

**AKTA Board Members
2008-2009**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Deadlines:

Friday, May 8 - Sign-up deadline for AKTA Garage Sale (see page 2)

Special Events:

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

May 1-2 and 4-6 - State Adjudications

May 2-3 - Alaska Piano Competition, UAA

May 16 - AKTA Garage Sale (see page 2)

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

August 14-16 - AMTA Conference with Nancy and Randall Faber

Board Meetings: June 19, 9:00-11:00 AM at Chris Kastanopolous, 13810 Mainsail Drive. All members are welcome to attend.

Looking for new teaching ideas?

The AKTA board recommends these books for some great techniques on how to inspire your students to practice!

"The Practice Revolution: Getting great results from the six days between music lessons" by Philip Johnston

"Not Until You've Done Your Practice: The classic survival guide for kids who are learning a musical instrument, but hate practising" by Philip Johnston and David Sutton

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 8th (**deadline extended**) 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!

"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 346-4565.

Find a Teacher

The new AKTA website, www.pianoakta.org 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 Linda Green via teacher@greenteachingstudio.com. Be sure to include your area, email 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).



Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

News from Sitka:

We have a lot going on this week! Some of the clinicians come from Washington, California, etc... As well as our local talent!

We're down to the last few days before Gerardo Ascheri is here to adjudicate for the AMTA Adjudications and we're excited!

May 2-5 is Guild Auditions! Julia Kruger will be our judge.

Southeast Alaska Highschool Music Festival is going on April 23-25, and groups from all over southeast are here for these clinics and to perform. Sitka is abound with music for all instruments! This will be an exciting weekend! Here is an overview of the schedule:

Festival Schedule:

Thursday

8:00 - 12:00 Instrumental Solos and Ensembles

Vocal Solos and Ensembles

1:00 - 4:30 Clinics

Large Group Warm-Ups in Auditorium

6:00 - 9:30 Concert/Adjudications/Command Performances

Friday

8:00 - 12:00 Vocal and Jazz Solos and Ensembles

Instrumental Solos and Ensembles

1:00 - 4:30 Clinics

Large Group Warm-Ups in Auditorium

6:00 - 9:30 Concert/Adjudications/Command Performances

Saturday

8:00 - 12:15 Jazz Performances/Adjudications

1:30 - 3:45 Clinics

Large Group Warm-Ups in Auditorium

6:00 - 9:00 Concert/Adjudications/Command Performances

A dance for all Music Festival Participants and Sitka High Students will follow the final concert.

Clinic Schedule:

Thursday

1:00 Jammie Wileman - Piano Masterclass

Jeff Brandt - Drum Set Workshop

Rich Nace - Finding Your Voice

Mike Sullivan - Jazz Theory

2:15 Michael Caldwell - Leadership Ideology

Jeff Brandt - Marimba Workshop

Matt Armstrong - Rhythm Workshop

Mike Sullivan - Jazz Theory

3:30 Steve Accatino - Breathing Gym

J Bradley - Oud Workshop: Instruments of the Middle East

Mike Kernin - SmartMusic

Roger Schmidt - Trombone Techniques

Friday

1:00 Rich Nace - Finding Your Voice

Jeff Brandt - Snare Drum Techniques

Mike Sullivan - Jazz Sax Section Workshop

Mike Kernin - SmartMusic

Steve Accatino - Clarinet Workshop

2:15 Rich Nace - The Soul of the Singer

Jeff Brandt - Timpani Workshop

Barbara Rocheleau - String Reading Session

Steve Accatino - Breathing Gym

Roger Schmidt - So You Wanna Make All-State?

3:30 Ted Howard with Belly Meat - Blues Workshop

Jeff Brandt - Percussion Ensemble

Kayla Boettcher - Fiddle Style

J Bradley - Oud Workshop: Instruments of the Middle East

Mike Kernin, Susan Brandt-Ferguson - Saxophone Techniques

Saturday

1:30 Michael Caldwell - Brass Instrument Techniques

Peter Apathy - Jazz Rhythm Section Workshop

Daphne Karandanis - New Age Improvisation

Matt Armstrong - Rhythm Workshop

Jan Lovett - Flute Techniques

2:45 Michael Caldwell - Improv for Everyone

Jeff Brandt - So You Wanna Make All-State on Percussion?

Daphne Karandanis - New Age Improvisation

Matt Armstrong - Conducting for All

Roger Schmidt - How to Practice for Maximum Results

Sincerely,

Jammie Wileman, SMTA President and

MTNA NW Division Competitions Chair

News from Fairbanks

We are doing Adjudications during the week of April 27th. May includes the May 3rd Honors Recital and the Piano Festival, beginning on May 26th.

That's all for the moment . . . It feels like a ton of activity, but the description is small.

Patti Gallagher, IAKT President

News from Unalaska

AUTUMN: Inspired by meeting so many cool teachers at the AMTA Conference in Fairbanks in August, we participated in the (Alaska) MTNA Composition Competition for the first time. We had 9 students submit pieces, and were thrilled with two winners: our 9 year old Ethan Mahoney's "Waiting" won 1st place in Alaska's Elementary Division, and Aidan Bobbitt received an Honorable Mention for his "Chromaticised". Keeping up the momentum, we celebrated our first composition workshop with the charismatic Cheryl (Knorr) Green, who came to us for 4 days of further inspiration and music writing ideas. We thank the Aleutian Arts Council for sponsoring this event, and Cheryl for putting up with us and being so fun!

