

**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:

November 8, 15-16 - MTNA Student Competitions, State Level
University of Alaska Anchorage Fine Arts Building
Visit www.mtna.org for more details.

November 17-21 - AMTA adjudications

Friday, November 21st, 9:00-10:30 a.m. - 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

April 24, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - AKTA end of the year party

August 14-15, 2009 - AMTA Conference with Nancy and Randall Faber

Board Meetings: 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. The membership year runs from July 1st, 2008 to June 30th, 2009. MTNA has presented AKTA with a list of several 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 out if you are on the list.

From the President of AKTA,

Sometimes “NO” is the hardest word to say! Life gets going in the fast-lane while you hang on for the ride of your life.

Is this situation unique to one person or are all of us caught in the same whirlwind. Can anyone use this as an excuse for not participating in events or meetings that are important to them? Sometimes you just have to sit down and figure out what is really important and act. Learning to say NO is one of the first steps.

AKTA needs the membership to put AKTA in the “Important” category of their lives. AKTA and AMTA offer tremendous support and opportunities to all teachers of music. It is very important to the health of any organization that the membership be actively involved. Without YOU, there is no US.

What is happening?

We have had a number of teachers offering to teach at the Mountain View Boys and Girls Club Project! Thank you all!

The Ribbon Festival is looking for ways to energize the programs and students. The Board is very active in creating a fantastic program! We need membership input to help guide us.

- Do you have suggestions for classes?
- Was there an aspect of last year’s festival that you would like to see changed?
- Do you have a class you would like to offer at the festival?

- If you did not participate, why?
- Will you participate this year?

The Festival is all in the planning stage; this is the perfect time to put your thought into the process. Email or call a board member with your thought.

The Marguerite Downey Competition is no longer an AKTA event. Dr. Timothy Smith at UAA will run the new piano competition this spring. AKTA supports the event; give Dr. Smith the encouragement of your help by calling or emailing him. If many hands make light work, let your hands be the ones that help the new competition to succeed.

We need to infuse the AKTA Treasury – do you have fund raising suggestion? Will you support a fund raising garage sale? Because AKTA is a NON-Profit 501 c3 organization AKTA can write receipts for the amount you request to use on your tax returns as a donated expense. Do you or your studio have unused keyboards, instruments, and non-music related item that could be sold?

The first of the series of AKTA/ AMTA sponsored workshops is coming up on November 21st, please make the effort to attend. The workshop will inspire you in creative ways to deal with your students.

When you are driving in the fast-lane of life – remember the silent few that make a big difference in the Anchorage piano community. Join us!

Christine Kastanopolous

* * * * * Ribbon Festival Survey * * * * *

The Ribbon Festival is an exciting opportunity for students and one of our biggest events of the year. New features for 2009 include a Baroque theme, harpsichord workshop, Baroque performing ensemble, Baroque dancing, and a folk music workshop. Ribbons will be handed out for every activity, and these ribbons can be used to purchase items in the gift shop. Students will commit to attending for the whole day from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The application fee is still \$35 per student, but in order to make the festival a success we need 300 students to participate. AKTA teachers will receive a questionnaire by email asking approximately how many students they will enter in the festival. Please take a moment to respond so we can plan ahead for this year’s festival. Anyone who receives the newsletter by regular mail can still include their estimated number of students in the survey by calling Freya Wardlaw-Bailey at: 245-0522.



**AKTA announces a workshop
presented by AMTA adjudicator**

Selina Chu, NCTM

***“There’s a Trick to It: Teaching Tweens
to Teens”***

Friday, November 21st, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Filipino Bible Church, 3340 Raspberry Road
(west of Minnesota Dr. and Cranberry St.)

Cost: \$20

Questions? Call Cindy Epperson 346-4565

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.

MTNA Scholarship Opportunity

The Piano Technicians Guild (PTG) is dedicated to providing continuing education for piano technicians. Their commitment to continuing education also includes the credentialed professional piano-teaching community. MTNA is pleased to announce the continued PTG sponsorship of two scholarships available to MTNA certified members.

Any piano teacher who has earned MTNA Professional Certification and uses a Registered Piano Technician (RPT) can apply for one of two \$750 scholarships from the Piano Technicians Guild. One of these annual scholarships is to be used specifically for Recreational Music Making (RMM) training, as presented by MTNA, and the other for furthering one's teaching skills through continued education and/or performance study.

For more information about becoming certified or applying for the PTG Scholarships visit www.mtnacertification.org.



Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

News from Sitka:

Rain or shine, October 18th is Alaska Day and the Blatchley Middle School Band is marching in the parade as well as Sitka High School Band!

October 25th is the Sitka Music Teachers Association Pop 'n Jazz Concert at Grace Harbor Church at 2:00 p.m. Costumes encouraged and free admission.

We've had one meeting and another on October 20 is planned!

