

AKTA Board Members
2008-2009

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Events:

Sat-Sun, August 16-17 - AMTA Conference in Fairbanks

(see flyer on next page)

Friday, September 5 - AKTA Open House at the Keyboard Cache

More details to be announced for this evening event.

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

Visit www.pianovision.com for more details.

November 8, 15-16 - MTNA Student Competitions, State Level

University of Alaska Anchorage Fine Arts Building.

Application deadline is September 9th.

Visit www.mtna.org for more details.

November 17-21 - AMTA adjudications

Board Meeting: June 27, 9:00-11:00 AM at Chris Kastanopolous, 13810
Mainsail Drive. All members are welcome to attend.

Workshop Review

Molly Morrison, AMTA adjudicator and Montana Music Teachers' state president, gave an excellent workshop on sightreading on Friday, May 9. She has found that dropouts are often caused by the lack of ability to read music. Dropouts are also caused by the number of hours kids spend on ipods and computers, busy life styles, no access to sight-reading materials, as well as the ability of some children to memorize their music and then not learn to read. She emphasized that children need to learn the following in order to be good sightreaders:

1. **Guide Notes** for fast recognition – all 5 Cs plus F in bass clef and G in treble clef
2. **Intervals**
3. **Reinforce letter names** – note neighborhoods
4. **Note playing by feel.**
5. **Hand Measurements** – closed (hands covering 5 consecutive white notes) and open
6. **Chord shapes** – inversions

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Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

Cynthia A. Epperson, NCTM - AMTA President

cadac@alaska.net

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **AMTA has done it again!!** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We have planned yet another superb state conference! You may remember previous conferences-- Fairbanks with Marvin Blickenstaff, Sitka with Cathy Albergo, and, most recently, Anchorage with Nelita True? They were all absolutely TERRIFIC! So, don't miss this great opportunity because we have another dynamite guest coming to Alaska. Jump right out of your chairs or off your piano benches and mark your calendar to reserve the weekend of

August 16-17, 2008 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Generously hosted by the Fairbanks-area members of IAKT

We are so very privileged to have as our main presenter, Dr. Sylvia Coats, Professor of Piano Pedagogy from Wichita State University in Kansas. Her graduate and undergraduate programs in piano pedagogy are recognized as leaders in the field and draw students from the US and abroad.



Dr. Sylvia Coats, NCTM

Many of you may already be familiar with Dr. Coats because of her wonderful book, *Thinking as You Play: Teaching Piano in Individual and Group Lessons*. You may also have seen her articles in the AMT about Professional Certification as she currently serves as the MTNA National Certification Chair.

Among other topics, Dr. Coats will be presenting

"Dances of the Baroque and Romantic Period."

So grab a partner and...

Come to Fairbanks and Dance With the Stars!!

Baroque and Romantic, that is.



Keep checking your emails and your snail mails for additional information and registration packets.

Chris Kastanopolous is looking for three teachers who would like to share a ride, gas, and lodging in Fairbanks for the conference in August. It is an inexpensive way to take a short tax deductible vacation. Call Chris at 345-5811 or email ckastan@gci.net if you would like to join the AKTA "Party" car.

Deadline - July 15th.

AKTA TREASURER'S REPORT - May 16, 2008

Key Bank Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$4,290.04	
Credits	\$45.00	Dues from 9 members @\$15
	\$5,390.00	Local Adjudication Fees
	<u>\$45.00</u>	Downey competition fees
Total Credits	\$5,480.00	
Debits		
1378	\$24	Freya Wardlaw-Bailey (newsletter)
1379	\$500	Page Moon (1st place Senior Downey)
1380	\$350	Andrew Aquino (2nd place Senior Downey)
1381	\$200	Annie Kil (3rd place Senior Downey)
1382	\$300	Alex Yang (1st place Junior Downey)
1383	\$200	Ian Huh (2nd place Junior Downey)
1384	\$100	Rose Hanson (3rd place Junior Downey)
1385	\$150	Xiunell Gomez (1st place Intermediate)
1386	\$100	Samantha Simpson (2nd place Intermediate)
1387	\$75	Nicole Brewer (3rd place Intermediate)
1388	\$600	Molly Morrison (Downey Judge -\$400 Workshop \$200)
1389	\$337.96	Cindy Epperson (Adj. Ribbons (\$180), Downey trophies/printing \$157.96)
1390	\$120	Southcentral Piano Services Adj. Tuning
1391	\$27.76	Cindy Epperson (Downey program printing)
	<u>\$3.50</u>	Bank Fees for April
Total Debits	\$3,088.22	
Ending Balance	\$2,138.57	

