

## Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association

AKTA Board Members  
2007-2008

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Connie McFartane,  
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**Oct 22 - Registration deadline for  
AMTA Fall Adjudication. Must be to  
Cindy Epperson by that date.**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**General Meetings:** 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:

**Nov 2 - General Meeting at Washburn Piano, 9 AM.** Special program to be announced. Also, please fill out and send or bring the form on page 6.

**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, 7:30 PM

**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](mailto:cadae@alaska.net) or call 346-4565 to request a registration packet. If you wish to observe, please contact Cindy. 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.** Information will be sent shortly.

**Fri. Dec 7 - Teacher appreciation hot breakfast Steinway Gallery, 9 AM**

**Dec 9 & 16 - Christmas in the Museum, 3:00-3:45 PM**

**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.

## **Things I wish I knew when I started my piano studio...Some of your answers are:**

1. Name 3 aspects concerning your studio that you wish you knew when you started teaching. 1. What to charge, or what is the going rate. 2. Charge tuition instead of by the lesson. 3. Pay in advance 4. Present a studio policy (including a strict cancellation policy) and stick with it. 5. Knew of a syllabus describing what is expected at each performance level. 6. Knew what MTNA was and what it offered. 7. Knew what methods books were available. 8. Present a concept, then show application. 9. How to help reluctant students. 10. Practice for performances in small incremental steps. 11. Learn your own limits. 12. Be confident of yourself.
2. How did you make the choice where to set up your studio? 1. Separate room in my home. 2. In my living room. 3. At a music store. 4. Rent a studio. 5. At the students homes. 6. When away from your own home, you have to count travel time and expense, lack of control of environment.
3. How did you arrive at a price to charge for your lessons? 1. Guessed, started way too low and needed to raise the amount each year. 2. Doubled the fee paid to my teacher by my parents. 3. Asked a few local teachers what their rates were and considered feedback from potential student's parents. 4. What the local economy supports.
4. How did you attract students? 1. Word of mouth. 2. AKTA teacher list. 3. Keyboard Cache list. 4. Craig's list. 5. Community school program. 6. Senior center ads. 7. Music stores. 8. Newspaper ads. 9. Church musician exposure. 10. Flyers at UAA and area businesses. 11. ASD has a list of private music teachers.
5. How did you select materials to use? 1. Found what works for particular students. 2. Find a student's interests and learning style. 3. Attend workshops. 4. Hit & miss. 5. Research materials at music stores. 6. For transfer students, start with music from their old books. 7. Read professional magazines. 8. Play through the music you are going to use.
6. What changes have you made in your teaching as you gained experience? 1. Needed a set curriculum. 2. Started scales sooner. 3. Got stricter. 4. Raised expectations of myself and students. 5. Became more structured and organized. 6. Experienced more methods and tried new approaches. 7. Included ear playing and chording. 8. Employed greater flexibility while raising expectations, holding students and parents accountable. 9. While following a basic outline of theory, scales, exercises and solo music, take advantage of questions my students ask and make connections between that lesson and other pieces or concepts.
7. Did another teacher mentor you? Yes - yes No - five
8. Did you take pedagogy classes at University or another setting? Yes - four No - two
9. Looking back, what would have helped you most when you began teaching? 1. Keeping up with my performance skills. 2. Playing in concerts myself. 3. Seek pedagogy classes or a mentor. 4. Know an experienced teacher's bag of tricks. 5. Attend discussion groups. 6. Know more ways of encouraging students to practice.
10. What advice would you offer to beginning teachers? 1. Attend workshops and seminars. 2. Attend master classes at UAA (UAF) or other schools. 3. Observe other teachers. 4. Take part in AMTA adjudications. 5. Join AKTA, AMTA. 6. Set up your studio guidelines and stick to them - fees, waiting space, make-up lessons, etc. Remember it's a business, not your life. 7. Not every teacher is best for every student. Be willing to admit when the student would be better off elsewhere. 8. Be willing to adjust to each student's needs and learning style while following your own teaching ideas. 9. Put students on probation for 6 weeks. 10. Find a mentor.
11. Do you attend music conferences in Alaska? Yes - six No - none
12. Do you attend music conferences outside of Alaska? Yes - two No - four
13. Do you have something to share that has not been addressed in the list? 1. Wish that AKTA would compile a list of teacher's favorite solos for students. 2. AKTA to find out who is willing to mentor.



