



**AKTA Board Members**

2013-2014 Board

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**September 11** — MTNA competition application deadline, 11:00 a.m. Alaska time

**September 27** — Vision therapist workshop, 9:30–11:00 a.m. (see page 2 for information on other workshops)

**November 9** — MTNA strings competition, UAA (see page 4 for more information)

**November 16** — MTNA piano competition, UAA (see page 4 for more information)

**April 1** — Application deadline for Alaska Piano Competition

**April 5** — Piano Solo and Ensemble Ribbon Festival

**May 4–5** — Alaska Piano Competition (see page 3 for more information)

**AKTA Board Meetings:** Fridays mornings, September 27, October 25, November 22, January 31, February 28, March 28, and April 25. Meetings usually begin at 9:30 a.m., with adjustments for workshop dates. Call or email a board member to confirm the time and location. All AKTA members are welcome to attend.

Welcome to a new school year! The AKTA board is putting together various workshops and events for teachers and students, and hope that you will be able to attend some of them. Board meetings are always open to the membership, and you can also contact any board member (see list to the right) with questions or suggestions. Happy teaching!

## **AKTA Workshops 2013-2014**

*The AKTA board has asked local and visiting experts to give workshops on a variety of topics this year. Some workshops are still being scheduled; please contact a board member to confirm dates and locations. Workshops are \$20 per person, AKTA members only except when open to UAA students.*



### **Vision Therapist Workshop with Dr. Jeff Keene September 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m.**

Dr. Keene will discuss eye problems in children that can affect their learning, and will demonstrate the equipment he uses to diagnose and treat these issues.

This workshop only has room for 10-12 people. Please RSVP to a board member if you would like to attend.

16331 Heritage Place #103 in downtown Eagle River. AKTA board meeting to follow at a nearby location.



### **The Damper Pedal: The “Sole” of the Piano with Michael Gurt Time, date and location TBA (mid- November)**

Pianist Michael Gurt is a professor at Louisiana State University and will judge this year’s state MTNA piano competition. In this workshop, he will demonstrate and

discuss the subtleties of using the damper pedal.



### **The Amazing Sightreading Machine with Dr. Timothy Smith Time and date TBA (a Friday morning in January)**

Learn the inner secrets of your sightreading ability. Dr. Smith will demonstrate a new technology that tracks your eye movement as you read music. Free to UAA students.

University of Alaska Arts Building



### **Yoga with Kathy Vasquez Time and date TBA (Friday morning, February 28 or March 7)**

Yoga instructor Kathy Vasquez will lead an interactive workshop focused on gentle stretching and posture alignment for pianists.

1519 Airport Heights Drive in Anchorage.



### **Improvising with Dan McElrath Friday morning, April 18 Time and location TBA**

Join local jazz pianist Dan McElrath and learn how to improvise at the keyboard in a hands-on workshop. Several electronic keyboards will be available to play.

## **New AKTA Keyboard**

AKTA is now the proud owner of a brand new Yamaha CP300 keyboard! A committee from the board researched and tested several models and concluded this keyboard is the best for the needs of the membership. It will be available for AKTA members to use for recitals and other events with their students, wherever a piano is not provided or a second piano is needed.

Currently the keyboard is at Connie McFarlane's house, and will be moved this fall to a storage room at Calvary Church. Connie has invited the membership to try out the keyboard before it is moved into storage. Bring your favorite teaching piece or some new music to try, on **Friday, September 20th** at 1:00 p.m., 5620 East 98th Ave. Drive up Abbott and turn right onto Birch Road just past Service High School. Proceed to 98th Ave, turn right, and look for the 5th house on the left, a log home. Connie's number is 333-4970.

## **Alaska Piano Competition**

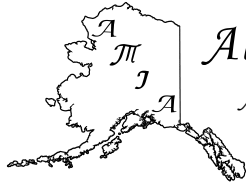
May 4–5

The Alaska Piano Competition, hosted by the UAA Music Department, is open to students through age 18. The application deadline is April 1st. For more information, visit [http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/music/Events/ak\\_piano\\_comp.cfm](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/music/Events/ak_piano_comp.cfm)

## **Sunday Recitals**

Those who have been involved with AKTA for a while may remember the Sunday afternoon recitals presented throughout the school year. The board recently voted to bring them back! These recitals are open to all levels of piano students of AKTA members and are free to perform in and attend. Music must be memorized and well prepared. Depending on the level of interest, teachers may be limited to a few students per recital. For now, all interested students are welcome and adjustments will be made as needed.

There will be two recitals offered during the spring 2014 semester, dates and location to be announced. For more information, please contact Freya Wardlaw-Bailey, 245-0522 or [freypiano@gmail.com](mailto:freypiano@gmail.com).



## Alaska Music Teachers Association

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.*

### News from Sitka

SMTA had their first meeting on August 26. We have 2 new teachers in town and it is exciting to have them! Our next meeting is scheduled for September 23.

Jammie Wileman, SMTA President

### News from Interior Alaska

IAKT will hold their elections for new officers on September 13th. Look for results in the next newsletter!

### News from Unalaska

We are doing great out here in Unalaska. While we really long to be able to attend competitions and activities like the rest of you, we are raising the bar out here and I am looking forward to a good year. I've started my first Wee Play group music class for ages 4-6 as a prep for beginning students, especially those with inadequate or nonexistent pianos. We will be using xylophones, a full set of handbells, and recorders. I'm always open to wisdom of other teachers who've taken on class piano for the little ones, so, feel free. As for other students, I've cut it down to 25, raised the lesson time from 30 to 45 minutes and am looking forward to, for the first time ever, Fridays off in which to compose.

I tried to start a Facebook group discussion page for only Alaskan teachers, but am so active already on the Facebook Professional Piano Teacher's group that my allotted computer interaction time is full. I encourage any over teachers to poke in and check out the PPT, there is a moderators group that screens everyone to make sure all are teachers (which means you) and its a great place for networking with pedagogues from around the country and the world. Great resources, ideas, some relevant venting with a supportive crowd, and a lot of good natured perspectives and humor.

I hope everyone is well, and that you have a conference next August, because I missed seeing you this year.

Lynda Lybeck Robinson

### MTNA Competitions

AMTA will host the annual state level MTNA student competitions this November at the University of Alaska Arts Building. Strings will compete on November 9th, piano on November 16th, and the competition is also open to student compositions. Winners at the Junior, Senior, and Young Artist levels will compete in January in Portland, Oregon for the division competition. The national competition will be in Chicago, Illinois in March.

The application deadline is **3:00 p.m. Eastern Time (11:00 a.m. in Alaska) on September 11, 2013**. The competition is open to students ages 11–26 as of January 1, 2014.

See <http://www.mtna.org/programs/competitions/> for more information.