Respectfully submitted, Dean Epperson, Treasurer - 5/16/08

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Molly listed the Important **Criteria for Good Sight-Reading.**

1. **Scan** the piece. **Take** a quick **inventory**.
2. **Know Guide notes** on the staff. Immediate register recognition.
3. **Eyes on the Page.** Play by feel.
4. **Read intervals and Patterns,** not note-by-note.
5. **Establish** a strong sense of **Meter**.
6. **Read Beats,** even though hearing rhythms.
7. **Count Beats** metrically, out loud.
8. **Know chords** and inversions.
9. **Develop a strong technic.** This allows the hands to bounce in and out of different patterns quickly.
10. **Keep going.**
11. **Find something** you can read – several levels below where you are studying.
12. **Keep doing it.**

When you take inventory, look for: key signature, time signature, accidentals, meter, tricky rhythms, large intervals, moves, register changes, melodic patterns, harmonic patterns.

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From Lynda Lybeck in Unalaska:

Thanks for thinking of us way out here. We just presented our spring recital, 39 performances, 30 original compositions included. One student wrote a piece for piano and drums (a fusion piece by 14 year old Sam) and a piece for piano and French Horn (by Bethany, age 13) The French Horn part was performed by our band director, Jeanne Duhan. We also included a 6-hand blues piece by Robert Vandall. One of my students, a senior named Kimberly, debuted her two students in the program.

We are releasing our second CD of original compositions called "Hearts and Hands II: Encore!". It was recorded in my living room and now is in the final "mastering" stage, in a studio run by a colleague of mine down south. To raise funds for the CD production, we published a book of sheet music – all the songs written by the kids that are on the CD are in the Book. I transcribed all of their pieces using the Sibelius music writing program. Several students drew their own image of "Hearts and Hands" in a contest to make our very own logo. All entries were published, with the winning logo, in the cover of our music book. It sold very well at the recital reception, and all proceeds went to our "Hearts and Hands Project" fund. Our CD will be finished and available in about two weeks. Anyone can read more by visiting my website at www.lyndalybeck.com and choose the "Hearts and Hands" page.

Our Hearts and Hands Project is in the process of applying for a 501C-3 non profit status. We wish to raise funds to enable composers to come to our

community to do workshops. Other goals are to provide scholarships for kids to attend the Ribbon Festival annually, as well as a number of other goals. As you might imagine getting here or coming to you by plane (the only way) is very expensive. We are grateful for the support we have seen so far by the community, the Aleutian Arts Council, and the parents.

The website Alaska Music Teachers is just sitting there. (www.alaskabushpianoteachers.com) I believe it is too hard to navigate, and I apologize. My vision is that there be pictures of piano activities and teachers from all over bush Alaska, not just Unalaska/Dutch Harbor! If anyone is interested in helping please write to me. I still think that it is a good idea that those of us in the bush have a sense of community.

Cheryl Knorr has agreed to come work with our kids in September. Our Arts Council is sponsoring the event. We are thrilled and eager to meet her!!

We are busy out here but do enjoy reading of other's projects and activities. I dearly wish that I could be there and know all of you personally. I feel that my students would benefit greatly with more contact with their mainland Alaska peers.

I am prone to fall into a narcissistic mind set as a means of survival out here. I'd much rather know a sense of "team". Thank you for working so hard to put these newsletters together. You can trust that I download every one of them.

With warmest wishes, Lynda

Robinson Crusoe Music, P.O. Box 504, Unalaska, AK 99685 www.lyndalybeck.com

From Jammie Wileman in Sitka:

We are all busy getting ready for summer, and vacations, and the tourists are here all ready! Cruise ships have all ready been here, and some days estimated 6,000 people in downtown Sitka! Thank goodness for tourism in Sitka, bringing in those dollars. Southeast Alaska is really in need.

Music continues to thrive in Sitka, however all the SMTA teachers studio numbers are down, and that means the bottom lines for each of us is down. Public School numbers are slowly diminishing as well.