# Alaska Music Teachers Association

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.*

October 2007

Hello AMTA and AKTA Members:

A big thank you to AKTA for allowing the state organization to "piggyback" onto their newsletter. I thought you might be interested to know some of the recent happenings within your state organization.

As president, I have been able to attend two excellent MTNA Leadership Summits (2006 and 2007) in Cincinnati, Ohio and have been impressed with some of the changes that are going on within the national organization. If you haven't visited it already, please bookmark the website for national: <http://www.mtna.org/> The inclusion of Julianne Miranda to the staff of MTNA has produced an even better website which includes, among other things, the Alaska State Portal. On the MTNA Home Page, look for "State Portal" and go from there to check it out. In addition to our AMTA website ([www.eskimo.com/~amta/](http://www.eskimo.com/~amta/)), ably run by board member Sally Laird, NCTM, the MTNA State Portal is another place to find information about our state as well as others. (By the way, the "~" symbol is located to the left of the number one).

Very exciting news...Gary Ingle, President of MTNA announced at this year's Summit that group health insurance may become available to the membership in the near future. I will keep you posted on the progress of this proposed addition to MTNA benefits.

In August 2007, the AMTA board held a Leadership Retreat in Anchorage and sponsored the travel for Fairbanks president Cheryl Knorr and Sitka president Jammie Wileman to attend. These two leaders, along with AKTA president, Christine Kastanopolus spent time with the AMTA board working out ways to simplify and consolidate all our efforts and effectively bring our vast state closer together.

As a result of this meeting, AKTA has offered space in its newsletter for AMTA news, as well as IAKT (Fairbanks) and SMTA (Sitka). Also, it was agreed that the State's conference location will be rotated between the three communities. Next August 2008--approximately the third weekend in August--plan to attend the state conference in Fairbanks where our presenters will be Sylvia Coats, MTNA Certification Chair, and Gary Ingle, MTNA President. We hope many of you will attend and learn how to actively pursue and maintain professional certification--a truly wonderful program.

A final item, this November, AMTA will once again hold the Performance Competitions in Anchorage at UAA Arts Building. The strings competition will be November 3<sup>rd</sup> and the piano competition will be held November 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to contact myself or Dr. Timothy Smith for information. Attendance is open to the public for the competitions and is always a highly educational experience.

Cynthia Epperson, NCTM , AMTA President

[cadae@alaska.net](mailto:cadae@alaska.net)

### IAKT Notes

Cheryl Knorr is president of IAKT (Interior Alaska Keyboard Teachers). She sent the following letter dated October 14. "IAKT is up and running at full speed. Monthly meetings are held every second Friday at 10:00 AM on the UAF campus. The teachers have taken assignments for the two-piano concert of Carmen's music, which is scheduled for February. We intend to feature a guest narrator and artist as well as our very own teachers. This is our big fund raiser for the year. Our first Honor's recital will be held on November 2, 2007 at 7:00 PM. This recital features students of our teachers. Our group's enthusiasm this year is very high and quite contagious."

### SMTA Notes

Jammie Wileman is president of the Sitka Music Teachers Association. She did a critique of some new music and her critique will be this month and next month. Jammie says: I have given a rating of 1 to 5 stars. One means I would not buy this again, two means I might for a certain student, three means average - for just the right student, four means almost perfect and five is just a great music book or sheet.

The first seven books are all Beanstalks Basics by Cheryl Finn and Eamonn Morris, published by The Willis Music Co, Hal Leonard distributor.

1. BB (Beanstalks Basics) for Piano & CD, Early Elem. *Technic* Prep Level A, \$10.95 \*\*\*
2. BB for Piano & CD, Early Elem. *Lesson Bk* Prep Level A, \$11.95 \*\*\*
3. BB for Piano & CD, Early Elem. *Technic* Prep Level B, \$10.94 \*\*\*
4. BB for Piano & CD, Early Elem. *Lesson Bk* Prep Level B, \$11.95 \*\*\*
5. BB for Piano & CD, Early Elem. *Performance* Bk, Prep Level, \$9.95 \*\*\*
6. BB for Piano & CD, Elem. *Technic* Bk, Level 1, \$10.95 \*\*\*
7. BB for Piano & CD, Elem. *Lesson Bk*, Level 1, \$12.95 \*\*\*

Other books are:

8. Patriotic Piano Solos, by Gail Smith, Early Intermediate to Intermediate, Mel Bay MB20736 \$8.95 \*\*\*\*
9. Not Just Another Scale Book with CD, 10 Innovative Piano Solos using Major & Minor Scales, by Mike Springer, Early Intermediate to Intermediate Alfred 25905 \$8.95 \*\*\*
10. Round the Clock, A Day Recalled in Short Musical Pictures, by George Kiorpes, Late Elem to Early Intermediate. The Willis Music Co, distributed by Hal Leonard, HL00416735 \$5.95 \*\*

Diane Moore would like to thank all who participated in the end of summer sale at Keyboard Cache. 5% of all sale items purchased by AKTA members was donated to the Ribbon Festival. This year's sale was a great success. Diane says that she saw many new and many familiar faces as you stopped in to browse the bins and enjoy a cup of coffee.



