

AKTA Board Members
2007-2008

Chris Kastanopolous,
President
345-5811
ckastan@gci.net

LaVella Briggs,
Vice-President
562-5945

Nancy Campbell,
Secretary & Newsletter Editor
345-9117
nancyc@gci.net

Dean Epperson,
Treasurer
346-4468
cadae@alaska.net

Diane Moore,
Membership
274-3593/ 563-6957
keyboard-
cache@alaskalife.net

Connie McFarlane,
Member-at-large
333-4970
kmcfar747@aol.com

April 4 general meeting
at 7:00 PM

Planning for Ribbon Festival 2009, nominations for AKTA board, and discussion for AKTA general meetings for 2009-2009.

See you at Washburn Piano at 7 PM
Use the back entrance as usual.



UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meetings: Fridays, Apr 4, May 2 at Washburn Piano behind Burlington Coat Factory, 9:00 AM-11:00, use the back entrance.

Special Events:

Mar. 28 - Applications due for Downey Competition. See page 4.

Mar 28-Apr 2 - MTNA Conference in Denver.

Mar 29 - Chugiak choirs performing at 7 PM at Anchorage Lutheran Church.

April 1 - Applications due for Spring Adjudication. See page 4.

April 4, Friday - General Meeting at **7:00 PM** for this time only at Washburn Piano. Discussion of past ribbon festivals and planning for Ribbon Festival 2009. ***Be part of the action.*** See article on page 5.

May 2, Friday - General Meeting at Washburn Piano. **Business meeting at 9:00 AM** including elections. Program - Mike Walsh of Washburn Piano will talk about pianos and what has changed in the industry, how to help your students find a good piano (or one for yourself), differences between acoustic and digital pianos, rental programs, etc. Come prepared to learn and to ask questions.

May 3 & 4 - Downey Competition

May 5-9 - AMTA Spring Adjudication

Oct 22-25 - World Pedagogy Conference in Dallas, TX

Board Meetings: March 28, Apr 25, May 16 at Chris Kastanopolous, 9:00-11:00, 13810 Mainsail Drive. All members are welcome to attend.

AMTA Spring Adjudications

Our adjudicator this year is Montana State President and master teacher, Molly Morrison from Missoula, Montana.

From the President of AKTA,

For the past 3 years I have had the duty of being the President of AKTA, enjoying the pleasures and challenges the position brings. The current AKTA Board members have asked me to remain as president for another term. If the general membership votes to approve my retention, I will accept the position for a fourth term.

One of the goals of my presidency was to show the general membership what is possible to achieve if we work together. AKTA's immense wealth in the talents and dedication of the membership allows the collective "us" to create circumstances for our own growth and that of our students. Each teacher alone is able to create a learning environment, which stimulates students, but together we are able to compound that ability into startlingly enriching moments that are truly amazing.

The continued growth of AKTA rests on each teacher contributing what he or she is able to give while being active and supportive of the efforts the other members contribute. If the membership chooses inactivity, the organization will fail.

Please hear this call to become involved. Help keep AKTA a healthy organization. Join the board, join the Ribbon Festival Committee, participate in the events offered – be an active AKTA member!

Christine Kastanopolous, AKTA President

In our October newsletter we included a review of some new music critiqued by Jammie Wileman, president of the Sitka Music Teachers Association. Here is the rest of her critique. Her rating system is from 1 to 5 stars. One star means she would not buy this again, two means she might for a certain student, three means average - for just the right student, four means almost perfect, five is just great music. The list is on page 4.

You must all need a break after that Ribbon Festival. I am planning a parent meeting to discuss it and hope you see a few more Unalaskans nest year...with their TEACHER in tow.

Right now we are busy, students are starting to record their original songs in my home studio for their Hearts and Hands II CD which comes out in May. Kids in Concert starts in April, in case your newsletter comes out later in March.

I thank you again for all that the team did to put the Ribbon Festival together. What a wonderful experience for the kids and teachers.

Ukudigaadalix! ("Be well" -Aleut) Lynda Lybeck Robinson, Robinson Crusoe Music

P.O. Box 504, Unalaska AK 99685

907-581-1542 // fax 907-581-2075, www.lyndalybeck.com

(Note from the editor: Lynda's web page is awesome. Also awesome is www.alaskabushpianoteachers.com

Check them out.)

Fairbanks is in the mix of spring piano festival and adjudications coming soon. Dr. Jeffrey and Dr. Karen Savage are the judges this coming May. They both are graduates of Julliard and are currently working at Washington State University.