Julia Amada Kruger held a master class for piano during her visit in April for Guild Auditions. It was a well attended event!

The new Sitka High School Auditorium is finished, and there will be a SHS Band Concert there on May 25th before graduation at 1:00PM. I am told the acoustics are really wonderful!

Jennifer Linn, composer, lecturer, and teacher, has agreed to come to Sitka for the Alaska Music Teacher's Association conference in 2010! We hope you will plan for this event in Sitka!

Jammie Wileman, NCTM
SMTA President

Dear AKTA and AMTA Members,

I received this wonderful note from our May adjudicator, Molly Morrison and wanted to share it with the membership.

It has been my privilege to serve as the state and local Adjudication chair for many years and I have found it to be such a huge growth experience. Each time I participate in this twice yearly event, I learn right along with my students and I consider adjudications to have been an essential ingredient in my development as a teacher.

I am happy to announce that our next adjudications are to be held **November 17-21, 2008** and our adjudicator will be Selina Chu from Seattle, Washington. Many of you know Selina from her many years residing in Anchorage and her hard work and dedication to both AKTA and AMTA. Selina moved to Washington a few years ago and within a short period of time began working and serving in the Washington MTA. If you know Selina, you probably aren't surprised.

I realize summer has begun and it is hard to think about anything but FUN, FUN, FUN, but as your thoughts turn back to teaching in the fall, consider involving your students in the AMTA adjudications in November. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have and, remember, you are all welcome to observe my students' adjudications anytime.

Cindy Epperson, NCTM
Adjudications Chair
cadae@alaska.net
346-4565

May 13, 2008

Dear Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association,

Thank you so much for having me as your spring piano adjudicator and clinician. I hope you could tell how much I enjoy working with each unique student. I feel an adjudicator needs to both cheerlead and try to get the students more interested in the details and the process of developing piano skills. Of course this all leads to the music, right?! What I loved about all your students is that they are making music, delighting in it, and feeling proud. Your great teaching made it very easy to work with each of them and often, hopefully, reinforce what you are trying to get them to do.

Thanks for taking such good care of me through many lovely lunches, dinners and a special road trip. I so enjoyed my conversations with each of you.

It renewed my spirit to meet such a devoted group of teachers who care so much about both their students and the music. I hope your organization continues to thrive and that you continue to learn from each other and from the teachers you bring in.

It was great to meet all of you and get a feel for the special place called Alaska. Best wishes for continued success in your studios.

Sincerely, Molly Morrison

Keyboards Needed

We are in the planning stages for a volunteer project to teach piano classes at the Boys and Girls Club in Mountain View. They have an enthusiastic group of kids who already sing in a choir and are excited to learn more about music.

To make this project successful, we need several electric keyboards. If you have a keyboard you can donate or sell, please contact:

Freya Wardlaw-Bailey
245-0522

freypiano@yahoo.com

or

Gretchen Thomas
563-1463

nrhythms@alaska.net

Piano for Sale

10-year-old Maeri
upright

excellent condition

\$2,500 (buyer pays
moving costs)

Contact Julie Alfred at
947-1260 or
jalfred@caa-ak.org

(Continued from page 3)

Molly listed sources for sightreading work. They are:

1. Patterns for Thinking Fingers Bk 1 by Curzon & Harry, candle Power Press
2. Basic Patterns for Note Reading Bk 1,2,3 by Covello, FJH Music Co.
3. Sight Read successfully, Bk 1,2 by Guhl, Kjos Music Co.
4. Getting Into Intervals by Rocherolle, Kjos Music Co.
5. Introduction to Music/Artistry at the Piano by George & George, Studio P/R, Inc.
6. I Can Read Music, Bk 1,2,3 by Faber & Faber, FJH Music Co.
7. A Line a Day Sight Reading, Bk 1-4 by Bastien, Kjos Music Co.
8. Four Star Sight Reading and Ear Tests Bk 1-7 by Berlin & Markow, Frederick Harris Music
9. Basic Timing for the Pianist by Small, Alfred Pub.

Workshop review by Nancy Campbell

**Anchorage Keyboard
Teachers Association**

Freya Wardlaw-Bailey
3314 Woodland Park Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

