a.m. by Amy Jo Sawyer; Lacefield Music, Shiloh, IL
- Sat, Oct 18** ISMTA South District Auditions at SIUE. Dunham Hall 1109.
- Sat, Nov 1** Tentative date for Clavinova Festival at Piano Distributors. Details to follow.
- Fri.-Sun., Nov. 7-9** ISMTA Conference; Millikin University, Decatur, IL
- Fri., Nov. 21-** "Pathfinders: Women Artists and Composers," 10 a.m. by Barbara Kramer and Ann Davidson; Lewis and Clark Community College, Godfrey, IL

Note: The complete calendar for the remainder of 2014-15 is attached at the end of this newsletter. It will be available on the website as well.

SPECIAL GAE MEETING FOR SPECIAL STUDENTS

Most piano teachers do not have special training for working with learning-challenged students, but most of us are likely to have such students in our studios. The two speakers at our upcoming Friday, September 19 meeting have such training. They are Heidi Hamernik, PhD, a licensed Clinical-Community Psychologist in the Chicago northern and western suburbs who specializes in the treatment of children and adolescents and in assessing and treating Aspergers' Syndrome, Social Learning Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, Mood Disorders, and Behavioral

Disorders such as Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. Her co-presenter is Kristine Konrad, a private piano teacher in River Forest whose 2010 Masters of Music in Piano Pedagogy from Concordia University Chicago involved researching the dyslexic student and reading music. Kristine also holds a Masters degree from the University of Chicago, and is a member of ISMTA.

Their presentation at 10 AM on Friday will be "Discovering the Process of Reading Music: How to Teach Piano Students of All Reading Abilities". The International Dyslexia Association estimates that **dyslexia or reading disability occurs in 10-20 percent of the general population and does not discriminate based on intellect or socio-economic status.**

Therefore it is highly likely that most piano teachers regularly encounter these students, though they may be undiagnosed. The presentation will help gain a better understanding of the basic neurophysiological underpinnings of reading disorders and how, from a neuropsychological standpoint, students of all reading abilities may typically approach reading music for the piano. A second part of the presentation will address hands-on, multisensory techniques and interventions to assist piano teachers and music instructors when teaching students with and without dyslexia.

Obviously, this program will be well worth any effort necessary to attend.

AID FOR AIM ANGST

Limited updated information concerning AIM (Achievement in Music Syllabus) was received with some concern at the August meeting. Our GAE 2014-15 AIM testing will be based on the new syllabus, although for this year only, the repertoire lists from the existing syllabus will be acceptable for our students' use. For those who are concerned about teaching without the timely availability of the syllabus as the year begins, an email from ISMTA stated the following additional information: *"There is a one-year period when repertoire [though NOT theory] from the old syllabus may be used as well as the new. The level is much the same at the beginning and the end, but you may notice a more gradual increase in difficulty through the intermediate levels and many new pieces to choose from. Please note that you may continue to write to Stephanie Myers hisamimyrs@gmail.com to request permission to use music that is not on the syllabus. Level 12 permissions will now be handled by our AIM Piano Performance Chair, Debbie Gillette debbiegillette1@gmail.com."*

The newly-revised AIM Syllabus books have arrived for all interested members, provided by GAE. At \$30.50, this is a nice benefit for members! The only requirement is that a member must enter at least one student in 2014-15 AIM. The new syllabus books can be picked up at the September 19 meeting. If unable to attend this meeting, teachers requesting the new syllabus should contact Heidi Shepherd to arrange delivery. Katie Hanley volunteered to deliver copies to SIUE.

A recent communication from Mary Beth Molenaar, ISMTA Syllabus Revision Chair, encourages teachers to read both the Forward to the new Syllabus and the Guidelines on the first page of each theory and repertoire level in the new Syllabus. These will provide answers to most questions that arise. In addition, on November 8 at the ISMTA annual conference at Millikin University, Debby Gillette will conduct an AIM session.

ISMTA Contacts for AIM information:

Questions on new Theory Exams:

Rita Brown, AIM Theory Chair, 630-668-0649

Questions on Technique or Repertoire:

Debbie Gillette, AIM Repertoire Chair. "pianodeb@msn.com"

Level 12 Repertoire Permission:

Debbie Gillette, AIM Repertoire Chair. "pianodeb@msn.com"

Repertoire Substitution Requests:

Stephanie Myers: "hisamimyrs@gmail.com"

LeAnn summarized the AIM information by saying that teaching from the current syllabus levels will probably result in adequate preparation for the new exams. Both Karen Rogers' and LeAnn's workbooks are being updated as rapidly as possible to reflect the new syllabus.

AUGUST BUSINESS ACCOMPLISHED



The 2014-15 GAE year was inaugurated on August 29 at Piano Distributors. Debbie Meier and LeAnn Halvorson led an interactive and enjoyable keyboard ensemble session that involved careful counting and considerable laughter. The ensemble arrangements had been created by Susan Ogilvie and LeAnn at the KETS13 Conference on keyboard technology during the summer.

Other business for GAE has also been completed. Debbie Meier has accepted the position of Membership Chair for GAE, and the Treasurer position has finally been officially turned over to Karen Koch (not without multiple attempts. In the process the bank informed us that banking regulations have now changed along with technology, so the old GAE account had to be closed and a new business account opened. This change will allow a much easier transition next time that new officers are elected, and banking can now be accomplished at any US bank locations in the metro area.)

