

**AKTA Board Members
2008-2009**

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Find a Teacher

Are you looking for piano students in the Anchorage area? Do you want to be listed on the new AKTA website? See page 2 for more information!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Deadlines:

April 10 - AMTA Adjudications applications due

Special Events:

April 4 - Ribbon Festival CANCELED

May 1, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. - "Let's Tango" Workshop with Gerardo Ascheri (see back page)

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

May 2-3 - Alaska Piano Competition, UAA

May 16 - AKTA Garage Sale **Note date change** (see page 2)

May 16, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. - AKTA end of the year party
Note date change (see page 2)

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

Ribbon Festival Canceled

Most of you know by now that the Ribbon Festival has been canceled. We received only 85 applications by the March 1st deadline. We needed at least 250 applications to cover the cost of renting space, moving pianos, and paying the presenters.

The AKTA board will discuss options for next year's festival or alternative plans at our upcoming meetings. If you have any comments, suggestions, questions, or concerns, please let a board member know. Contact emails and phone numbers are listed on the front of each newsletter.

All checks from the applications we received have been mailed back to you. The board would like to express a sincere thank you to all who submitted applications, and to extend our apologies to you and your students.

AKTA Website

I am pleased to announce AKTA's new website at www.pianoakta.org. The purpose of the site is to provide a convenient way to communicate with members, provide links to affiliates and music sights, provide adjudication PDF's, to inform the public of our activities, provide another access to our fabulous newsletter and more. It's uses are only limited by imagination!

The web site is another way to support and inform the community of piano teachers in AKTA.

The site has a feature called "find a teacher." This feature allows members to be listed according to their area within the Anchorage bowl. For example, if you live in mid town your name would be listed under Anchorage mid town piano teachers. Your name and e-mail will be the only

contact information in order to protect your privacy. No phone numbers or addresses will be listed. You may have your main area of interest listed also, i.e., classical, jazz, Suzuki, or other instruments.

If you are interested in this service, please contact me via teacher@greenteachingstudio.com. Be sure to include your area, e mail address and any special interest!

Areas will be listed as:

Anchorage: North, East, Midtown, West, South, Hillside, Eagle River, Palmer, Wasilla, Girdwood (and any other that would be helpful).

Thank you,
Linda Green

AKTA Garage Sale

When: Saturday, May 16th, 2009, AKTA will hold its first ever garage sale. **Please note the date change**

Site: Christine Kastanopolous' garage at 13810 Mainsail Drive

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Deadline: Friday, May 1st to sign up for helping with the sale or donating items

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 a second source of income but is canceled this year due to low enrollment. 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.

AKTA MEMBERSHIP: Please donate items for the sale. Any items (no junk or liquids) will be welcome. Please price your own donations. Because we are a non-profit organization, you will receive a receipt for your donation that may be used as a tax deduction.

Drop-off times are Friday afternoon and evening, May 15th, and Saturday during the sale. Contact Christine Kastanopolous for more information at 345-5811.

AKTA End-of-the-Year Party!

When: Saturday, May 16th, 2009

Site: Christine Kastanopolous' garage at 13810 Mainsail Drive

Time: 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. (during the garage sale)

Bring: A salad, dessert, or beverage. Grilled hot dogs will be provided!

Listen for: Rumor has it there will be a live band!

Join your fellow AKTA members for this last event of the school year, and help welcome in Summer!



Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

AMTA Spring Adjudications

Dear Anchorage Area AMTA members,

This correspondence is an announcement of the AMTA Adjudications to be held May 1st – May 6th at Filipino Bible Church (3340 Raspberry Road) in Anchorage. Adjudications will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Our adjudicator is Dr. Gerardo Ascheri who I met in Anchorage last summer when he taught and performed at the Alaska Suzuki Institute.

You may either email me at cadac@alaska.net or call (346-4565) to request your registration packet. The deadline for submission of forms and checks is Friday, **April 10th**. Please note the following change: Schedules and other information will be **emailed** Monday, **April 20th**, 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.

The 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

Gerardo Ascheri lives in Lansing where he teaches at Michigan State University Community Music School. He is an active teacher and music advocate in the Lansing community. Mr. Ascheri is a solo and chamber musician. He collaborates as a chamber pianist with a number of musicians in the Greater Lansing, such as Sam Spurbeck (violin), Gail Lyra (piano), Jeffrey Price (sax), Marcia Anderson (Clarinet), and the Vintage Woodwind Quintet.

He is also involved in several musical organizations. He serves as Coordinator for the Performing Arts Student Club, a junior club of the Lansing Matinee Musicale; has served as President for the Capital Area Music Teachers Association and as President of the Michigan Music Teachers Association. He is currently the Chairman of the MMTA Piano Achievement Testing Committee. He is also a member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. Dr. Ascheri has recently received the 2008-2009 Distinguished Service Award by the Michigan Music Teachers Association.

Dr. Ascheri gives master classes, and lectures regularly in Michigan about subjects such as Latin American Music and Composers, and Colonial American piano music. In recent years, he has also presented on the subject of “Teaching the Very Young Student,” “Elements of Artistry in Younger Students,” “Transition to Intermediate Level,” and duo playing.

Dr. Ascheri earned a DMA from Michigan State University where he studied with Ralph Votapek. He also has a Masters Degree in Piano Performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a Performance and Music Education Degree from Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina. In this country his piano studies were guided by composer and pianist Roberto Caamaño. In the summer of 2000, Dr. Ascheri attended the Seventh America-Russian Piano Institute at the Saint Petersburg Conservatory, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

During the past years Mr. Ascheri received Suzuki training at the Chicago Suzuki Institute, the Suzuki Association of Northern Ohio (Berea), Studea Music in Orford, Quebec, and Colorado Suzuki Institute (Beaver Creek). He trained with Doris Koppelman, Dorris Harrel, Fay Adams, Renee Robins (Ann Arbor), and Nehama Patkin.

News from Sitka:

It is our Spring Break in Sitka March 23-28. Teachers are getting ready for AMTA Adjudications, and a workshop with Gerardo Ascheri. All are looking forward to his visit on April 22-24. Why I Teach Suzuki book 1 is the workshop we have requested. We hope to have more than our group of 4 teachers attend.

That is about all the news in Sitka.

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

“Let’s Tango” Workshop

Gerardo Ascheri, our AMTA adjudicator, will give a workshop entitled “Let’s Tango” on Friday, May 1st from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Filipino Bible Church (3340 Raspberry Road) in Anchorage. The cost per person is \$20. For more information, please contact Cindy Epperson at cadae@alaska.net or 346-4468.

**Anchorage Keyboard
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