

**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

Deadlines:

March 1 - Ribbon Festival applications due

April 1 - Alaska Piano Competition applications due (see page 2)

Special Events:

April 4 - Ribbon Festival

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

May 1-2 and 4-6 State adjudications (see page 3)

May 2-3 - Alaska Piano Competition, UAA (see page 2)

May 9 - AKTA Garage Sale (see page 2)

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

Board Meetings: 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.

Ribbon Festival 2009

April 4th is the date for the 2009 Ribbon Festival, Going Baroque. For the Festival to continue we need a minimum of 300 students enrolled.

This is the AKTA Board imploring you to support this event by enrolling your studio.

See page 4 of the newsletter for more information. Applications must be received by March 1st. If you did not receive a festival catalogue, please contact Freya Wardlaw-Bailey at freyapiano@yahoo.com or 245-0522 or stop by the Keyboard Cache to pick up a packet.

~ President's Letter ~

Happy New Year!

You should be proud of your Board Members! Even with the insanity of the Holidays we have met and moved forward with the project currently in motion. We even added a new one – Students Helping Students.

One of the greatest pleasures in meeting each month is the diversity of experience, interests and visions. We challenge each other in respectful ways and come to some outstanding conclusions. This is AKTA at it's finest. The Board Meetings are open to the membership. A schedule of meetings is posted in each newsletter. If you are interest in seeing this for yourself, join us.

On a personal note: January 19 to February 15, 2009, I will be in northern Thailand teaching music and English at a Thai government run boarding school.

This is both exciting and terrifying at the same time. The last 6 months I have been trying to learn some of the Thai language, meeting with little success. The language is very different from any language that I have studied. It is a tonal language, using 5 different tones. Use the right word, but wrong tone and you just said something you never intended to say. Things could get amusing quickly.

The catalogue for the Ribbon Festival is complete. If you have questions – contact me after Feb. 15th or contact one of the other AKTA board members. The school in Thailand has Internet access so I am able to access my Internet account.

Please read the articles in this newsletter and the catalogue carefully. The information will help you plan a memorable Ribbon Festival for your studio.

Dee chan cheua Christine Sawatdee-ka. (With respect this is Christine wishing you good-bye)

Alaska Piano Competition

The University of Alaska Anchorage presents the Alaska Piano Competition, May 2nd and 3rd, 2009. This competition will replace the Marguerite Downey Memorial Piano Competition, which is no longer run by AKTA. Application fees and eligibility requirements have changed, and the competition has four different levels open to elementary through high school students.

Rules and information can be found online at:

http://music.uaa.alaska.edu/piano_competition.html

Applications must be received by April 1st. Please contact Dr. Timothy Smith, competition director, with questions:

aftcs@uaa.alaska.edu or 786-1524

AKTA Garage Sale

When: Saturday, May 9th, 2009, AKTA will hold its first ever garage sale.

Site: Christine Kastanopolous' garage at 13810 Mainsail Drive.

Time: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Why: The AKTA Budget is getting empty. We need funds to operate. Our only source of income is the membership dues of \$15 per member; with about 40 members that equates to about \$600 income per year. The Ribbon Festival is second source of income. Last year the Ribbon Festival did not clear a profit. The Downey Competition has ceased to be an AKTA competition because it cost AKTA about \$1500 in expenses each year that the entry fee did not cover. These are the reasons we must find alternate ways of earning

income if we are to have an impact on our students and the community.

Why May 9th? Kempton Hills Subdivision, Turnagain View Estates Subdivision, and Turnagain View Subdivision have a HUGE garage sale on that date. My home is in the Turnagain View Estates Subdivision. The garage sales are heavily advertised and massive numbers of people come to the sales. It is our best opportunity to help our finances.

AKTA MEMBERSHIP: Please donate items for the sale. Any items (not your junk) will be welcome. Because we are a non-profit organization, you will receive a receipt for your donation that may be used as a tax deduction.

More information will come in following newsletters.



Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

Congratulations to the Alaskan students who competed in January at the MTNA Northwest Division competitions in Spokane, Washington. The following students received awards:

Honorable Mention, Junior Strings: Brendon Mezzetti (violin), student of Beverly Beheim.

