

**AKTA Board Members
2010-2011**

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Visit the AKTA website
at www.pianoakta.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Deadlines:

October 22 - AMTA Fall Adjudications registration deadline (page 3)

Special Events:

October 22, 9:30 a.m. - Coffee Chat with Gretchen (page 2)

November 6 - MTNA Strings Competition

November 13-14 - MTNA Piano Competition

November 15-19 - AMTA Fall Adjudications (page 3)

November 19, 9:00-11:30 a.m. - Teaching with Style Workshop (page 3)

December 4 - AKTA Playathon (page 2)

December 5, 1:30-2:15 p.m. - Anchorage Museum Holiday

Performance

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

February 5, 2011 - AKTA Duet Festival

Board Meetings: 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.

Letter from the AKTA President:

Happy Fall!!

By now we are all in full swing in the studios. The students have dusted off the cobwebs from their music and pianos and parents should be hearing the joyous sound of music daily. Right?! Well I am always hopeful that my dream will come true.

Thank you to everyone who came out for our annual Fall Open House at the Keyboard Cache. It was wonderful to see everyone, meet some new people and enjoy great food. Diane Moore as always was generous in allowing us to use her store space for this popular event. And we had some wonderful door prizes from nearby vendors and fellow AKTA members.

We already have two great workshops under our belts, thanks to Linda Green and her infinite knowledge

of web page building. Keep your eyes and ears open for future workshops. If you haven't had a chance please check out our own AKTA website designed by Linda at www.pianoakta.org

Fall adjudications are approaching quickly. Contact Cindy Epperson for more information. Our adjudicator, Christopher Hahn, will be presenting a workshop during his time here. Watch for more information in the newsletter and email alerts.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to our next "Coffee Chat", an informal gathering to share teaching ideas, success stories and failures. If you would like more information, please call me at 563-1463 or email me at nrhythms@alaska.com

Have a great month!

Gretchen Thomas, AKTA President

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 #2 with Gretchen (the lady in pink)
Friday October 22, 9:30 am
Kaladi Brothers on Brayton Dr.**

Come and share note reading teaching strategies and recital concepts.

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

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.

Diane Moore at The Keyboard Cache sent this letter to share with the membership:

I'd like to thank all the teachers, spouses, and friends that came to the open house in September. I felt it was a great success. A HUGE thanks goes to Gretchen and all the teachers that did all the work!!!

Thanks also to all of you for the wonderful print by Freya's mother. I will have it framed soon and display it in my office for all to see. It reminds me of our weekend in Sitka for the conference.

*Sincerely,
Diane Moore*



Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

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.

Registration deadline: **October 22nd**

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

News from Sitka

Greetings from Sitka by the Sea! SMTA had their first meeting on October 4, 2010. All three members, Jammie Wileman, NCTM, President, Julie Schmitts, and Bonnie Harris attended.

We want to thank everyone again for coming to Sitka for the AMTA Conference. We are all pleased the weather was grand, and the presenter, Jennifer Linn was just fantastic!! We were all excited to start our teaching year after her workshops!

Have a wonderful fall teaching, everyone!
Jammie Wileman, NCTM

News from Unalaska

Our 2010 school year got off to a great start. With the sponsorship of the Hearts and Hands Project, our community was treated to a concert by renowned Portland's contemporary jazz pianist/singer Tom Grant, with Kevin Deitz on bass. The concert was followed, the next day, with a workshop at my house which featured a discussion of classical vs jazz written music, jazz improvisation, chord interpretation, and rhythm. Kevin, a composer, is also a college bass/theory and composition instructor in Portland, so his input, combined with the charismatic Tom Grant, was a perfect combination.

We're now working on finishing up "Hearts and Hands III: A Song of Us" CD and music book, so I'm back on

Sibelius crunching out scores for the kids. We keep pretty busy, knowing always how we wish we were closer to participate with those of you in the larger areas. I'm already thinking of our spring duet recital and decided that this year's theme will be "Living Composers". While the winter recital "formula" works great, with classical and holiday music, I can't help but see spring as the carrot that will get us through another long, cold, hard winter.

My best to my piano teacher colleagues who continue to inspire me. If you're on Facebook, I'd love to know you there as well.

Cheers!
Lynda Lybeck Robinson

Teaching with Style: Developing an Awareness of Learning Styles **A workshop by Christopher Hahn**

Mark your calendars for this workshop by our AMTA adjudicator. Dr. Christopher Hahn will discuss how students receive, process, and internalize information and how we as teachers can better understand our students' learning styles. The workshop will include a practical application of this approach using examples from the piano literature.

Friday, November 19th, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
Calvary Church, 80th and Jewel Lake Road
Cost: TBA

Open to AKTA members and non-members

For more information, contact Cindy Epperson at epperson@gci.net or 346-4565.

Correction: The September issue of the AKTA newsletter incorrectly stated that the Alaska Music Teachers Association (AMTA) is partnering with Yamaha Institutional Solutions Group for the Cruise to Alaska in June 2011. The cruise is endorsed by Yamaha but is not affiliated with AMTA. All AMTA members are invited to attend. For more information on the cruise or to request a brochure, contact Christine Kastanopolous at ckastan@gci.net or 345-5811.

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