

AKTA Board Members
2007-2008

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Oct 5 General Meeting
Discussion
Things I wish I knew when I started
my piano studio.

Please fill out the form on page 5 and email or mail it to Nancy or Chris. If you know of a new piano teacher, please invite them to our meeting. This will help both 'old' and 'new' teachers.



UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meetings: Oct 5, Nov 2, Feb 1, Apr 4, all on Fridays at Washburn Piano behind Burlington Coat Factory, 9:00 AM-11:00, using the back entrance.

Special Events:

Oct 15 - Deadline to enter your students in the "Christmas in the Museum" program. See application on page 4 of this newsletter.

Oct 22 - Registration deadline for AMTA Fall Adjudication

Nov 3, 10, 11 - MTNA Performance competitions. Strings are on Nov 3, piano is on Nov 10 & 11. Both are at UAA. Piano judge is Dr. Deborah Clasquin from Humboldt State University. For schedule of events, contact Tim Smith.

Nov 9 - Faculty Recital visiting pianist Dr. Deborah Clasquin. At UAA Recital Hall. Time to be announced.

Nov 12-16 - **AMTA 2007 Fall Adjudication** - 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. Adjudicator is Cheryl Knorr, IAKT President from Fairbanks.

Sat Nov 17 - Workshop with Cheryl Knorr - This workshop might be held on Friday depending on how many students are signed up for the adjudication.

Dec 7 - Teacher appreciation breakfast at Steinway Gallery

Dec 9 & 16 - Christmas in the Museum

Feb 23 - Ribbon Festival

Mar 28-Apr 2 - MTNA Conference

May 3 & 4 - Downey Competition

AMTA Spring Adjudication May 5-9

Board Meetings: Oct 26, Nov 20, Jan 25, Feb 29, Apr 25, May 16 at Chris Kastanopolous, 9:00-11:00, 13810 Mainsail Drive.

**RIBBON
FESTIVAL**

Start planning now on entering your students in the Ribbon Festival, Feb 23, 2008. This will be our third year and it will be better than ever.

From the President -

The summer was great! All the swirl of the teaching year slows, there is time to reflect, renew and explore.

One realization the struck strong this summer was how comfortably easy it is to slip into a pattern and not realize what you have done. The pattern can be strong, comforting and a shelter from the not so joyful things that life can throw at you. Essentially – you shut down! You do not seek to grow in your art or skills; it is like being wrapped in a soft, warm security blanket. Well, if you know life at all you know you just set yourself up for a good, hard bump from reality.

“Art is the definition, in comprehensible form, of essential truth as the artist becomes aware of it in experience. If truth is there, no matter whether great or small, and if the interpreter is able to make its sense clear, the resultant form is a work of art...Great art is formed not of design or representation alone, but in an integration of the two...” (from the Introduction of Art In the Western World by Robb and Garrison).

How does this relate to my “comfortable blanket”? Am I so comfortable that I have stopped creating art? There is the art of teaching, performing, improvising...probably many more. When being complacent, I am not involved with art or my passions in any form. The joy of teaching and playing is replaced by a comfortable pattern and neither I nor the people associate with experience growth.

This is an invitation to everyone to join in renewed musical life. How?

1. **Spend time at the Keyboard Cache to explore new material**
2. **Start practicing for you – set a time and be greedy – that time is YOURS! Practice.**
3. **Look for new experiences that challenge you – if you find yourself afraid of an experience, than it probably will have an important lesson for you.**
4. **Get involved in activities outside your home, studio and current life’s patterns.**
5. **Call a fellow teacher and invite him or her to lunch.**
6. **Celebrate the amazing career that supports your life.**

Together we can share our hopes, loves, and failures and grow. Life is not a dress rehearsal – live it!

Christine Kastanopolous

2006-2007 in Review What did AKTA do this past year???

1. AKTA paid to tune and regulate the piano at the Mary Conrad Center and members were encouraged to sign their students up to perform in a once a month concert at the Center.
2. AKTA placed an advertisement in the Anchorage Symphony program.
3. AKTA students performed at the Anchorage Museum Holiday Concert.
4. AMTA students performed in the regional contest for the MTNA instrumental and composition competitions.
5. AKTA students participated in the Fall and Spring AMTA Adjudications.
6. AKTA Ribbon Festival was a great all-day piano festival.
7. AKTA students competed in the 21st Marguerite Downey Competition.
8. AKTA students performed at the Alaska State Fair.

This year should be even better. Perhaps YOU can make it better. Do you have suggestions of other things we might do or places we might perform? Let us know.



Newsletter Expansion... The AKTA newsletter is sent by email to all members of our local organization and to members of AMTA all over the state. For this reason the AKTA newsletter will begin an AMTA page in which Fairbanks, Sitka and the bush will share what is happening in their areas. Are any of you members of a music teaching organization that has not been mentioned? If so, please let us hear from you.

Entry deadline for newsletter material is the 10th of each month, publication is on the 20th. Send articles ready to insert needing little or no editing. Digital photos are welcome. Emailed newsletters are in color, snail mails are in black and white. If you do not receive email and want a printed copy, please send your request to: Nancy Campbell, 12900 Ridgeview Drive, Anchorage, 99516...907-345-9117... nancyc@gci.net

Email from the Bush...