Cheryl Knorr. IAKT President

RIBBON

FESTIVAL

Ribbon Festival 2008 was a tremendous success. We received many positive comments as well as some thoughtful suggestions for changes. Here are some statistics concerning the festival. 21 teachers participated, 157 students entered. Income from entry fees was \$5,380.00, expenses were \$6,059.36, placing the event at a deficit of \$679.36. The AKTA general checking account was able to cover the overture.

The finances were not a surprise. At the October 2007 general membership meeting, the increase in fees to ACS and projected expenses were discussed, and the increase in the entry fee to \$35 was proposed. Members attending the meeting agreed to the expense and increased entry fee. We had expected a higher number of students to enter but failed to take all (we were aware of some) other local events into account, such as several sports competitions and most especially Fur Rondy.

For the prior two years, the fee we had paid to ACS was lower than it should have been. The fault was not ours - but an internal miscommunication on the part of ACS. If AKTA was to use ACS as the site for the festival, it was necessary that AKTA conform to ACS usage fees.

This year we hired members from the Anchorage Symphony, the Anchorage Opera and the Kevin Barnett Jazz Trio to expose our students to performances and workshops that they may not have experienced before. Was it worth it? Absolutely.

Ribbon Festival Expenses:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Rental of ACS (16 rooms for 6 hours) | \$1,830.00 |
| Adjudicator/workshop leader from Fairbanks | 507.50 |
| Performers who were not AKTA members | 550.00 |
| Keyboard Cache Ribbon Store | 478.80 |
| Piano moving from Washburn & Steinway Gallery | 1,275.00 (9 pianos) |
| Piano tuning | 430.00 (9 pianos) |
| Balloon and ribbons | 342.38 |
| Miscellaneous supplies | 645.68 |

What did it take to produce the Festival?

Christine Kastanopolous and Nancy Campbell began working on the Festival June 29, 2007 with meetings at ACS to begin the process of conforming to ACS' requirements.

++September '07 the board started work defining the goal of Festival 2008

++October '07 discussed and planned festival at the general membership meeting

++October thru December Chris made arrangements for the festival, wrote the catalogue and learned how to use a database with the indispensable help of Dean Epperson.

++January '08 we began inputting entries, configuring room assignments, securing adjudicators, scales testers, and secured help for all workshops that had more than 6 students participating and ribbons were ordered.

++February '08 final details were worked out with the help of the AKTA board members, piano delivery and tunings were scheduled. Setup details were planned.

++February 22nd – set up the Festival

++February 23rd – the event was a grand success!

Yes, it took 5 months of work to produce the event. The outcome was worth every moment of the preparation including strange little problems and moments that drove the board nuts! The good news is that by learning to use a database this year, next year's festival should be a good deal easier. Yeah!!



Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

The Marguerite Downey Memorial Piano Competition will be held May 3-4 at UAA. The deadline for applications to be received is March 28, 2008. Dean Epperson is the chair for this year's competition and you may contact him at either cadae@alaska.net or 346-4468. Please send your check and application forms to: Dean Epperson, 6901 Round Tree Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507



Anchorage AMTA Spring Adjudications will be held May 5-9. Our adjudicator this year is Montana State President and master teacher, Molly Morrison from Missoula, Montana. Please contact Cindy Epperson (cadae@alaska.net or 346-4565) for an Adjudication Registration Packet. Deadline for applications is April 1.

Molly Morrison adjudicates piano festivals throughout the Northwest including MTNA competitions. She received her Masters in Piano Performance with an emphasis in accompanying from Arizona State University. After returning to Montana, she taught seven years at the University of Montana as a private and class piano instructor as well as teaching piano pedagogy and acting as staff accompanist. She has taught 10 summers at the University of Montana High School Piano Camp and has taught 3 summers at the Montana Music Institute in Billings. This summer is her 19th year as the official accompanist for the Montana Suzuki Summer Institute. What an honor to have her here in Anchorage.

Music Review by Jammie Wileman. (see information on page 2).