WINTER: Our December 3 Recital featured 39 pianists, including 6 students who study with my own protegee Kimberly Rowland. Kimberly wants to become a private music teacher as a career, and is a freshman at UAF (online this year) while earning money teaching music here in Unalaska. Since we are in dire need of more teachers here, the community has been grateful for this bright young woman who has done such a great job this year, both as an enthusiastic and loving teacher, and as a smartly presented professional.

SPRING: We've embarked on our 5th series "Kids in Concert", spending Friday lunch hour playing piano for the elders at the Senior Center. I pick up 6 kids a week for 5 weeks, they play a few songs, and I return them to school one hour later. Its a program supported now by our schools and our community, and the students enjoy it very much. As we prepare for our Spring Duet and Trios Recital, we eagerly await our annual "Just Desserts" Classical concert. This year it features Dr. Jill Timmons, pianist from Linfield College in Oregon and Syracuse University's Dr. Laura Klugherz on violin. They'll follow up their concert with a workshop on

"Including music in your college career and your life" followed by master classes. Thanks, again, to our Aleutian Arts Council sponsorship!

Our Hearts and Hands Project is FINALLY in the final stages of becoming an official non-profit. Grants or no grants, the students are busy composing their pieces for their 3rd annual Hearts and Hands CD of original music, with a later release date of late summer. We hope to have another composition workshop next year as soon as we get up and running as a non-profit, and continue the tradition every year from now on. (<http://www.lyndalybeck.com/heartsandhands.html>)

SUMMER: And finally, I've learned that its a challenge to rehearse 4 hand material over 2000 miles from my partner, but its brought on a whole new challenge! My music partner Mary Fraser and I will meet for the first time in June, then a week later travel to the Loire Valley in France, to participate in the Chateau de Beaumont 4-hand workshop and perform in the final concert. We're playing Samuel Barber's Souvenirs and Francis Poulenc's Sonata for Four Hands. I look forward to bring home many new "aha" ideas to my students when I return.

I hope that I can continue to meet more of you over these many miles, and am so glad for last year's Teachers Conference in Fairbanks. (Thanks Cheryl, Chris, Cindy, and everyone!) Remember that crazy idea of trying to connect all of us through our own "Alaska Bush Piano Teacher's" Website? What about an Alaska Bush Piano Teachers Facebook? mmmmmmm the ideas keep coming. Somebody wanna set it up? I'll be right there!

Love from Unalaska to the rest of you, and have a wonderful spring, and summer!

Lynda Lybeck Robinson

MTNA National Conference Report

The MTNA National Conference was held at the end of March in Atlanta Georgia and I had the distinct privilege to attend on behalf of the AMTA. Throughout the entire event the atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm, enjoyment and celebration of accomplishments. The exhibit hall was alive with activity and a plethora of teaching resources tailored to target any area of need a student might have. There were many special guests and teaching presentations that were extremely helpful and encouraging to teachers, with an assortment of topics to add valuable tools to the teacher's "bag of tricks". In between the teacher enrichment activities was the exciting and impressive MTNA student finalist competition taking place in our midst. We were treated to numerous winners recitals which brought us to our feet and even inspired a tear here and there. What a magnificent experience to observe and listen to the students and appreciate the accomplishments of such fine young people and their teachers.

During the week I attended the President's Advisory meeting as well as the Northwest Regional meeting where I delivered the report from the state of Alaska and presented our innovative idea of holding a state conference on a cruise ship! Martha Hilley did a demonstration of a group piano class utilizing a local

University freshman Music Theory class to give a live view of how the group dynamic works. It was a great time with several very humorous moments. There were master classes with Randall Faber, Olga Kern, Dennis Alexander and others in the areas of piano duet, advanced and intermediate piano. The master class with Olga Kern was attended by approximately three hundred piano teachers with standing room only. Randall Faber's master class was very exciting with his enthusiastic personality and his use of words like "lift off" and "sparkling". Other presentations addressed performance anxiety, teaching the piano to the small hand, working with disabled students, and numerous other subjects.

I found the national MTNA conference to be an enriching and worthwhile experience. It is always valuable to get out of our normal spheres and take in new ideas and information from our peers in faraway places. I was inspired to ask more from my students because I received more vision for what our students can really do. I received refreshing ideas and support by hearing from other fine teachers. The best part was simply enjoying myself immensely by attending performances all throughout the week and when it was over I realized I had spent time with our nation's finest teachers and students. I recommend all members adding the national conference to your plan for the coming year!

Paula Gray

Students Helping Students

Here is an opportunity for your students to perform this summer, and help raise funds for AKTA! Students Helping Students is a project to raise money for students who would otherwise not be able to afford piano lessons, including the piano and theory classes we offer at the Boys & Girls Club in Mountain View. This summer we have the opportunity to perform at the Saturday Market in downtown Anchorage. There will be a covered stage, and all donations/tips from the audience will go to the SHS project. For more information, contact project chair Linda Green at 333-7182 or leadpipe@gci.net

The official AKTA date is Saturday, July 11th between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Contact Chris Kastanopoulos at 345-5811 or ckastan@gci.net to sign up your students for a block of time. This is a great option if you only have a few students available to perform but would like them to have an event to work towards. A full-size electric keyboard will be provided.

You can also set up your own performance date at the Saturday or Sunday Market and then give any money collected to AKTA. Contact Ellen Lockyer at 727-2165 to find out available dates and times. You will need to bring your own keyboard; a sound system is available on the stage.

**Anchorage Keyboard
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