

**AKTA Board Members  
2008-2009**

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Look for the AKTA ad in the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra program. We are a professional organization! This ad represents the collective AKTA membership.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Events:

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

Visit [www.pianovision.com](http://www.pianovision.com) for more details.

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

University of Alaska Anchorage Fine Arts Building.

Visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) for more details.

November 17-21 - AMTA adjudications

Friday, November 21st - Workshop with Selina Chu (see page 3)

December 7th & 14th, 3:00-3:45 p.m. Christmas in the Museum

April 4, 2009 - Ribbon Festival

**Board Meetings:** September 26th, October 24th (note this has been moved from October 31st), December 5th, January 16th, February 27th, March 27th, April 24th, June 5th, 9:00-11:00 AM at Chris Kastanopolous, 13810 Mainsail Drive. All members are welcome to attend.

**Have you paid your Dues?**

Each AMTA and AKTA member received a statement in May from MTNA regarding membership dues. Your payment goes to the National, State and local organizations. MTNA sends your State and local payments back to each state, which is how we receive funds to operate. **If you have not mailed in your payment, please do so NOW!** The State and AKTA cannot operate without your funds. Unpaid dues will result in a teacher's inability to enjoy the many activities offered by the State and local organizations. AMTA & AKTA enjoy meeting with each one of you at our functions, and appreciate your involvement and support. MTNA has presented AKTA with a list of 24 members who have not paid. If you are not sure of your membership status for 2008-2009, please contact Christine Kastanopolous at 345-5811 to find

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

**From the President of AKTA,**

The AKTA Board met on 8/22/08 and got the 2008-2009 year off on a high note.

- Ribbon Festival is progressing.
- Grant requests have been made for both the Ribbon Festival and Boys and Girls Club project.
- The Open House at Keyboard Cache was a success.
- Many Anchorage teachers attended the AMTA Conference in Fairbanks.
- I represented AMTA at the MTNA Summit meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Membership is increasing.
- AKTA is investigating it's own website.
- Several teachers have requested to teach at the Boys & Girls Club program.
- Plans are moving ahead on August 2009 AMTA Conference in Anchorage.
- Students are preparing to play in the AMTA Competitions and Adjudication.

Life is GOOD!

The AKTA Board meetings are open to the membership. We meet once a month on Friday mornings\* from 9:00-11:00 at 13810 Mainsail Drive in Anchorage.

Christine Kastanopolous, President

\*See page 1 of the newsletter for board meeting dates



**Ribbon Festival 2009**



The 2009 Ribbon Festival is charging ahead.

- Anchorage Christian School has confirmed that the date – April 4, 2009 is available for AKTA to present the Festival.
- This year's focus is on Baroque Music. Mr. Dick Reichman has agreed to have several of his harpsichords and a clavichord delivered to ACS where he will present lectures and demonstration on the various types of instruments in his collection. Students will have an opportunity to try the instruments.

There is much more happening with regards to the Festival; look for your Festival Catalogue to see the fantastic offering available this year.

To continue offering the Festival we need each AKTA member to enter students and fill the classes. This keeps the price for students from increasing and keeps the AKTA budget healthy. Simply put: GET YOUR STUDIO INVOLVED!





6901 Round Tree Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
(907) 346-4565  
Email: [cadae@alaska.net](mailto:cadae@alaska.net)

**Cynthia A. Epperson, NCTM**

September 22, 2008

Dear Anchorage Area AMTA members:

This correspondence is an announcement of the AMTA Adjudications to be held November 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> at Filipino Bible Church (3340 Raspberry Road) in Anchorage. Our fall adjudicator is Selina Chu from Seattle whom some of you may already know from her many years as a teacher in Anchorage and her various roles within AMTA and AKTA.

You may either email me at [cadae@alaska.net](mailto:cadae@alaska.net) or call (346-4565) to request your registration packet. The deadline for submission of forms and checks is Friday, **October 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please note the following change: Schedules and other information will be **emailed** Tuesday, **October 31<sup>st</sup>**, and ribbons will be given to the teachers by the adjudicator at the time of their adjudications. Please contact me if you would prefer these items to be mailed.

This event is for students who play at the Elementary 3 level or higher. Teachers purchase blocks of time (15 minutes/\$15, 25 minutes/\$25, or 35 minutes/\$35) during which their students perform 2 pieces of contrasting style for an adjudicator to hear and write comments about. One piece should be "recital-ready" and memorized, while the other piece should have all the notes and rhythms learned, but can be "in progress" and needing additional refinement. The adjudicator works with the student at the piano during this mini-lesson and parents and interested parties are welcome to attend. All students receive a ribbon for participation. Adjudicators are chosen for their teaching skills, their musical and pianistic knowledge, and their ability to work with students in a positive and constructive manner.

For teachers who are unfamiliar with the adjudication process, you are welcome to attend and observe free of charge. Please contact me first if you would like to observe. This is a great educational experience for both students and teachers and I hope to see many of you participate.

Cindy Epperson, NCTM  
State and Local Adjudication Chair

### **Selina Chu, AMTA Adjudicator**

Selina Chu has enjoyed an active teaching and performing career for over 25 years, in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Minnesota. She is a Nationally Certified member of Music Teachers National Association. She has enjoyed serving as an adjudicator and master teacher for many organizations, including MTNA's Northwest Division Piano Competitions, National Federation of Music Clubs in Washington and Oregon, and the 2008 Seattle International Piano Festival.

During her tenure as Principle Accompanist for Alaska Dance Theatre, Selina developed a lifelong interest in the relationships between movement and music. She has a special place in her heart for all types of ensemble playing, from duo-piano recitals to dance collaboration.

