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2010-2011**

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Visit the AKTA website  
at [www.pianoakta.org](http://www.pianoakta.org)



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Deadlines:**

**April 1 – Registration Deadline for AMTA Adjudications**

**April 1 – Registration Deadline for Alaska Piano Competition**

**Special Events:**

**April 15, 9:30 a.m. – Coffee Chat (see back page)**

**April 29, 9:00-11:00 a.m. – Workshop with Deborah Cleaver**

**April 29, 30, May 2, 3, 4 – AMTA Adjudications (see page 3)**

**April 30-May 1 – Alaska Piano Competition (see page 2)**

**August 12-13 – AMTA Conference in Fairbanks with Bruce Berr**

**Board Meetings:** Friday, March 25th, 9:15-11:00 a.m. All members are welcome to attend. Meetings are held at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 10955 Elmore Road.

**AKTA Workshop with Deborah Cleaver**

“Developing Hand-Eye Coordination”

Friday, April 29th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Calvary Church, 3800 West 80th Ave  
(Corner of 80th and Jewel Lake)

\$20 per person

For more information, contact Cindy Epperson at  
[epperson@gci.net](mailto:epperson@gci.net) or 346-4565.

## Alaska Piano Competition

Hello all teachers and students interested in the Alaska Piano Competition:

Our competition is scheduled for the weekend of **April 30-May 1, 2011**. The new entry form has been posted to the UAA website. To get a copy, visit the UAA Music Website at <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/music> and choose the "Alaska Piano Competition" link from the list of options on the left side of the homepage.

Please note that the Syllabus has been updated completely for 2011. The "old" print copies of the syllabus (which served us very well) (referred to as the "Kastan") will no longer be valid. That is because there have been many updates from the original. Please be absolutely sure you refer only to the syllabus that has been posted online, again at the UAA Music website.

Syllabi, for each level (Intermediate: I6; Junior: A7 and A8; and Advanced, or Senior, A9) are included on the Alaska Piano Competition page.

Please note the deadline: applications must be received by **April 1**. Mailing information is on the application itself.

Please be sure you adhere strictly to repertoire levels, and periods, when submitting your student's programs. Any deviation from standard levels may result in a student being moved to a higher level for the competition.

For any questions and/or inquiries please feel free to contact me. Best of luck in this year's competition!

Dr. Timothy Smith  
Professor of Piano, UAA  
Alaska Piano Competition Director  
[aftcs@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:aftcs@uaa.alaska.edu) 786-1524

## News from Sitka

SMTA is getting ready for AMTA Adjudications April 22-23, so we are very excited about that. Concert pianist Blair McMillen was here end of January for the second year in a row. He gave a beautiful concert and played the Schumann Carnaval, among other beautiful works. He worked with students at the elementary and high school age, plus did a master class that was again, very helpful to students and teachers that attended. Mr. McMillen works wonderfully with kids and I recommend him highly for any type of festivals or camps. He studied at Oberlin.

Sitka Jazz Festival happened in February; I am told it went very well. (Jammie was in Maui and missed that big event.) Sitka Fine Arts Camp is in full swing and working on purchase of Sheldon Jackson Campus buildings to continue their mission: elementary, middle school and high school camps scheduled for June to July, check out their web site. Guild Auditions will be held in May, and that is also a big event happening in Sitka for pianists. April 14-17 is the Juneau Folk Festival, and people from here go and participate in that event.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jammie Wileman, NCTM

## News from Unalaska

Hello from the Aleutian Islands. It's almost time to start planning for the summer conference, and I can hardly wait to see everyone again. In the meantime, we look forward to May. Our students are excited to meet Dean Epperson and his trio in May, as they are scheduled to come and give a concert in our community for the Aleutian Arts Council. A special bonus is Dean's offer to work with our kids with coaching and adjudicating, an opportunity we haven't had here since Dr Jill Timmons visited in 2009. The kids still remember Maria Allison who worked with them on two other occasions. People don't realize that a visiting pianist of their caliber is a rock star here in Unalaska. We really appreciate our visiting performers and educators.

