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2006-2007**

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AKTA Board 2007-2008

*Would you like to be on
the board? Small
positions available.
Guidance is given. Call
now to reserve your
position. 345-5811*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri. Apr. 6 - AKTA General Meeting was this morning at Dick Reichman's. He has a large collection of clavichords and harpsichords that he let us play. He told us how they worked, why they were changed thru the years, and a lot of their history. This was an absolutely fabulous morning. Thanks, Dick.

Fri. Apr. 13 - 9:30-11:30 AM - Steinway piano Gallery, 637 A Street, is having a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast.. Details on page 2.

Apr. 13 - Deadline for Spring Adjudication applications.

May 5 & 6 - Downey Competition

May 7-11 - AMTA Spring Adjudications, Filipino Bible Church, 3340 Raspberry Road. This event is for students Elementary 3 level or higher. Email Cindy Epperson at cadae@alaska.net or call 346-4565 to request a registration packet. Schedules will be available April 20 at the Keyboard Cache. Rebecca Bogart from San Francisco is the adjudicator.

Friday, May 25 - Workshop at Washburns, 9:30-Noon. **Julie Kruger, vice-president of the National Guild of Piano Teachers** will be here. This workshop is free and open to teachers and intermediate/advanced students. She will cover: 1. The American College of Musicians/National Guild of Piano Teachers. 2. How to motivate the Intermediate Student. 3. Festival/Audition/Competition: advantages/disadvantages for BOTH teachers and students. 4. How to judge: what judges look for on the local, state, national, international levels. 5. How to motivate the 'bored' teacher.

June 4-8 - Suzuki Institute. Go to www.alaskasuzuki.org for more information.

Aug 18-19 - AMTA Fall conference. Ingrid Clarfield and Gary Ingle (MTNA Executive Directors) will be here.

The Downey Competition 2008 needs a chairperson. Learn how it works by working with Cindy Epperson on this year's competition. Call Chris at 345-5811 to volunteer.



Thanks for two wonderful programs. In January, Juliana Osinchuk was our speaker, and in February, Laura Koenig was our speaker. Both of these women are outstanding musicians and gave excellent presentations. We appreciate all your hard work.

AKTA President's Letter

What a month March was!!!! Thank goodness for Spring Break to allow time to recover and regroup after the whirlwind of activity.

The Ribbon Festival was spectacular. The combined efforts of all the teachers involved help create a festival that had kids excited about piano, parents smiling and Anchorage Christian School buzzing with activity. AKTA achieved its goal: to ignite the love of piano and music in our students and their parents.

Everyone wants **Robert Vandall** to return to Anchorage as soon as possible! His approach to students touched their hearts and musical souls. He was warm, interested in each student, gave quality suggestions, and made each person feel valued. His composing class was HUGE! Each student with a composition performed for him – he was impressed with the creativity and the desire of the students to compose. Who knew Anchorage had so much student interest in composing? Mr. Vandall was impressed with the desire to learn that students demonstrated, and with the amount of parent involvement. This has not been the norm at other events he has worked. He was equally taken with Alaska as Alaska was taken with him.

Games, Drumming and Improvisation also were a hit! Thank you Nancy Campbell, Gretchen Thomas, Janna Preston, Sharon Theroux, Kevin Barnett, and Beverly Cashin. Your energy and expertise made everyone's day! Parents loved being included in classes when there was room for them. Thank you for being generous with your talents.

Scale testing was successful and progressed smoothly. Judging from the number of ribbons issued to students – scales were worth the work!

The Master Classes with Dr. Tim Smith and Dean Epperson really inspired the older students. Several students had come just to observe the Festival, and were really interested in the Master Classes. They plan to enter next year!

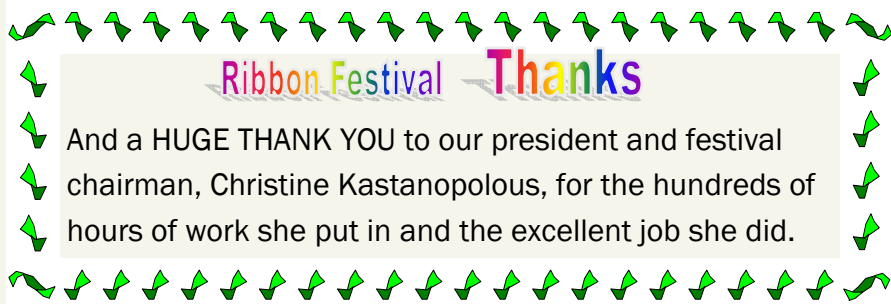
The Performances (Adjudicated, not Adjudicated – solos, duets and trios) helped students realize how prepared or not prepared they were. Reality checks are difficult, but necessary. Thank you to all the teachers who gave their time and expertise in creating environments that made this difficult process comfortable for the students.

The "Trading Post" stocked and manned by Diane Moore and the Keyboard Cache was a HUGE motivator! Students lined up at the Flash Card Challenge station to earn MORE ribbons so they could shop for more!

The Keyboard Ensembles and teacher workshops on Friday were well received. Watching Mr. Vandall work with 30 students and get them to play together in just one 30-minute rehearsal was impressive. The VIP Room was filled to capacity at the evening concert! The cake and punch AKTA served after the concert was a great ending for the evening.