Our GAE Co-members of the Year were selected at the May meeting and recognized again in August: LeAnn Halvorson for her efforts on the AIM revisions and Amy Jo Sawyer for her award as winner of the ISMTA Composer of the Year.

AIM REPERTOIRE CHECKER NEEDED

Our main AIM repertoire checker, Kate (Hyatt) Braatz, may be moving to Texas for her new husband's move. Since she may be leaving, we are in need of someone else to take over responsibility for receiving the repertoire lists for AIM performance exams and verifying that the chosen repertoire for each student meets the requirements. Duties are usually shared with others who have volunteered to help with this, and Kate would be happy to help if she is still in the area in March. If you would be willing to help with this, please contact LeAnn Halvorson.

AUDITIONS for SOUTHERN DISTRICT ISMTA (from Huei Li Chin)

The deadline for entries in the South District Student Audition was September 11. The auditions are scheduled for Saturday, October 18 at SIUE. Chairman is Dr. Huei Li Chin, Campus Box 1771, Music Department, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL 62026-1771.

CLAVINOVA FESTIVAL AND MUSIC LINK PARTNERSHIP

(From Debbie Meier)

Gateway Arch East Music Teachers Association is using the Clavinova Festival on Saturday November 1 to benefit the MusicLink Program. The festival not only gives all students a chance to perform, but the MusicLink demonstrates how their music can benefit others. If interested, (but not necessary) you may collect pledges from family and friends or just give a donation in any amount. All proceeds are going to help disadvantaged children receive lessons, music and scholarships. Tax receipts will be provided. At last year's festival, we raised \$560. Let's see if we can top this! If you are unable to have your students participate, but would like to give a donation to MusicLink, please see Deb Meier and let her know. Thank you!

*All participants will receive a MusicLink pin. All participants who collect \$25.00 or more will receive a MusicLink tote bag or string backpack. All participants who collect \$100.00 or more will receive recognition & their photograph in the national MusicLink E-Newsletter. All participants who collect \$250.00 or more will receive an IPOD Shuffle.

The MusicLink Foundation believes that anyone who shows musical potential should be given the opportunity to nurture this musical promise to its full extent.

FORMER GAE MEMBER DIES

Barbara Carter, 82, a former member of GAE, passed away on August 28 at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. She had served as a president of the Metro East Music Teachers Association (an earlier area teacher group affiliated with Music Teachers National Association),



and lived in O'Fallon. Condolences are extended to her husband, Frank, and children Rosanne (Ronald) Durbin and Michael Carter and their families, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Memorials can be made to Susan G Komen St. Louis www.komenstlouis.org. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.schildknechtfh.com .

TIDBITS

In July at the Midwest Institute of Opera, hosted at Illinois State University, **JOSEPH WELCH** of McKendree University conducted the Midwest premiere of Dan Shore's all-female opera *The Beautiful Bridegroom*. Also at MIO, Dr. Welch conducted a shortened (kid-friendly) version of Bizet's *Carmen* as an outreach to younger and non-traditional audience members. There were 600 children at this concert hosted by **MIOperatunities!**

A vocal student of **STEPHANIE OWEN** won a lead in the Looking Glass Theater September presentation of "The Adams Family". Also, several of her voice students have been chosen to perform as Idol finalists or Idol alternates for the Belleville Bicentennial. Lauren Cerbin, Caroline Cunningham and Olivia Gregory will be performing on Sunday, September 21 at 3 PM at the Grand Square in Belleville.

KATE HYATT became **KATE HYATT BRAATZ** when she married Adam Braatz on July 26. "I am so happy to be married to my best friend" tells her story in her own words. Best wishes, Kate, for a life making beautiful harmony together.

Bonus

An extensive approach to technique for students is available at this video link, discovered by LeAnn Halvorson and based on the principles of Dorothy Taubman. It is full of great information, but will require some time to digest the many video clips and suggestions! Be sure to save the link. <http://mclellandpiano.homestead.com/HealthyHands.html>

Looking Ahead to some . . .

2015 GAE Programs and Events

Wed., Jan. 14th, 2015 – Level 3-12 AIM Theory Registrations due by midnight to the following: Student Registration Fee Form to Karen Koch, Teacher Judging and Student Enrollment Forms to LeAnn Halvorson (forms available on website)

Thur., Jan. 15th – AIM Repertoire Changes Due to Lynette Zelis, 203 E. Hawthorne, Wheaton, IL 60187-3607; lzmusic@sbcglobal.net; (630) 260-9315

Fri., Jan. 23rd, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Schubertiad; Art Gallery Tour, Teacher Performances, and Luncheon at The Schmidt Art Center, SWIC. If you are performing, call or email Heidi Shepherd with program information.

Sat./Sun., Feb. 14th-15th – AIM Level 3-12 Theory Exams at SWIC; T.B.A. at SIUE

Fri., Feb. 20th, 10 a.m. – "Collaborative Pieces for Early Advanced Pianists," presented by Joseph Welch; McKendree University, Lebanon, IL

Wed., Mar. 4th, Midnight – AIM Repertoire Forms due (forms available on website). Send to: Mary Anderson (snail mail), or Kate Hyatt (email) musikate@gmail.com

Wed., Mar. 11th, Midnight – AIM Levels 1-12 Student Registration Forms Due. Fee Form to Karen Koch, Teacher Judging and Student Enrollment Forms to Joan Witte (forms available on website).

END

