

**AKTA Board Members
2010-2011**

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The AKTA board welcomes new board members Ann Fernandez and Salley Kim for the 2010-2011 term. We look forward to the next two years of working together for AKTA!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Deadlines:

September 14 - MTNA Competitions Application Deadline

October 10 - Anchorage Museum Holiday Performance Submission Deadline (see page 2)

Special Events:

September 17, 9:30 a.m. - Coffee Chat with Gretchen (see page 5)

September 17, 4:30-8:30 p.m. - AK Music and Sound/Horn Doctor Birthday Party (see page 2)

October 1, 10:00-11:30 a.m. - ***New date*** Website Building Workshop #2 (see page 5)

November 6-7 - MTNA Strings Competition

November 13-14 - MTNA Piano Competition

November 15-19 - AMTA Fall Adjudications (see pages 3 and 4)

December 4 - AKTA Playathon (see page 2)

December 5, 1:30-2:15 p.m. - Anchorage Museum Holiday Performance (see page 2)

February 4, 2011, 9:30-11:00 a.m. - Workshop with Laura Koenig

February 5, 2011 - AKTA Duet Festival

Board Meetings: Friday, September 24th, 9:15-11:00 a.m. at Alaska Music and Sound/The Horn Doctor, 1000 Ingra Street. Friday, October 29th, 9:15-11:00 a.m.; Friday, December 3rd, 9:15-11:00 a.m. All members are welcome to attend. Meetings are held at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 10955 Elmore Road except for September 24th.

Visit the AKTA website at www.pianoakta.org

Developing Your Studio Website A Workshop by Linda Green

Friday, October 1st, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 10955 Elmore Road

Create a website that looks professional, provides information about your programs, enable clients to register online and create a sense of community within your studio.

The second website building workshop will focus on accessing the AKTA website and manipulating pages. Each participant can work on building a page but they will not be published. Also available will be exact addresses of interesting websites, both piano teacher sites and links to other music sites.

The workshop is \$20 per person, payable to AKTA. Bring a laptop or just your curiosity. For more information, contact Linda Green at 333-7182 or leadpipe@gci.net. For those who attended the August workshop, if anyone has questions as they build their own websites, Linda is more than happy to help.

Playathon

Saturday, December 4, 2010, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Borders Books Café

The AKTA Playathon is back! Last April's event was a huge success, raising over \$1,000 for the Boys and Girls Club piano classes. The playathon gives students an opportunity to perform in a public setting, and all donations go directly towards AKTA projects. Students of all levels are welcome to perform. For more information or to reserve a 1 hour or 1/2 hour performance slot, contact Gretchen Thomas at nrhythms@alaska.com or 563-1463.

Birthday Party

Friday, September 17th, 4:30-8:30 p.m.
1000 Ingra Street, Anchorage

Alaska Music and Sound / The Horn Doctor invite you to their birthday party, celebrating local music educators. There will be refreshments, live music, and a drawing for prizes including two tickets on Alaska Airlines.

For more information, call 242-5589 or email barbara@horndoc.com

Anchorage Museum Holiday Performance

The Anchorage Museum has invited students of the Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association to play seasonal and other appropriate music at the museum on Sunday, December 5, 2010 from 1:30-2:15 p.m.

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 classical, Chanukah, Kwanza, 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 appropriate for piano performance. Jeans are not appropriate attire.

As we have only 45 minutes of performance time, depending on teacher interest, the number of students each teacher enters will be limited. I will let you know how much time you can have for your students after the deadline for teacher submissions. The deadline to enter is **October 10, 2010**.

If interested, please contact Connie McFarlane at kmcfar747@aol.com or 333-4970 before October 10.



Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

From Christine Kastanopolous, AMTA State President:

Board members are:

- Christine Kastanopolous, NCTM, President – Piano & Music Education – 345-5811 (ckastan@gci.net)
- Linda Green, President-Elect – Trumpet, Piano & Music Education – 333-7182 (leadpipe@gci.net)
- Barbara Gazaway, Secretary – Piano & Music Education – 338-6777 (gazaway_barbara@hotmail.com)
- Beverly Beheim, Treasurer – Violin – 336-0330 (beverlybeheim@gmail.com)

We wish to thank the membership of AMTA for electing us to our new positions. It is our desire to represent the entire membership with new enthusiasm.