Music is alive and well in Sitka!
Jammie Wileman, SMTA President

News from Unalaska:

Composition Workshop

We had a busy September, starting off with a bang. Cheryl (Knorr) Green spent 5 high energy days in Unalaska, as our first annual Guest Composer. For three days, Cheryl worked with three age groups ranging from 8 years old to adult, inspiring them to take a look at books differently, using illustrations as inspirations. The students, 31 in all, paired up, extemporaneously creating vignettes based on what they saw. The resulting Saturday concert, attended by all, was an hour long presentation. The kids had a wonderful time.

Since our piano program has actively embraced composition as a part of our curriculum for three years now, a workshop of this genre has been my desire for about as long. Since I am also a board member on our Arts Council, I had approached them about financially sponsoring the workshop last January. Then, wishing to start with an Alaskan composer, I noticed Cheryl's name on the roster for last year's Ribbon Festival. Upon my inquiry, our Anchorage AMTA leaders were quick to recommend her. After months of emails, Cheryl and I met in person for the first time in Fairbanks at this summer's

conference, and formed a quick alliance. Thanks, Cheryl, for coming to Unalaska. We're so glad we also got to show you whales breaching close up, with the summer sun setting golden over a mirror-like Bering Sea!

I'm planning our second annual Composition Workshop for Oct 2009. If anyone is interested in teaming up and having a composer come to your town too, contact me.

Dr. Jill Timmons and Laura Klugherz, May 2009

My former piano teacher, current mentor and friend, pianist Jill Timmons and her performing partner, violinist Laura Klugherz, are coming to Unalaska in May 2009. This event is sponsored by our Arts Council as well. (It helps to be on the board, and it is really fun to be active in choosing and facilitating these fabulous guests to our community!) After their stint here, they head off to France for more summer concerts and workshops.

Anyone interested in having them perform in your community in May 2009 call me! My number is 907-581-1542, or email me at alaskalynda@msn.com

Warmest wishes to all of you from windy Unalaska,
Lynda Lybeck Robinson

Piano Recital

Pianist Deborah Clasquin performs a piano recital of 20th Century dance music

Friday, November 14, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

UAA Fine Arts Building Recital Hall

Known for her powerful performances and sensitive artistry, Deborah Clasquin's solo career has spanned the United States and Europe. Equally active as a chamber musician, her performances have included collaboration with acclaimed violinist, Terrie Baune and as a member of the Helmholtz Trio. Clasquin received her undergraduate degree from Smith College, and holds a Masters degree in piano performance from the New England Conservatory. She studied with the world-renowned Presidential Medal winning chamber musician Menachem Pressler of the Beaux Arts Trio while earning a doctorate in piano performance from Indiana University. Her solo and chamber music coaches have included Leon Fleischer, Malcolm Frager, Josef Gingold and Janos Starker.

Her honors include a gold medal at the International Recording Competition and second prize at the 1990 International Bartok Piano Competition. In 1987, she was one of six Americans invited to compete in the Clara Haskil Piano Competition held in Vevey, Switzerland. In 1990, she was selected as the recipient of the Dewar's Young Artist Award. She enjoys an active career as a recitalist, as well as an orchestral soloist. Her interpretations of French Impressionist composers have brought critical acclaim. She has appeared as a soloist with several symphonies, including the Redding, Eureka, Humboldt, and Shasta Orchestras. Her recital activities have included performances in Paris, Moscow, Kiev,

Chicago, Boston, Washington, D.C., Hawaii, San Francisco and throughout Northern California. Her performances have been featured on public television, and have been broadcast on National Public Radio's Performance Today.

For her program on November 14 in Anchorage, Dr. Clasquin has selected the following:

"Dance Suite" Sz. 77 by Bela Bartok; "cancion y Danza 6" by Federico Mompou, "Valses nobles et sentimentales" by Maurice Ravel, "Waltz for Debby" by Bill Evans, "Virtuoso Etudes" by George Gershwin, and Three Danzas Argentines, by Alberto Ginastera.

Dr. Clasquin's recordings on CD include solo piano works by Scarlatti, Debussy, and Scriabin; "Images and Preludes from Paris" (works by Boulanger, Debussy, Messiaen, and Poulenc), and "Dance Music of the Twentieth Century." Dr. Clasquin is Professor of Music and senior member of the keyboard faculty at Humboldt State University.

All seats are General Admission. Admission prices are \$15 general, \$10 students, seniors, and military. Tickets are available through CenterTix.net (263-ARTS) and the UAA Fine Arts Building Box Office (786-4849).

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 or call her at 248-6112.

This letter was sent by AKTA member Carolyn Rios. Thanks, Carolyn!

Although I am now in my semi-retirement stage of piano teaching, I still benefit from AKTA being a strong, viable and innovative organization. Of even more importance is the benefit AKTA is to music education in our area. The recent AKTA newsletter reveals some really exciting plans and AKTA's heart for encouraging excellence in music teaching.

When students are greeted by well informed, encouraged, enthusiastic and refreshed teachers, satisfying learning is more likely to take place. This is a gift you are "paying forward" to the next generation.

*My admiration and sincere thanks to you and to the entire team for your efforts this year,
Carolyn Rios*

**Anchorage Keyboard
Teachers Association**
Freya Wardlaw-Bailey
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