Last spring each of my 31 students composed a piece (with varying degrees of ability of course), and recorded a CD. The CD is called "Hearts and Hands-Maiden Voyage (Vol I:2007)" We had it professionally mastered and packaged, and are selling the CDs as a fundraiser to earn enough money to bring a composer/pianist to the island once a year for a master class/music writing workshop/ and concert. As you might guess, any plane ticket is costly to get here, and flying is the only way here in the winter. Not to mention the honorarium, housing and meals! We have sold several and received kind donations and are hopeful that we might be able to afford our first guest artist in fall 2008. Our community is very proud of our kids who all worked so hard on this project. They have their own page on my website which is www.robinsoncrusoe.com. I hope that you will check it out.. The CD's are available at Keyboard Cache.

Sincerely, Lynda

Lynda Lybeck Robinson, Robinson Crusoe Music
P.O. Box 504, Unalaska AK 99685
907-581-1542 // fax 907-581-2075, www.lyndalybeck.com

State Conference: This year's conference was cancelled because of the poor health of the presenter. We truly hope Ingrid Clarfield has a speedy recovery from her stroke.

The AMTA Board met this summer and decided to once again spread the conferences around the state. Next summer—August 2008—the conference will be in Fairbanks. Conference 2009 will be in Anchorage, and conference 2010 will be in Sitka. Start planning and saving now to attend these conferences.



Christmas in the Museum!!

The Anchorage Museum of History and Fine Arts has once again invited students of the Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association to play seasonal and other music at the museum on two occasions: December 9, 2007 from 3:00 – 3:45 pm and December 16 from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

On each Sunday in December, the museum is opening their doors to varied holiday musical programs provided by Anchorage performers and would like our students to perform during these 45 minute recitals.

Students at the late Elementary II or above may participate. The museum is looking for a diversity of styles that is not limited to carols but may also include Chanukah, Kwaanza, classical, etc. Solos and duets are allowed; also piano accompanying another instrument. Although pieces do not need to be memorized they need to be thoroughly prepared to meet the museum's expectations of performance. Dress requirements include dress pants and shirt for boys and dress or dressy outfit for girls that is appropriate for piano performance.

Depending on number of teachers interested, each teacher will be assigned a 15 – 20 minute slot to fill with their qualified students. Slots are available on a first come, first served basis. Deadline is **October 15, 2007**.

After I receive all the names of interested teachers, I will assign a specific date and time. By **November 15**, I will need the names of the performing students and their selections.

Please submit to: Connie McFarlane
 5620 E. 98th Ave.
 Anchorage, AK 99507

You may contact me at Kmcfar747@aol.com or 333-4970 for further information or to reserve a slot.

Teacher Name _____

Preferred Date for Performance _____

Date of application _____



Topic: Things I wish I knew when I started my piano studio...

Name: _____ (Optional)

1. Name 3 aspects concerning your studio that you wish you knew when you started teaching.
2. How did you make the choice where to set up your studio? Example: In my living room, a separate room in my home, at a music store, in a commercial space...
3. How did you arrive at a price to charge for your lessons?
4. How did you attract students?
5. How did you select materials to use?
6. What changes have you made in your teaching as you gained experience?
7. Did another teacher mentor you? ___Yes ___No
8. Did you take pedagogy classes at University or another setting? ___Yes ___No
9. Looking back, what would have helped you most when you began teaching?
10. What advice would you offer to beginning teachers?
11. Do you attend music conferences in Alaska? ___Yes, ___No
12. Do you attend music conferences outside of Alaska? ___Yes, ___No
13. Do you have something to share that has not been addressed in the list?

MTNA Professional Certification...

Why get certified? It will enhance your finances and your teaching because you cared to explore the art of teaching and performance. You will grow professionally. You will affect your students in a positive manner. You will not be just the person down the street who happens to teach piano, you will be a professional teacher of music. You will have respect for yourself and for your profession and will receive more respect from the people engaging you as the professional who teaches their family.

Fairbanks teachers have decided to work together as a group to help each other become certified by MTNA. MTNA has changed its certification process to make it attractive for teachers who aspire to become certified. Does AKTA want to follow the spirit of Fairbanks and start helping teachers become certified? We will discuss this at the meeting on October 5.

AKTA Treasurer's Report—September 20, 2007

Key Bank Checking Account

Beginning Balance \$3,780.94

Credits: \$1,000.00

Transfer from Waddell & Reed

195.00

Dues from 13 members

Total Credits \$1,195.00

Debits: #1348 \$ 366.50

First Student - bus for State Fair

#1349 675.00

Anchorage Symphony Advertisement

#1350 580.00

Allen Piano Movers for State Fair

10.50

Bank service fee for 3 months

Total Debits \$1,632.00

Ending Balance \$3,343.94

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Epperson, Treasurer 9/20/07



Congratulations to the 27 students who performed at the Alaska State Fair on Friday, August 24. The ensembles went well. The students each received a free pass into the Fair and a food chit worth \$6.50. Thanks to Chris Kastanopolous for heading this up.