**2007-2008 AKTA /AMTA/MTNA Members as of October 19, 2007**

Alla Artemyeva	Connie McFarlane, NCTM
Joan Blee, NCTM	Kathryn Milliman
LaVella Briggs	Kathy Monaghan
Nancy Campbell	Diane Moore
Yevgeniy Chernonog	Carolyn Nickles
Iryna Duneava	Juliana Osinchuk
Brenda Durden	Janna Preston
Cindy Epperson, NCTM	Carolyn Rios
Dean Epperson, NCTM	Barbara Rosiecka
Ann Fernandez, NCTM	Barbara Russell
Barbara Gazaway	Carolyn Samson
Linda Green	Ruth Jean Shaw
Carrie Gruhn	Rumi Smith
Mary Hakala	Sharleen Smith
Janell Hamilton, NCTM	Tim Smith, NCTM
Sally Hitchcock	Carol Tisch
Chris Kastanopolous, NCTM	Margaret Turner
Debra Kontess	Svetlana Velitchiko
Sally Laird	Hae-Sook Yum
Gerilynn Martinson	

If you haven't paid your yearly dues, please get them in soon. Contact AKTA treasurer Dean Epperson, 346-4468, for more information.

We received word from Gail & Eric Johnson of the death of their mother, Virginia M. Johnson. She was born in 1923 in Denver, Colorado. She and her husband, Gus, moved to Alaska in 1947. They had many interests and various careers. Virginia taught piano and was a founding member of the Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association. A memorial service is planned for Nov. 4 at First Congregational Church at 3:00 PM. Donations may be made to the Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association, Marguerite Downey Piano Memorial Fund in care of Dean Epperson, 6901 Roundtree Dr, Anchorage, 99516; or to a charity of the donor's choice. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

**Pianos for Sale**

5'4" Everett Grand for sale. Owned by a former piano teacher. New bass strings, new hammers and new action. Appraised by Dan McElrath at \$3,000 to \$3,500. Will accept best offer. Good piano for a student. Contact Lynda McConnell at 337-8781 or [McConnell\\_Lynda@asdk12.org](mailto:McConnell_Lynda@asdk12.org).

Handok upright studio piano, made in Korea with English felt hammers, a German pinblock and German strings. 44" high, 59" wide, 21" deep. In excellent condition and comes with a bench. \$1000 or best offer. Call Carol Moonie at 279-9808

Piano (original cost \$3,000) needs a new home. Free, just moving costs. Call Missy at 277-9639



## WE NEED YOUR OPINIONS

Ouch!!! I guess we blew it on the discussion topic at our last meeting. Seven people showed up for the meeting. Was the topic not to your interest or does it mean you always want a special speaker? Teachers, this is YOUR organization. Please, please let us know what you want for the general meetings. Or are you only interested in the special events like the festival, the adjudications, etc. We have 39 members, and the newsletter is sent to 84 area people. We would love to hear from each of you as to what you want from AKTA.

Please tell us how important the following items are to YOU. Email back to me, [nancyc@gci.net](mailto:nancyc@gci.net) or mail to Nancy Campbell, 12900 Ridgeview Dr, Anchorage, AK 99516

10 means you really would/do participate, 1 means you never would participate. If you feel like it, please tell us why....

1. General meetings (4 a year, on Friday mornings) \_\_\_\_\_
2. General meetings with just discussions \_\_\_\_\_
3. General meetings with a special speaker \_\_\_\_\_
4. Adjudications (2 a year) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Conferences/Workshops with outside speakers/presenters \_\_\_\_\_
6. Ensembles at the State Fair \_\_\_\_\_
7. Christmas in the Museum \_\_\_\_\_
8. Downey Competition \_\_\_\_\_
9. Ribbon Festival \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you want more performance opportunities for your students? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association**

Nancy Campbell  
12900 Ridgeview Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99516