Honorable Mention, Junior Piano: Wesley Voley, student of Timothy Smith

Honorable Mention, Junior Composition: Benjamin Burns, student of Dean Epperson.

Winner, Senior Strings: Patrick Hopkins (cello), student of Bonnie Hampton.

Honorable Mention, Senior Piano: Annie Kil, student of Rumi Smith

Winner, Young Artist Strings: Christopher Hopkins (cello), student of Bonnie Hampton.

News from Sitka:

The Julia Kruger and Victor Bunin Piano Duet Concert held on January 13, 2009 raised over \$1,000 for the new Performing Arts Center Piano's maintenance. The new Steinway is suppose to arrive February 3 barely in time for the Sitka Jazz Festival that is happening that week! The concert was fabulous and enjoyed by all. The Sitka Teachers Association and all of Sitka thanks Mrs. Kruger and Mr. Bunin for bringing such wonderful music making to Sitka!

All are making preparations for the AMTA Adjudications to make the final leg of that tour in May as well as Guild Auditions.

The MTNA NW Division Competitions ran smoothly and the piano, string, woodwind, brass, chamber music and voice judges were appreciative of the time put into making that happen. Be aware, members, that there will be changes to the requirements and competitions that will be offered for 2010. So do read the new rules and repertoire requirements for next year!

Good luck to all in Atlanta at the MTNA Conference!

Sincerely,
Jammie Wileman, SMTA President and
MTNA NW Division Competitions Chair

AMTA Spring Adjudications

AMTA adjudications are on May 1-2 and 4-6, 2009, at Filipino Bible Church, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Cindy Epperson at cadae@alaska.net or 346-4468

There will also be a workshop for teachers, date and time to be announced.

Adjudicator Gerardo Ascheri lives in Lansing and teaches at Michigan State University Community Music School. He is an active teacher and music advocate in the Lansing community. He is a solo and chamber musician and gives master classes and lectures regularly. Dr. Ascheri earned a DMA from Michigan State University. He also has a Master's Degree in piano performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a Performance and Music Education degree from Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina. A more complete biography will be included in the next newsletter.

MTNA Student Competition Changes for 2009-2010

There will be no concerto requirement at any level, and the junior brass competition has been eliminated. Look for more details later this year at www.mtna.org

Ribbon Festival 2009

Ribbon Festival Developments

Washburn Piano Company was AKTA's supplier of pianos for the Ribbon Festival. The store has closed!

Last year we used 7 pianos from Washburn and one grand Steinway Gallery of Alaska. When the board received the news at Thanksgiving concerning Washburn closing, we were really put the test to figure out how to go forward with the Ribbon Festival.

Solution for this year:

Steinway Gallery of Alaska will donate the use of all the pianos they can spare for the Ribbon Festival.

Steinway is not able to keep the large stock of pianos that Washburn had, so the number of pianos available will be less. At this time we have no idea how many pianos will be available to us. We are hoping for at least 5.

In the event that the number of pianos available is not enough to cover the entire event:

- We are able to use the 5 digital pianos from the piano lab at ACS.
- The digital pianos would only be used in Primer, Elementary 1 & Elementary 2 performances.
- Elementary 3, Intermediate and Advanced performances will be on good Steinway acoustic pianos.

It is the Ribbon Festival Committee's hope that we do not need to use the digital pianos. Please be aware of this possibility. We will not know how many acoustic pianos will be delivered until just before the festival date.

Please discuss with your studio the possibility that Primer, E1 & E2 students may be performing on digital pianos. We do not want this to surprise teachers or students when they arrive at the event.

Ribbon Festival Changes from Previous Years

1. **Students are not required to perform** in a solo, duet or master class – we strongly suggest they do take advantage of the opportunity, but it is not a requirement to participate in the Festival.
2. Teachers and students select the 5 activities they wish to enjoy, however, **the times, rooms and adjudicators will be assigned by the Festival scheduling committee.** Reason: related to the number of acoustic piano we have to work with. The Board is working hard to honor its commitment to not use digital pianos if it can be helped.
3. **Students bring their lunch** and drinks and desserts will be on sale on site.
4. **Everyone will enjoy lunch from 11:45 to 1:00** in the "Little Gym" while enjoying a concert.
5. The Ribbon Festival committee asks that you inform your Primer, E1 & E2 students that they *may be* performing on digital pianos.
6. **AKTA needs a minimum of 300 students enrolled in the festival.**

Ribbon Festival is open to students from all over ALASKA

AKTA invites students from all over Alaska to attend this event.

