

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

For more information on
AKTA and its affiliates, visit
<http://www.eskimo.com/~amta>



UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting: Friday, May 2nd, 9:00-11:00 AM at Washburn Piano behind Burlington Coat Factory, use the back entrance.

Special Events:

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, Sat. & Sun. - Downey Competition

May 5-9 - AMTA Spring Adjudications

May 9, Friday - Molly Morrison Workshop: "Let's Become Better Readers" 9-10:30 AM at Filipino Bible Church

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

www.pianovision.com

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

The Marguerite Downey Memorial Piano Competition will be held May 3-4 at the UAA Fine Arts Building. Come and hear some of Alaska's most accomplished piano students perform. For more information, contact Dean Epperson, cadae@alaska.net or 246-4468.

MTNA starts a new membership year on June 1st. If you have not paid your dues for 2008-2009, please do so to avoid higher non-member entry fees for upcoming events. Membership for 2007-2008 is valid until May 31st.

From the President of AKTA,

The general meeting on Friday evening, April 4th was a great success. Many topics were discussed, three members have decided to join the 2008-2009 Board, and another member is a wealth of information who will help as we go forward on some new projects. The wine, cheese, desserts, fruit and chocolate really helped set a tone for the meeting.

We need the general membership to vote on the proposed board members for 2008-2009. The board must have a minimum number of seven members. We are proposing that eight members be on the board this next year. The proposed eight are:

- Nancy Campbell
- Dean Epperson
- Linda Green
- Christine Kastanopolous
- Connie McFarlane
- Gretchen Thomas
- Margaret Turner
- Freya Wardlaw-Bailey

At the May 2, 2008 general meeting a vote will be placed before the membership to accept these candidates as the 2008-2009 Board for AKTA. If you are not able to attend the meeting, you may mail or email your vote to Christine Kastanopolous to be opened at the meeting and included in the tally on May 2nd.

The May meeting will be very informative. Mike Walsh of Washburn Piano Company will present information on what is new in the piano industry, purchasing options for students or yourself, and what is happening in the digital piano world. This information will be invaluable to your students who either do not have a piano or are ready to upgrade.

Please plan to attend: Friday, May 2, 2008 at 9:00 AM at Washburn Piano Company. Remember to enter through the back entrance behind the building.

See you there

Christine Kastanopolous, AKTA President

Senior Recital

AKTA member Kim Jenish will give her Senior Piano Recital on Wednesday, May 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the UAA Fine Arts Building Recital Hall, room 150. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

On May 9th, AKTA will sponsor a workshop, "**Let's Become Better Readers**" featuring this year's AMTA adjudicator, Molly Morrison from Montana. She will be sharing special materials, books, and exercises to help students improve their sightreading. Molly writes, "I find one often has to do extra work with transfer students on this and with students with good ears and memory who avoid reading. Part of my emphasis is how to teach better rhythmic reading. My little motto is '**Music Rides on the Rhythm.**'"

When: Friday, May 9th from 9:00--10:30 AM

Where: Filipino Bible Church, 3340 Raspberry Road, Anchorage

Cost: \$20

Ode to Emma

I was expecting it. With the demands that come with AP classes, a state champion soccer team, high school running and skiing, it was no wonder there was no time for piano practice. Even with the best of intentions, Emma realized she couldn't continue studying piano and yet, making the decision to quit was very difficult for her. So this week I taught my last piano lesson to Emma and reluctantly ended a journey that began, with a similar reluctance, way back in 1997. I remember the phone call...a mother calling to see if I could teach her five year-old daughter. I needed students but did I really want a five year-old? I relented and decided to teach Emma piano and I am so very glad I did.

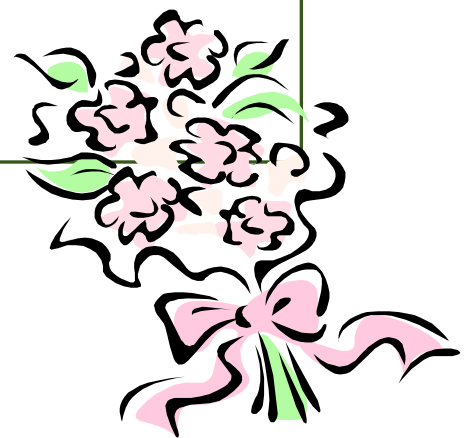
The journey included many small steps, all with the support and encouragement of her parents. "Practice every day for 60 days, and you get an American Girl doll." Of course, Emma earned her doll. During the elementary years, her parents frequently took her to symphony concerts and she learned not only how to be a good audience, but that music was important and of value to many, especially the people she loved most in the world.

She played in all our recitals, including monster concerts and duet recitals, and participated in AMTA Adjudications regularly for several years. She didn't compete in piano competitions but learned to sight-read very well and even did a bit of accompanying. At age 8, she composed a piece for the PTA Reflections competition and received first place at the state level for her composition. But most of all, she just continued to learn and to practice, even without dolls and other great incentives, and consequently, she attained a high level of proficiency on the instrument. She learned how to pace herself and to tolerate a difficult process just for the internal reward of achieving a goal--a character trait that has generalized to all of her other pursuits and that will no doubt last a lifetime.