1. Intermezzo in B Minor, from Study #5 for Guitar, Intermediate, by Ferrando Sor, arr for piano by Frank Levin. Willis Music Co, distributed by Hal Leonard, HL00416700 \$2.95 *****
2. Dancing on the Keys, Book 1, Late Elem to Early Interm by Catherine Rollin. Alfred, 28287 Bk \$6.95 *****
3. Dancing on the Keys, Book 2, Early Interm, by Catherine Rollin. Alfred 28288 Bk \$6.95
4. Rocky Mountain Suite, Early Interm to Interm by Sherrill Kelsey. Heritage Music Press, 70/1615H Bk \$6.95 *****
5. Selections from Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Late Elem to Early Interm, arr by Can Coates. Alfred 28445 Bk \$14.95 ****
6. The Rose, Early Interm by Amanda McBroom, arr by Melody Bober. Alfred 28017 \$3.95 ****
7. Meet the Flintstones, Elem by Joseph Barbera, William Hanna, and Hoyt Curtain, arr by Carol Matz. Alfred 28014 \$3.95 ****
8. How Great is Our God, Five Contemporary Christian Songs, Big Note Piano, Late Elem to Early Interm, arr Phillip Keveren, HL 00311402 \$12.95 ***
9. What Can I Plan on Sunday?, Book 3, May & June Services by Cindy Berry, Interm to Late Interm. Alfred 2806 \$12.95 ***
10. Holy Communion, A View of the Cross, Worship Suite for Advanced Solo Piano, arr by Marilyn Ham. Alfred 28184 \$4.95 ***
11. P.Tchaikovsky-M.Pletnev, Concert Suite from the Ballets The Sleeping Beauty and the Nutcracker for piano. Advanced. Muzyka-Moscow MZ 15412 ***
12. Big Girls Don't Cry, Interm to Late Interm, Piano/Vocal/Guitar by Stacy Ferguson and Toby Gad. Sony/ATV Music Pub, Hal Leonard distributor. HL00353661 \$3.95 *

Ribbon Festival 2009

Friday, April 4, 9:00 AM. A general membership meeting asking all teachers who participated in the 2008 Ribbon Festival and all teachers who are considering participating in Ribbon Festival 2009 to attend.

- * We will discuss past festivals, what worked, what did not work.
- * What are the standards for scale testing?
- * What vocabulary words and definitions should be included in flash card challenges?
- * Set performance standards - for example: memorized music - what does an adjudicator do if the music is not memorized?
- * What do you do if students arrive with copied music even when it was announced that this is not acceptable?
- * What do teachers want from the adjudications and are we meeting the expectations?

This is just the beginning of the list. We ask that you join us to help formulate a festival that reflects the membership's collective needs and desires.

Setting up the committee for Ribbon Festival 2009, Christine Kastanopolous will chair the committee. The past Ribbon Festival committee was the AKTA board. And some AKTA board business was postponed because of the work on the festival. The festival committee needs to be made up of people in the general membership (although some board members may choose to be on the committee). Remember the old saying, "Many hands make light work."



Come and hear high school students who love to sing. The renowned Chugiak choirs directed by Ron Lange will be in concert on Saturday, March 29 at 7 p.m. at Anchorage Lutheran Church. Four choirs will present vocal repertoire spanning the ages from 1500's to the present. Different styles include sacred, secular, jazz and rock. Mr. Lange is well-known in educational circles for boosting his students to high caliber in performance and concert presentations and over the years, the choirs have won several national and international prizes. As they prepare to go on tour again, come and hear what all the buzz is about.

Sponsored by Anchorage Lutheran Church as part of the "Concerts at Anchorage Lutheran" winter series, this concert is free to the community. Donations, however, are accepted to help defray expenses and to raise money for the choir. More information may be obtained by calling 272-5323 or www.anchoragelc.teamministry.net.

Kim Jenish, one of our AKTA members, is giving her Senior Recital on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:30 PM at the UAA Fine Arts Bldg Recital Hall, Room 150. All are welcome. Her program includes: Mozart's Fantasy D Minor K. 397, Chopin's Polonaise Fantantasia Ab Major Opus 61, Ravel's Une barque sur l'ocean from Miroirs, and Schumann's Sonata No.1 F# minor.

Congratulations Kim.





Thanks to all the wonderful people who helped put the Ribbon Festival together, who planned, shopped, typed, printed, directed, adjudicated, taught, monitored, cleaned, set-up, worried, performed, cajoled, phoned, drove, talked, etc, etc. There have been so many compliments.

And to all the teachers who had their students enrolled in the festival, thank you for having enough faith in us and yourselves to encourage your students to register. It is such a big responsibility for all of us. We are looking forward to an even better festival next year, with your help.

**Anchorage Keyboard
Teachers Association**

Nancy Campbell
12900 Ridgeview Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

