

## Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association

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2007-2008

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**Friday Dec 7 - Teacher Appreciation  
Breakfast at Steinway Piano Gallery begin-  
ning at 10 AM. Delicious food and excellent  
entertainment. 637 A Street**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**General Meetings:** Feb 1, Apr 4, all on Fridays at Washburn Piano  
behind Burlington Coat Factory, 9:00 AM-11:00, use the back entrance.

**Special Events:**

**Thur. Nov. 29** - Dixieland jazz group, The Ravens, performing at  
7:00 PM at Steinway Piano Gallery. \$15 general admission, \$5 students,  
Reservations call 677-9311.

**Sat. Dec 1** - noon-2 PM - Piano and cello Master class with David  
Finckel & Wu Han at Steinway Piano Gallery, 637 A Street. \$8.00 pre-  
registration, \$10.00 at the door. Call 272-1471 for information or email  
[kkoford@anchorageconcerts.org](mailto:kkoford@anchorageconcerts.org)

**Sat. Dec 1** - 7:30 PM - Piano and cello concert with David Finckel  
& Wu Han at the Performing Arts Center. [www.alaskapac.org](http://www.alaskapac.org)

**Fri. Dec 7** - Music teacher appreciation hot catered breakfast at  
Steinway Gallery, 637 A Street, **10 AM** (*not 9 AM as stated last month*),  
entertainment and Christmas caroling.

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

**Sat. Feb 23** - **Ribbon Festival**. Information will be mailed  
soon. The festival is going to be better than ever.

**Mar 28-Apr 2** - MTNA Conference

**May 3 & 4** - Downey Competition

**May 5-9** - AMTA Spring Adjudication

**Board Meetings:** Nov 30, Jan 25, Feb 29, Apr 25, May 16 at Chris Kas-  
tanopolous, 9:00-11:00, 13810 Mainsail Drive.

**RIBBON  
FESTIVAL**

Start planning  
now on entering  
your students in  
the Ribbon Festi-  
val, Feb 23,  
2008. This will  
be our third year  
and it will be bet-  
ter than ever.

Greetings to AKTA members and friends,

2007 is rapidly coming to an end, time seems to be flying by.

The current AKTA board is hard at work creating a Ribbon Festival to inspire students, parents and teachers.

Please attend the next board meeting at 9:00 AM on Friday, November 30, at my home (13810 Mainsail Drive) if you want to help with planning this incredible event.

Since August, AKTA has been involved in a State Fair performance, AMTA competitions, a concert at UAA, adjudications and a workshop with Cheryl Knorr.

If you have not made time to attend general meetings, or any other event presented, you have missed out on the primary value of AKTA. This is your organization—please get involved! You will love getting to know other members and grow as a teacher. Join us at the Steinway Breakfast—the food and entertainment are impressive.

Enjoy a happy holiday season. Christine Kastanopolous, AKTA President

We had a short note from Jammie Wileman, president of SMTA (Southeast Music Teachers Association).....

***I was in Anchorage until the 12th, today, with the competitions... NOW I am swamped with MTNA NW Division Competitions, as I am the chair... We, SMTA, are meeting every month, and all is well...***

***Jammie Wileman***

Unalaska City School music program has begun rehearsals on an Aleut language song written by Unalaska piano teacher Lynda Lybeck Robinson. It will be sung by the students K-6, with audience participation on the Chorus. Directed by Jeanne Duhan and Cedar Rozzi, with Aleut coaching by esteemed author and Aleut educator Mr. Moses Dirks. Accompanists will be piano students of Ms Lybeck Robinson. Performance will be the community school Christmas concert in December.

The song, called the "Aang Aang Song" (means "hello" in Aleut, and pronounced "Ahng Ahng") is a catchy upbeat piece in which the teacher sings a phrase, an older child repeats, and a childrens' choir sings the chorus. This song is one of two songs Ms Lybeck Robinson is singing in Aleut on her soon to be released CD "An Aleut Lullaby". (her own project) For more information about [An Aleut Lullaby](#) CD, and about the piano students' projects in Unalaska, go to Ms Robinson's website at [www.lyndalybeck.com](http://www.lyndalybeck.com)

Concerning Ms Lybeck Robinson's students' CD [Hearts and Hands](#) Vol I, there are a few left. Call or email Cindy Epperson. Help support our fellow teachers and students in their efforts to raise money to have clinicians give workshops on the Aleutian Chain.

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

The Fairbanks Piano Festival is honored to have Dr. Jeffrey and Dr. Karen Savage as our judges this coming May. They both are graduates of Julliard and are currently working at Washington State University.

Practice has begun for our fund raising concert of Carmen's two piano works, performed by our own local association teachers. And our Christmas brunch is in the planning stages and will be held Friday, December 14.