I have been composing a series of songs for the youth, at a level comparable to Alfred or Faber levels 2 and 3. I'm looking for anyone who would like to try them out themselves or on their students. My favorite titles are: Pair o' Puffins, Sea Otter Dance and Icicle Rainbows. I would love to get feedback from other teachers and will be happy to send, email, or electronically send (via Sibelius) them to you.

Our 3rd CD of all original songs by the students just came out, "Hearts and Hands III: A Song of Us" and we're busy getting them into stores and online venues. You can check it out and hear samples at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com) and look for Hearts and Hands Project.

Best wishes to you all and I look forward to our summer meeting!

Lynda Lybeck-Robinson



## Alaska Music Teachers Association

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.*

### AMTA Spring Adjudications

Hello Anchorage Area Teachers:

This is an initial announcement for the next AMTA Adjudications to be held **April 29, 30, May 2, 3, 4** at Calvary Church in Anchorage, (3800 West 80th Ave). Our adjudicator is Deborah Cleaver from Portland, Oregon and, in addition to adjudicating, she will be presenting a workshop on April 29th.

Deadline for adjudication registration is **April 1, 2011**. Please email me at [epperson@gci.net](mailto:epperson@gci.net) for a registration form.

**IMPORTANT!!** Due to requests from students and teachers, we are introducing some new scheduling options beginning with this adjudication.

The fees are the same as before—\$1/minute—but teachers can choose from several ways of presenting their students. For example, a master class of several younger students playing with or without written comments, individual lessons with the adjudicator, students may play only one piece, or the traditional adjudication with two pieces and one “in progress.” Additionally, communities may choose to schedule students on a weekend and/or begin adjudications later in the day and end later (7:00 PM) I will be putting together a more detailed description of these options and will email them very soon.

I hope to hear from many of you with requests for registration forms!

Cindy Epperson  
[epperson@gci.net](mailto:epperson@gci.net)  
346-4565

### Deborah Cleaver, AMTA Adjudicator

Deborah Ingram Cleaver holds a Bachelor of Music degree cum laude, from Meredith College, where she won the first prize in the Southeast Regional SAI Competition, and the Agnes Cooper Memorial Award; and a Master of Music degree in piano performance from Boston University School for the Arts, where she studied with the renowned pianist and pedagogue Leonard Shure. After finishing her degree, it was her great honor to work closely with Shure as his teaching assistant at New England Conservatory.

Although steeped in the music of the German Classic and Romantic eras, Ms. Cleaver has also spent many years studying the performance practices of early music with such luminaries as Sandra Rosenblum, Edward Parmentier, and Elisabeth Wright. Her broad interests have resulted in lectures for universities and music teachers' organizations throughout the Northwest, ranging from the expressive aspects of Baroque performance practice to the correlation between Romantic literature and music.

In addition to teaching at Lewis and Clark College, she also teaches at Reed College as well as in her private studio. She organizes and lectures in Golandsky Institute seminars three times each year for the Portland/Golandsky Institute community, and is chairman of the Oregon Music Teachers' Association Baroque Festival. Ms. Cleaver has also served on an advisory committee for the Oregon Junior Bach Festival, and is a frequent adjudicator and master class clinician throughout the Northwest.

Other teaching positions have included Willamette University, the South Shore Conservatory, St. Andrews College, and the Golandsky Institute summer program at Princeton University.

An avid performer, she has appeared with the *Fear No Music Ensemble*, *The Derosa Chamber Players*, the *Friends of Rain Contemporary Music Ensemble*, and has had performances aired on the classical music program *Played in Oregon*.

### **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, April 15, 9:30 am**  
**Kaladi Brothers on Brayton Dr.**

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

### **Where's My Newsletter?**

The AKTA board recently decided to send out newsletters about four times a year, rather than monthly, supplemented by email announcements and reminders. If you received this newsletter by regular mail and would like to be on a phone call list for announcements, please contact Freya at 245-0522.

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