The Festival is truly worth the effort!

FREE Housing Available at ACS:

Anchorage Christian School has offered housing at the school for all students and their families who are attending the festival from outside of Anchorage. There is no charge for the hospitality. Bring a sleeping bag and mat and enjoy a night in a classroom.

This generous offer by ACS will help defray expenses for students and families wishing to attend. Thank You ACS!

Piano Lessons at the Mountain View Boys & Girls Club

Gretchen Thomas and Freya Wardlaw-Bailey with the help of the AKTA Board have this project in the final phase of completion.

Yamaha Corporation donated 9 electronic 61-note keyboards to our efforts. AKTA has purchased from Yamaha – 9 keyboard stands, benches, and power supplies for the project. The cost to AKTA is about \$700.

The Keyboard Cache has donated lesson books. Gretchen and Freya have worked with the Boys and Girls Club manager to reserve classrooms, theory rooms, and secured storage for the equipment when it is not in use. An application form to join the class has been distributed at the Clubhouse. AKTA teachers and student members of the club began classes during the last week of January.

- Thank you to Yamaha Corporation for their generous support!
- Thank you to the Keyboard Cache for supporting our efforts to bring piano lessons to children who may not have the resources to enjoy a piano experience.
- Thank you to Gretchen and Freya for all the time and energy you have expended in this project.

The AKTA membership expresses best wishes to all involved for a rewarding and successful experience.

Students Helping Students (SHS)

Linda Green is chairing a project to establish a website for AKTA that will be easy to access and contain all information concerning AKTA. While researching other state websites, Linda came across a program in Louisiana called Students Helping Students. The project started after the state was damaged by the flooding and wind damage from the storms the state endured. People lost their homes, yes, but in those homes were their pianos and music. Many teachers and students lost their instruments, music and finances to continue lessons.

Teachers and students who were not affected by the hurricanes and flooding started a program of playing PLAYATHONS to raise funds to help teachers and students who were not so fortunate.

AKTA would like to do a similar program this spring to help finance the Boys and Girls Club project. AKTA member teachers are paid for the classes and lessons they teach. We need to create a fund to support their efforts.

The AKTA Board is currently trying to secure a location to do the PLAYATHON in April or May. Students select how many compositions they will perform and get sponsors to support their efforts. All of the funds are applied to an account for use restricted to the Boys and Girls Club Project.

The music presented at the PLAYATHON must be memorized and concert ready. AKTA will present certificates to students recognizing their efforts in this project.

As we acquire more information regarding this project, it will be posted in the newsletter. The board is looking for anyone who has had experience doing a project like this. If you would like to help or have suggestions for a location, please contact a board member.

Depending on the popularity of the classes at the Boys and Girls Club, we will need about \$2000 or more to accommodate the cost to the AKTA budget. Please strongly consider involving your students in this project. **Students helping students!**

Music Survey

Dear Cynthia Epperson and Alaska Music Teachers Association:

We are Doctoral students at the University of Missouri-Kansas City doing research for a presentation at the 2009 Music Teacher's National Association national conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Our research is about how the present economy has affected private music teaching.

We are looking for private music teachers of any instrument to take 10 minutes out of their busy schedules to complete an online anonymous national survey to help us with our research for our session presentation in Atlanta at the end of March. We would greatly appreciate it if you could participate in our survey and could also forward this on to your members and encourage them to participate as well.

We need several hundred responses from across the nation. Please feel free to send this link to any private music teachers that you know.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=WHXP_2bsgy1ASCvcsp_2bWOyaw_3d_3d

Thank you so much for your time and your responses!

Gulimina Mahamuti and Erika Kinser

Anchorage Keyboard

Teachers Association

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