Thank you to everyone - teachers, parents, students, friends - who helped make this festival so great. If you did not participate this year – for goodness sake, join in next year! The event is electrifying!

Christine Kastanopolous, President



Ribbon Festival Thanks

And a HUGE THANK YOU to our president and festival chairman, Christine Kastanopolous, for the hundreds of hours of work she put in and the excellent job she did.

Steinway Piano Gallery Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Friday April 13, 9:30-11:30, 637 A Street across from the Anchorage Museum. Come and have fun, play the pianos, enjoy some good music. **RSVP Trish at 677-9311.**

Ribbon Festival 2008

Do you have an idea for a class or workshop that elementary students would enjoy?
Do you have ideas for Master Classes or workshops for teenagers?
We will not adopt-a-composer next year, and so we need more classes for students.
Call 345-5811 with your suggestions.

Robert Vandall wrote a heart-felt thank-you note....

"Thanks, again, for such a great invitation to be a part of your Ribbon Festival. You truly have a unique event and the students seemed to enjoy it all very much. I was especially impressed with the students who attended the Playing Scales Fast session. They were attentive and several were quite willing to come to the piano and try things out. And of course, the roomful of students who had compositions to play was fun to behold. Their enthusiasm and sense of accomplishment in performing for an audience and for me was gratifying to see. I love master classes and appreciated your arranging for me to participate in several of those.

I love ensemble concerts and festivals and truly enjoyed working with the groups of students on Friday evening. I love rehearsing (as you could probably see) and helping the students to develop their ensemble sense and hearing. Plus, there must also be a sense of camaraderie and feeling that we are all in that activity together and that we rise and fall as a group. I also enjoyed keeping the beat for the teachers. You all played very well and it was a pleasure to stand in front, having the audience thinking that I actually had something to do with how well you all did.

People have asked me how I enjoyed my trip to Alaska and I answer that the people there LOVE living there. It is your choice to be there, not an accident of birth, and that you are all ambassadors for the state. I also mention to them that Karen and I already have accommodations for any future visit we may take there.

Thank you all for such an interesting and fun weekend. Please pass on my congratulations to your organization for your Festival and my thanks for inviting me to be a small part of it. We will hope to meet you all again somewhere, sometime.

Yours very truly, Bob

AKTA TREASURER'S REPORT - February-March 2007

Keybank Checking Account

Beginning Balance.....\$4,022.58

CREDITS: \$4,305.00 Ribbon Festival
 1,820.00 Ribbon Festival
 45.00 Dues (3 members)
 395.00 Ribbon Festival

Total Credits \$6,565.00

DEBITS:

#1319 \$1500.00 Robert Vandall (Ribbon Festival Presenter)
#1320 VOID
#1321 VOID
#1322 144.90 Siam Cuisine (Vandall dinner after festival)
#1323 300.00 Dan Lundell (piano tuning for festival)
#1324 150.49 Christine Kastanopolous (festival expenses)
#1325 232.64 Carolyn Nickles (festival expenses)
 7.00 KeyBank (fees for February & March)

Total Debits \$2,335.03

Ending Balance.....\$8,252.55

Respectfully submitted, Dean Epperson, Treasurer, 3/20/2007



Ribbon Festival Income	\$6,520.00
Expenses as of 3/30/07	<u>2,985.31</u>
Balance as of 3/30/07	\$3534.69

Outstanding Bills - Approximated

\$1000.00	Church usage
1000.00	Piano Movers
1,254.05	Ribbons & Misc.
<u>545.76</u>	Keyboard Cache
Total	\$3,799.81

Keyboard Ensemble at the Alaska State Fair ???

The Ribbon Festival ensembles were a great success. Several years ago my studio did a keyboard ensemble concert at the State Fair. I could not do it another year because the expense of transporting the Clavinovas from Anchorage to Palmer was \$1000.00. If AKTA can generate the funding, I will contact the State Fair to see if it is possible for AKTA to present the concert.

Pros: Great motivator to gets kids practicing during the summer.
Generates students for teachers in summer months when income diminishes.
Teaching duets and trios in the summer creates an alternative to regular study material.
Gets everyone excited to start the new teaching year in August.
Students learn through experience that they are accountable for correct notes, counting and dynamics.
A fun event with a stress free conclusion that helps students celebrate playing the piano!

Cons: School starts mid-August. Selecting when we perform could be difficult.
Generating the money to transport the instruments – how do we do cover the cost?
(If 60 students enrolled to perform and paid \$25 each = \$1,500.00)

Is this an idea AKTA could support?

RENTAL PIANOS AVAILABLE

I now have pianos available again for monthly rentals. Teachers who have students that are currently practicing on keyboards at home may want to inform the parents of this option. I have high quality used and new pianos that have been properly prepared and regulated, available for reasonable monthly rates.

For those of you who don't know me, I have been servicing pianos in Alaska for 27 years. My list of clients has included UAA, The Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, and many of the teachers in AKTA.

For more information about piano rentals please call me at (907) 244-4009. Thank you, Kurt W. Ford, RPT

Dr. Tim Smith recently performed in China with Sa Chen and the China National Symphony Orchestra. They twice performed a two-piano concerto with the orchestra under the direction of Terje Mikkelsen in Beijing. Links to photos of the concert along with more information on this exciting event can be accessed online at this web address: <http://music.uaa.alaska.edu/CNSO.html>

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