Cheryl Knorr. IAKT President



# Alaska Music Teachers Association

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.*

November 2007--News from AMTA --Cindy Epperson

Each year in November, AMTA holds the MTNA Performance Competitions in Anchorage and this year was no exception. Alaska's performance competitions were held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 10-11<sup>th</sup> at UAA.

This year, the audiences were small for all programs, but the performances were outstanding. The many months of preparation were evidenced by the high level of playing and the students and their teachers are all to be congratulated.

There were five entrants in this year's Composition Competition: three in the Elementary Level and two in the Junior Level. Congratulations go to Ann Fernandez, NCTM, and her winning students: Nathan Swan (Elementary) and Anna Trujillo (Junior).

Winners of each level and competition will compete at the Northwest Division Competitions in Billings, Montana on January 11-13, 2008 at Montana State University. (See table for complete listing of Winners, Alternates, and Honorable Mentions).

For many years, Alaska has had a strong presence at the Division competitions and AMTA wishes them well as they move on to this next level. For those who did not win a prize, it is still a great experience to prepare and participate in such an event.

Our chair, once again, was AMTA past-president Dr. Timothy Smith, assisted by myself, Dean Epperson, and several UAA music students. The success of these competitions is dependent on the work of these fine people and AMTA wishes to acknowledge them and publicly thank them. Stay tuned for the results from Division in January 2008!

## STRINGS: JUNIOR

**Winner: Brett Lindsay, Cello**

**Teacher: Linda Ottum**

**Alternate: Eunice Kang, Violin**

**Teacher: Tingting Zhu**

**Honorable Mention: Anna Clink, Violin**

**Teacher: Tingting Zhu**

**Honorable Mention: Ellen Simpson, Violin**

**Teacher: Tingting Zhu**

## STRINGS: SENIOR

**Winner: Patrick Hopkins, Cello**

**Teacher: Bonnie Hampton**

**Alternate: Alec Lindsay, Violin**

**Teacher: Beverly Beheim**

**Honorable Mention: Emily Cao, Violin**

**Teacher: Walter Olivares**

**Honorable Mention: Christine Li, Violin**

**Teacher: Beverly Beheim**

## PIANO: JUNIOR

**Winner: Ian Huh**

**Teacher: Svetlana Velitchko**

**Alternate: Annie Kil**

**Teacher: Rumi Smith**

**Honorable Mention: Wesley Voley**

**Teacher: Dr. Timothy Smith**

**Honorable Mention: Tiffany Chen**

**Teacher: Jamila Hlashweova**

**Honorable Mention: Ningxing Wan**

**Teacher: Rumi Smith**

## PIANO: SENIOR

**Winner: Page Moon**

**Teacher: Svetlana Velitchko**

**Alternate: Joy Kil**

**Teacher: Rumi Smith/Dr. Timothy Smith**

**Honorable Mention: Eric Huh**

**Teacher: Svetlana Velitchko**

**Honorable Mention: Ga-In Choi**

**Teacher: Dr. Timothy Smith**

## PIANO: YOUNG ARTIST

**Representative: Josaphat Chambers**

**Teacher: Dr. Timothy Smith**

## WHAT DO I GET FOR MY DOLLAR?

MTNA is committed to YOU, the member. Our programs and services are developed with the member in mind: 1) Educational programs and resources for teachers; 2) Student participation opportunities at all levels; and 3) Benefits for teachers.

But MTNA is much more than this. These are the tangible items we can list for each prospective member. Certainly, they are meaningful and excellent reasons to join MTNA, but they do not go to the very “heart” of MTNA.

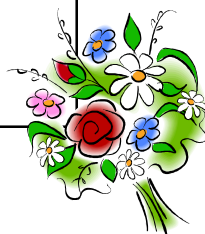
Joining MTNA is joining a community of committed music professionals who advance the *value of music study and music making to society and support the professionalism of music teachers.*

It enables us to speak with one voice. It enables us to make a difference and enrich the lives of students everywhere. We reach across our nation and around the world. Being a part of this world community empowers each of us to speak with conviction and support on behalf of music study and music making.

But even more than that, is how MTNA helps each individual teacher to grow as a music teacher and music leader in the community. Debra Florian, Northwest Division Director-elect, said it this way: "When I evaluate my own teaching, I am a far better teacher today than even 10 years ago. If I compare to when I first started teaching, there IS no comparison. And that is a direct result of my MTNA membership and participation. And further, I am confident that 10 years from now I will be an even stronger teacher—because I will still be active in MTNA, still attending conferences, classes, workshops, and interacting with my fellow teachers. I can't imagine what my teaching career would have been like without MTNA. And I hate to think of any independent teachers trying to succeed and GROW without this tremendous asset and resource."