AMTA represents all disciplines of music instruction: voice, strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion, piano and music education. Our board is very equipped to meet this challenge.

We have had our first meeting, September 3, 2010. All meetings are open to the membership. A schedule has

not yet been created, but will be presented in the AKTA Newsletter when it is formed. We encourage you to share your thoughts, concerns and well wishes as we progress throughout the next two years. Please feel free to call or email any board member. Your input is very important to this board.

Questions to the membership:

1. How can AMTA help you, your studio and /or your local organization?
2. Do you attend the yearly conferences?
___Yes, What topics do you want addressed?
___No, Why do you choose to not attend? How can the conference better serve your needs?
___Are you planning to attend the 2011 Conference in Fairbanks?
___Do you feel that a yearly conference is too much, the schedule should change to every 2 years?
3. Would you be interested in serving on the State board?

Please contact one of us with your suggestions, thoughts and concerns.

Christine Kastanopolous

AMTA Fall Adjudications

AMTA state adjudications will be held from November 15th through 19th, 2010.

The adjudicator is Christopher Hahn from the University of Montana.

The new location is at Calvary Church, 80th and Jewel Lake in Anchorage.

For more information or to request a registration packet, contact Cindy Epperson at epperson@gci.net or 346-4565.

Christopher Hahn – Pianist Fall 2010 AMTA Adjudicator

Christopher Hahn has performed as a solo and collaborative artist throughout North America and Europe. As a guest of the American Embassy in Sarajevo, he presented a concert tour of Bosnia-Herzegovina with performances in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and at the *Luciano Pavarotti Center* in Mostar. The recitals were highly anticipated and elicited enthusiastic responses: “*A stellar performance . . . combining technical proficiency with a mature musicality.*” [Vercernje Novosti, Sarajevo].

Christopher has been featured in recital at Carnegie Hall – Weill Recital Hall, The Music Gallery in Toronto, the Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival, the National Saxophone Conference at Northwestern University, the International Horn Competition of America, and the Society of Composers, Inc. National and Regional Conferences. He has been invited to present recitals and master classes at Interlochen Arts Academy, Stanford University, Ithaca College, North Carolina School of the Arts, Wilfrid Laurier University, Whitworth University, the University of Idaho, Idaho State University, and the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire.

As a collaborative artist, he won the silver medal at the 2008 International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition in Boston, and was a winner of Canada’s NUMUS Chamber Music Competition for New Music. He has had the honor of performing for the Archbishop Desmond Tutu with the Metropolitan Opera’s Leona Mitchell, and has also performed with such recognized artists as flutist Christina Jennings, trumpet/piano virtuoso Guy Few, pianist Lydia Brown, cellist Amit Peled, and Russian dissident poet, Evgeny Yevtushenko. Recently, he was invited by Grammy-winning composer Libby Larsen to make a commercial recording of her piano duet, *Gavel Patter*.

Christopher performs frequently with Karen Beres throughout the US and Canada as a member of the award-winning [CanAm Piano Duo](#). Together they perform a varied repertoire of new works and masterpieces of the twentieth century alongside more traditional works for the genre, and are actively involved in promoting and performing contemporary composers. The group received a distinguished ranking from the international jury panel at the 2009 IBLA Grand Prize competition in Sicily, Italy. The Duo recently commissioned a large-scale work for two pianos and percussion from internationally renowned composer David Maslanka, which is being premiered in the 2009-10 concert season.