Sweet, respectful, and attentive from the very first lesson to her last, Emma personified the dream piano student for me and I will miss seeing her on a weekly basis. One of the best things about Emma was that she always laughed a lot during lessons and even during her performances--I never got her to stop laughing at her mistakes, which was just fine. Yet, I feel certain that she will always play the piano and that music is integral to her personal happiness.

What a great profession I am in...to be able to observe the real-time creation of a personality and the development of character in a child and, maybe along the way, to help out a bit.

Thank you so much, Emma.
Most Fondly,
Cindy Epperson



Piano for Sale
1977 Everett Console
A great starter piano in excellent condition
\$2000 includes tuning after piano is moved
Contact Dan McElrath, 529-4584 or dsm@gci.net

AKTA TREASURER'S REPORT - April 19, 2008

Key Bank Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$4,290.04	
Credits		
	\$45.00	Dues from 3 members @ \$15
	\$5,390.00	Ribbon Festival Entry Fees
	\$45.00	Dues from 3 members @ 15
Total Credits	\$5,480.00	
Debits		
1358	\$43.50	Christine Kastanopolous Ribbon Festival
1359	\$1,830.00	Anchorage Christian Schools Ribbon Festival
1360	\$28.99	Dean Epperson Ribbon Festival
1361	\$270.00	Cheryl Knorr Workshop Ribbon Festival
1362	\$237.50	Cheryl Knorr Airfare Ribbon Festival
1363	\$342.38	Nancy Campbell Ribbon Festival
1364	\$1,275.00	Allen Professional Movers Ribbon Festival
1365	\$50.00	Chris Beheim Performer Ribbon Festival
1366	\$50.00	Beverly Beheim Performer Ribbon Festival
1367	\$100.00	Robert Arms Performer Ribbon Festival
1368	\$100.00	Karl Wilhelmi Performer Ribbon Festival
1369	\$39.42	Connie McFarlane Ribbon Festival
1370	\$430.00	Dan Lundell Tuning Ribbon Festival
1371	\$50.00	Nancy Darigo Performer Ribbon Festival
1372	\$533.77	Christine Kastanopolous Ribbon Festival
1373	\$200.00	Anchorage Opera Performance Ribbon Festival
1374	\$478.80	Keyboard Cache Ribbon Festival
1375	\$133.57	Christine Kastanopolous Meeting expense
1376		VOID
1377	\$201.82	Christine Kastanopolous Meeting expense
	\$3.50	Bank Fees for March
Total Debits	\$6,398.25	
Ending Balance	\$3,371.79	

Respectfully submitted, Dean Epperson, Treasurer



Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

Message from Lynda Lybeck in Unalaska:

The Siberian Express has brought us uncommonly cold days for March, and we are all ready to see green, not snow. We hope that you are doing well in your neck of the woods.

As Spring turns its head in greeting (one can hope anyway) and we all watch our friends throw pennies in the pool to see when the ice breaks, I am getting my head wrapped around the recital coming up, and projects with the students.

I still think a website just for us is a great idea.

I have asked my webmaster to take off the security so that no passwords are needed. He will probably get to it next week. Do stop in, give it a shot, drop a line.

As for canceling the passwords/security . . . well, I'm hoping it will make more of you feel like stopping in without the hassle.

You'll need it until Nich gets it fixed though. Your city and first name is your ID. ABPTY is your password. Case sensitive.

Hope to see you there. www.alaskabushpianoteachers.com

All the best,

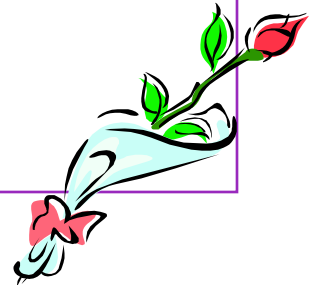
Lynda

Student Exchange Program

Youth for Understanding connects students from 40 different countries with host families. All students speak English, are often musically gifted and wish to stay in a musical house during. The next hosting year runs from August 2008 to June 2009. Requirements include 2-3 meals a day, a place to sleep, and a quiet place to study. Students will bring their own spending money and have their own health insurance. Host families can select their preferred country of origin. For more information call 1-800-872-0200 or go to www.yfu-usa.org

Laura Philemonof, a former AKTA member and president, is seriously ill with cancer. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Messages can be sent to:

Laura Philemonof
2429 Kensington Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504



2008-2009 AKTA Board Member Election Ballot

- Nancy Campbell
- Dean Epperson
- Linda Green
- Christine Kastanopolous
- Connie McFarlane
- Gretchen Thomas
- Margaret Turner
- Freya Wardlaw-Bailey

Board member positions will be assigned after the election. Please come to the May 2nd general meeting to vote for next year's board. If you are not able to attend, you may mail or email your vote using this ballot to:

Christine Kastanopolous
13810 Mainsail Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516
ckastan@gci.net

**Anchorage Keyboard
Teachers Association**
Freya Wardlaw-Bailey
3314 Woodland Park Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