Selina holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Washington, and a Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She is currently a performing member of Seattle Ladies Musical Club, and maintains an independent piano studio in Issaquah, Washington.

**AKTA announces a workshop  
presented by AMTA adjudicator Selina Chu, NCTM  
*"There's a Trick to It: Teaching Tweens to Teens"***

Friday, November 21st, Filipino Bible Church

Time TBA (9:00-10:30 or 9:30-11:00 a.m.)

Cost: \$20

Questions? Call Cindy Epperson 346-4565



### **Sitka Music Teachers Association News:**

SMTA will host a Popular-Jazz Festival October 25, 2008. Students chosen to participate from each of the four studios will play all types of popular, movie music, and jazz piano pieces. This festival is to kick off the year, with fun pieces, and motivate students not performing that are encouraged to attend! Special Certificates will be handed out after the performances.

SMTA will be meeting every month. Discussions will include new music, motivating music for students, Guild Auditions as well as the Spring AMTA Adjudications for Sitka.

We're off to a great year!

Jammie Wileman, NCTM SMTA President

### **Interior Alaska Keyboard Teachers News:**

The teachers of IAKT are doing a duet recital of the music from Carmen. As we play, we have a visual artist who sketches what we do and a narrator that tells the story in between each duet. At the end of the recital, we will auction off the sketches! It is a wonderful and entertaining evening that we look forward to doing with great excitement.

The recital will be held in the Christian Science Church in Fairbanks on October 24 and 25. Both performances will start at 7:30.

Patti Gallagher, IAKT President

### **Summit for MTNA Leadership**

The summit met in Cincinnati, Ohio September 5-7, 2008. Each state sent a delegate from the state board of directors. This year Christine Kastanopolous had the honor of representing Alaska.

The purpose of the Summit meeting is to help State representatives understand and better interact with the MTNA Leadership.

- To better understand the workings of the association
- To plan for long-term stability of the association
- To strengthen the MTNA connection with links between local, state and national levels
- To deal with crucial issues confronting the association
- To determine MTNA's role in the future of the music teaching profession.

The keynote speaker was Christine Bates, a licensed psychologist and former piano teacher. She led a class exploring the "Personalities: Their Gifts, Strengths and Liabilities" using the Enneagram, which is a model of personality differences.

The experience was fantastic. Flying to Cincinnati on the "red-eye" and arriving at the hotel 90 minutes before the first session began, gaining 4 hours, but no sleep – I managed to really enjoy the sessions, MTNA Leadership and members attending. In each following AKTA Newsletter I will give a sampling of what was presented and how it affects us.

Christine Kastanopolous, AKTA President

### **Accepting Credit Cards: Nova Network & MTNA**

**If you are interested in accepting credit cards for payment for lessons, MTNA has a relationship with the Nova Network. Nova is offering very competitive rates for MTNA members.**

**To learn more, call 800-546-1831 or email [merchantinquiry@novainfo.com](mailto:merchantinquiry@novainfo.com)**

## Performance Opportunity

At Anchorage Lutheran Church there will be an opportunity for presenting musical entertainment during our first Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, November 8. Students and/or teachers are invited to play in 20 minute slots during the time of the bazaar. We have a Hardman baby grand piano and musical presentations may include other instruments if desired. If you or your students would be interested in this performance opportunity please contact Marcia Stratman, Director of Music at Anchorage Lutheran Church.

You may email her at [mdstratman@alaska.com](mailto:mdstratman@alaska.com) or call her at 248-6112.

## Christmas in the Museum!

The Anchorage Museum of History and Fine Arts has once again invited students of the Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association to play seasonal and other music at the museum on two occasions: December 7, 2008 from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. and December 14 from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

On each Sunday in December, the museum is opening their doors to varied holiday musical programs provided by Anchorage performers and would like our students to perform during these 45 minute recitals.

Students at the late Elementary II or above may participate. The museum is looking for a diversity of styles that is not limited to carols but may also include Chanukah, Kwanzaa, classical, etc. Solos and duets are allowed; also piano accompanying another instrument. Although pieces do not need to be memorized they need to be thoroughly prepared to meet the museum's expectations of performance.

Dress requirements include dress pants and shirt for boys and dress or dressy outfit for girls that is appropriate for piano performance.

Depending on the number of teachers interested, each teacher will be assigned a 15 – 20 minute slot to fill with their qualified students. Slots are available on a first come, first served basis. Deadline is October 1, 2008.

After I receive all the names of interested teachers, I will assign a specific date and time. By November 15, I will need the names of the performing students and their selections. Please submit to:

Connie McFarlane  
5620 E. 98th Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99507

You may contact me at [Kmcfar747@aol.com](mailto:Kmcfar747@aol.com) or 333-4970 for further information or to reserve a slot.

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Date for Performance \_\_\_\_\_

Date of application \_\_\_\_\_

### **WHAT A GREAT AKTA OPEN HOUSE**

When we began planning this year's open house, we didn't know if 5 or 25 people would come. Almost 30 people were there! Seven of those people had not even been receiving our newsletters. Many thanks to those people who helped plan it and helped that evening; Gretchen Thomas (and her daughter Elizabeth), Diane Moore, Cindy Epperson, Connie McFarlane, Freya Wardlaw-Bailey, Margaret Turner, and Nancy Campbell. The food and drinks (the wine table seemed popular!) were wonderful. But even more wonderful was the conversation, the chance to visit with old friends, and the fun of meeting new friends. There were door prizes given at intervals during the evening. Our thanks to Keyboard Cache (gift certificate), Dan McElrath (his new and first CD), Great Harvest (a large basket with several loaves of bread and cookies), and AKTA (a gift certificate toward future workshops). The open house was a great way to start the new teaching year. I hope we see all of you next year.

Nancy Campbell

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

