

**AKTA Board Members
2011-2012**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3 – AMTA Adjudications (see page 2)

May 4 – Workshop with Karen Buckland (see below)

May 5-6 – Alaska Piano Competition at UAA

August 10-11 – AMTA Conference in Anchorage (see page 2)

AKTA Board Meetings: Friday, April 20 at 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Alaska Music and Sound, 1000 Ingra Street. All members are welcome to attend.

New AKTA Board

Are you interested in planning events for local piano students? Would you like to be part of a dynamic group of teachers who share ideas and make great things happen? The AKTA board is made up of local piano teachers just like you who love teaching, learning, and creating opportunities for their students. Come to the next board meeting, or contact any board member to find out more. Meetings are once a month, and this is the time to elect a new board for the next two years. No prior experience is necessary!

AKTA Piano Workshop

Pedal Techniques and Effects as Color Devices in Piano Music

Dr. Karen Buckland, this year's judge for the Alaska Piano Competition and guest adjudicator for AMTA, will give a workshop on Friday, May 4th at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 10955 Elmore Road. The cost per member is \$20; please make checks payable to AKTA.



Alaska Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

AMTA Adjudications

The AMTA Board was not able to bring an adjudicator to Anchorage this year, but they have good news for us! Dr. Karen Buckland, who will be judging the Alaska Piano Competition, has generously agreed to adjudicate students on **Thursday, May 3rd** at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 10955 Elmore Road. Adjudications are open to students of AMTA members who are at any level except pre-reading. Students may play one or two pieces, at least one of which must be memorized.

Adjudication fees are \$1 per minute plus \$5 per student. To reserve time for your students, please contact Cindy Epperson at epperson@gci.net, 346-4565. Schedule information will be emailed to participating teachers.

Dr. Karen Buckland, AMTA Guest Adjudicator

Karen Wisser Buckland is Associate Professor of Music and the Director of Keyboard Studies at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. She received a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Mansfield University and earned a Master of Music degree and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Pedagogy from the University of South Carolina. Her teachers include John Kenneth Adams, Raymond Dudley, William Goode, and Max Camo. Dr. Buckland has been recognized as an educator in the 2004-2005 Who's Who Among America's Teachers, in the 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 Who's Who in America, and in the 2007-2008 and 2008-2008 Who's Who in American Women.

In addition she is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, the South Carolina Music Teacher Association, the Music Educators National Conference, and the South Carolina Music Educators Association.

Dr. Buckland is active as a soloist and collaborator, adjudicator, and guest lecturer throughout the Southeast. With her husband, Jim, she is co-founder of Ludlamshole, a chamber ensemble dedicated to nineteenth century music.

2012 AMTA Conference

The Road to the Masters, Traveling from the Method Book

Plan to attend this summer's AMTA conference, Friday, August 10 and Saturday, August 11, 2012 at the University of Alaska Anchorage. AMTA members can register by June 1st for a reduced rate. Non-members are welcome to attend.

Ingrid Clarfield and Scott McBride Smith will give workshops and masterclasses from 9:00-5:00 each of the two days. Members who register by June 1st have the opportunity for a student to participate in one of the masterclasses. Brochures were mailed out to the membership in March. Please contact AMTA president Linda Green if you did not receive one or have any questions about the conference: leadpipe@gci.net 333-7182.

Alaska Music Teachers Association 2011/2012 Report

President: Linda Green
President elect:
Treasurer: Beverly Beheim
Secretary: Barbara Gazaway
State Competition Coordinator: Tim Smith
Adjudication Coordinator: Cindy Epperson

June 2011 AMTA President Chris Kastnopolous resigned her post due to a move to the lower 48 states and I became board president. I am new member of the board and am extremely grateful for all the assistance from our current board! Following is a brief summary of 2011 and projected activities for 2012.