This is the heart of MTNA and what this organization is all about—it goes far beyond the dollar amount of the yearly membership. It is that intangible benefit that is priceless. Tell a prospective member how MTNA has affected your life as a teacher and professional.

Our thanks to Cheryl Knorr for the workshop on teaching our students to compose. Not only did we learn a lot, we also had fun. Listening to someone who has actual experience in working with students makes it easier for each of us to try.



**Results of the latest survey. 11 participants.**

10 means you really would participate, 1 means you never would participate.

	<u>Average</u>	<u>Lowest</u>	<u>Highest</u>
1. General meetings (4 a year, on Friday mornings)	6.4	1	10
2. General meetings with just discussions	5.9	1	9
3. General meetings with a special speaker	7.0	2	10
4. Adjudications (2 a year)	6.8	1	10
5. Conferences/Workshops with outside presenters	9.0	5	10
6. Ensembles at the State Fair	2.9	0	8
7. Christmas in the Museum	5.4	1	10
8. Downey Competition	2.5	0	9
9. Ribbon Festival	8.4	5	10
10. More performance opportunities for your students? No-6 yes-3			

**Comments: 2. Discussions at general meetings** - bad time; depends on topic; good time to hold it but it depends on family activity and husband availability; when I am free; when I'm not taking classes; enjoy discussions around specific activities i.e. Ribbon Festival and adjudications.

**3. Speakers at general meetings** - depends on speaker; we used to pay presenters; depends on topic; want a mixture of speakers and discussions; love to listen to experts share their knowledge with us.

**4. Adjudications** - not available to all students; April would be better than May; spring is better than fall; need something for younger students; I like my students to participate; I tend to favor the fall.

**5. Workshops, etc** - depends on speaker; love this since I have little opportunity to go outside.

**6. State Fair** - hard to get summer students; poor time of year; not enough steady lesson time with students - parents cancel at last minute even if already paid for; I offer it to students and leave it up to them; I don't teach in the summer.

**7. Museum** - hard to get involved at Christmas; too busy for many; all my winter weekends are tied up; I offer it to students and leave it up to them; only a few students are interested due to my studio recital and the busyness of Christmas time.

**8. Downey** - too few participate; not available for 'average' student; have participated in past & might again with very gifted students; I learned so much from doing this myself & I want my students to have the same opportunity.

**9. Ribbon** - too long-parents have to give up a day to participate; better in April than March because of weekend activities; I definitely encourage my students to participate; parents are glad to see their children so involved; I've had the most participation in this event; I have not participated before but it sounds great, good to see how others perform.

**10. More performing** - already have enough; yes - but not on weekends; need adjudications for younger students; I already offer these within my studio; it might be overload; I've enjoyed the duet festivals and monster concert festivals of the past; I'm not as interested in the multiple keyboard festivals since I do a lot of that in my studio for ensemble work.

MTNA's Judith Schoepflin, NCTM, shares her insights on the importance of certification:

"Why should I be certified? ..Throughout my teaching life, I have been motivated to attend workshops and master classes, put my students in adjudications, attend conferences and so forth. For me, certification isn't a matter of improving my status in the musical community or with my administration. It is not a matter of being able to charge more for lessons, which could be a consideration for some teachers. So why do I go to the bother of being certified? The answer is quite simple: because I am a mentor and a role model. This is a privilege and a responsibility that I take very seriously. Mentoring and role-modeling takes place not only for my piano pedagogy and applied students, but hopefully, for all the teachers in this state for whom I adjudicate, conduct workshops and give master classes. I constantly emphasize the importance of certification, both in my applied lessons and classes. How can I ask my students or any teacher to do something I am unwilling to do?"

Being certified says that you recognize your students deserve the highest quality of teaching, and you take pride in yourself and your profession. It says you are constantly seeking ways to improve your teaching and are providing each student with your best effort—no matter how many or few, how untalented or talented. Do your students really deserve anything less?"

Hello, Colleagues,

Some of you may be aware that I have been teaching a continuing education course on Piano Pedagogy at Montgomery College. The course provides four CE points for such programs as MTNA Certification, and also is good test preparation for those seeking certification, as well as an exchange of ideas by experienced teachers with the goal of continuing improvement in the quality of piano instruction.

Because of the over-booked schedules of piano teachers, several have asked for a possible online course. I am conducting this survey for my college to see if there is sufficient interest in this concept to develop my course online.

I would be very, very grateful if you would be willing to respond to this 4-question survey and/or forward it to teachers in your area, whether they are MTNA involved or whether or not they have university degrees in piano or piano pedagogy. Thanks very much for your input and help. Here is the link: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SwMuTBXzpinw8UL\\_2f5e1EPA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SwMuTBXzpinw8UL_2f5e1EPA_3d_3d)

Best regards, Diane Delk, NCTM

## **Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association**

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