A native of Canada, Christopher pursued his early training through the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Ontario and received the Associate Diploma in performance with first-class honors, and has since furthered his study of performing and teaching in Canada, the United States, and Europe. Christopher has earned the highest honor given by Trinity College of Music in London, England by obtaining both the Licentiate and Fellowship Diplomas in performance. His mentors include Ralph Votapek, Edward Gates, Sonja Behrens, Jamie Parker, Lucien Hut and Virginia Blaha. Additional performance studies include sessions at the Orford Center for Advanced Musical Studies in Québec (Anton Kuerti), the Adamant Music School (Menahem Pressler), the University of Michigan (Louis Nagel), the Royal Conservatory of Music (Andrew Markow), and private study in Verneuil-sur-Avre, France (Jean-Paul Sevilla). He has coached with Yefim Bronfman, Constance Keene, Angela Cheng, Yong Hi Moon, and Marilyn Horne, and has received extensive chamber music coaching from members of the Penderecki String Quartet and the Gryphon Trio.

An active teacher, adjudicator and clinician, Christopher is a member of the College of Examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music. He is a nationally certified teacher of music (NCTM) and is President of the Montana State Music Teachers Association. Christopher is frequently engaged at regional, national, and international conferences and has been a featured presenter at the Glenn Gould Professional School, the Royal Conservatory of Music *Art of Teaching Conference* in Toronto, the University of Oklahoma *Seminar for Piano Teachers*, the *Summer Music Institute* in St. Paul, MN, the Oklahoma, Idaho, and Montana Music Teachers Association state conventions, Louisiana State University, and the *MTNA National Convention* in 2004 (Kansas City) and 2008 (Denver). His students have been featured on the NPR program, *From the Top*, and as finalists in the *2007 MTNA Chamber Music Competition* in Toronto, Canada. He has been published in *Piano Pedagogy Forum* and *American Music Teacher*, and is listed in *Who’s Who Among America’s Educators*. He recently received an award for Meritorious Teaching & Creative Activity from the University of Montana.

Christopher is an associate professor of piano at the University of Montana where he teaches piano, piano pedagogy, accompanying, and serves as the artistic director of the UM Contemporary Chamber Players.

Cruise to Alaska

Yamaha Institutional Solutions Group & Alaska Music Teachers Association (AMTA) invite you on a cruise from Vancouver, British Columbia to Whittier, Alaska, **June 11-18, 2011.**

The national membership of MTNA is invited as well. Ads will appear in the Clavier Companion and the MTNA publication, American Music Teacher in the next issues. You will need to book early to reserve a cabin. Complete information can be found at: www.travelingtogether.com click on Music Teacher Cruise.

Speakers are:

Dr. Christine Bates on the personality model, the Enneagram.

Mike Bates and **George Litterst** with topics on Music For Life; To Boldly Go Where Few Audiences Have Gone Before!; and LIVE From Zimbabwe!

There will also be performances by **Juliana Osinchuk.**

This is a cruise that will expand your verbal and musical communication skills while exciting your senses with unequaled beauty and wildlife!

For more information or to request a brochure, contact Christine Kastanopolous at ckastan@gci.net or 345-5811 or go to the Traveling Together website.

From Jammie Wileman in Sitka

Greetings from Sitka by the Sea and Sitka MTA! We thank all the attendees that came to our AMTA Conference. The weather cooperated, and the views were spectacular of mountains, and ocean. We all thank Jennifer Linn for presenting, as her workshops, and new music ideas from Hal Leonard gave us all new and fresh ideas for the coming year of teaching. It was just a wonderful conference! Everyone commenting has said this was one of the best. I think that as well.

SMTA will be meeting soon, and three of us, myself, Julie Schmitts, and Bonnie Harris wish you all a great year of music making!

Thanks again,
Jammie Wileman, NCTM, President SMTA

Private Piano Teachers

Are you looking for some fresh ideas?
Do you have a heartwarming success story?
Need a place to meet other teachers like yourself?
Do you have teaching ideas or concerns?
Then this informal gathering is for you.

Coffee Chat with Gretchen (the lady in pink)
Friday September 17, 9:30 am
Kaladi Brothers on Brayton Dr.

Come share your teaching ideas, concerns, and successes.

For more information, call Gretchen at 563-1463 or 301-6805.

Find a Teacher, Find a Student

Are you looking for new piano students?
Add your name to the "Find a Teacher" page on the AKTA website: www.pianoakta.org. The list is organized by area of town and is limited to your name, email address, and instrument.
Contact Linda Green at leadpipe@gci.net or 333-7182.

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