On March 29, 2011 Patrick Hopkins won the MTNA String Division, Young Artist Competition at the National Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. MTNA reported that this the first time an Alaskan has won at the national level! Patrick is from Fairbanks and is attending the Juilliard School of Music in New York City.

April 29 - Workshop with Deborah Cleaver "Developing Hand-Eye Coordination." It was a great workshop and well attended.

April 29 & 30 and May 2, 3, 4 – AMTA Piano Adjudications, Deborah Cleaver, AMTA Adjudicator. Although the event was excellent, participation was down.

August 12-13 – AMTA Conference in Fairbanks with Dr. Bruce Berr presenting. Dr. Berr was a wonderful presenter and there was terrific participation from IAKT. Alas, there was not much participation from other chapters and the event suffered from a budget shortfall.

AMA adjudications were canceled for the Fall due to low participation. The Anchorage School District discourages students from leaving class for adjudications which has adversely affected participation. We are working on ways to address the scheduling.

In October, the AMTA board unanimously decided to urge MTNA to reconsider the decision to eliminate non-piano competitions.

November 5-6 – MTNA Strings Competition Maria Sampen Adjudicator.

November 12-13 – MTNA Piano Competition Dr. Duane Hulber, UPS, Adjudicator.

2012

Current membership as of February 25, 2012 is 67 members. Alaska faces the same problem as other states; our numbers are gradually declining as teachers retire and younger teachers are choosing not to join. We are hopeful that with better outreach we can turn this trend around.

Spring Piano Adjudications were cancelled due to low participation.

August 10 and 11, 2012 - AMTA Conference, **The Road To the Masters, Traveling From the Method Books**. It will be held at the University of Alaska Anchorage Fine Arts Building with Professor Ingrid Clarfield and Dr. Scott McBride Smith.

The AMTA and AKTA board are very excited about this event and hope that it will be well attended. Registration brochures will be mailed before the end of March, 2012.

Planning was done in a timely manner so members from around the state could purchase early bird airfare and attend the conference.

AMTA news is sent to state membership thanks to the Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association (AKTA) who has given us a page on their web site at www.pianoakta.org. The Fairbanks and Sitka associations are alive and well and use the monthly AKTA newsletter to disperse their information.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Green
AMTA president

News from Sitka

Sitka Music Teachers were invited to participate in the Sitka Jazz Festival in February. A great time was had by all, and students from the three studios participated in private and group sessions with Rael Labag. Teachers and advanced students attended a workshop with Rael Labag. Any one interested may go to the website Sitka Jazz Festival 2012 for the many artists that performed and held clinics for students from around the state.

American College of Musicians will hold annual Piano Guild Auditions in Sitka, May 2 and 3. Julia Kruger, Vice President of Guild from Austin Texas will be judging students from Jammie Wileman, NCTM and Julie Schmitts studios.

Jammie Wileman, NCTM

News from Unalaska

Dear AKTA colleagues,

It was such a thrill to fly solo to the MTNA Conference in NYC and run into Freya Wardlaw-Bailey, Sally Laird and Cheryl (Knorr) Green (formerly of Fairbanks). As a first timer, my insights were greatly enhanced by the number of presentations and showcases, and I still can't believe I haven't attended one until now.

The big "Unalaska" news is that Hal Leonard Corporation published one of my songs for their Showcase Solos series, and I was privileged to play it for over 250 educators in one of the Hal Leonard Showcases at the conference in NYC. The piece is called Williwaw, and is Level 4/Early Intermediate as corresponds well with the Hal Leonard Student Piano Library method. It's a really fun song to play, with the melody in the left hand, sounding a lot more difficult than it really is. I hope that you will go to Hal Leonard.com or JWpepper.com and order one...- no- *several* copies for your students and colleagues. (smile) If you are on Facebook, my performance of the piece is on my FB page.

Dutch Harbor/Unalaska is as far as ever from you all, and I can hardly wait to be around you and share insights and special times together at the conference in August. See you then!

Lynda Lybeck-Robinson