



**AKTA Board Members
2013-2014 Board**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 22 — Christmas Recital (see below)

January 31 — Sightreading Workshop (see page 2)

February 23 — Sunday Recital (see page 4)

February 28 — Yoga Workshop (see page 2)

April 5 — Piano Solo and Ensemble Ribbon Festival (see page 3)

April 18 — Improvising Workshop (see page 2)

May 3-4 — Alaska Piano Competition

May 18 — Sunday Recital (see page 4)

AKTA Board Meetings: Fridays mornings, 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.

Christmas Recital

Sunday, December 22, 12:00 noon

Calvary Church, 3800 W 80th (Jewel Lake and 80th)

Pastor Ken Buller of Calvary Church has invited AKTA students to give a recital at the church on Sunday, December 22nd. Performers will attend the 11:00 service and the recital will be at noon for one hour. Students of AKTA members may perform memorized, Christmas themed music. Margaret Turner is taking names and program information. Contact her by December 8th at 345-3211 or mct@acsalaska.net.

AKTA Workshops 2013-2014

The AKTA board has asked local and visiting experts to give workshops on a variety of topics this year. Dates and locations are subject to change; please contact a board member to confirm, or watch for email reminders. Workshops are \$20 per person, AKTA members only except when open to UAA students.

The Amazing Sightreading Machine with Dr. Timothy Smith January 31, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

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 February 28, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

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 April 18, 9:30-11:00 a.m. 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.

Contact Connie McFarlane at 333-4970 or kmcfar747@aol.com if you would like to borrow the keyboard and its accessories. There is no fee for AKTA members; you will just need to sign a form stating that you are responsible for all items, and return it within the required time period. The keyboard will be stored at Calvary Church on Jewel Lake and 80th and is best moved by two people.

Piano Solo and Ensemble Ribbon Festival

Saturday, April 5, 2014

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Ribbon Festival is an exciting event open to students of all levels, primer through advanced. Begun as a duet festival, it has now expanded to include options for performing solos, duets, ensembles, and compositions, plus even more theory games. The board welcomes any and all suggestions! All teachers with participating students are expected to help out, and extra helping hands are also much appreciated. Consider asking the parents of your students to help for an hour or two, in exchange for a waived application fee.

Following are a few highlights and guidelines for the 2014 Ribbon Festival. Contact Festival chair Dean Epperson for more information: epperson@gci.net or 346-4565.

- Any school age piano student of an AKTA member in good standing may

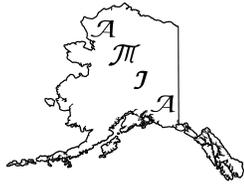
participate. The application fee is \$20 per student.

- It is highly recommended that students perform duets with other students. If necessary, a teacher may play with primer level students.
- Students may perform their own piano solo compositions but must provide the adjudicator with either a hand written or a computer generated copy of the music.
- Instrumentalists, vocal soloists and other ensembles are welcome, provided they include a student pianist.
- Piano four-hands and trios are accepted as long as only one piano is involved.
- In addition to performing, students may participate in scale testing and theory games during the Festival. There will be activities for all levels including more options for advanced students. Plans are in the works for several games and sightreading testing using iPads.
- Students will receive a ribbon for each performance, each completed scale, and each successful game they play.
- There will be a ribbon store with fun prizes students can exchange for ribbons. Participating students can also bring in ribbons from previous years!

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, on February 23rd and May 18th. Times and location will be announced in January. For more information, please contact Freya Wardlaw-Bailey, 245-0522 or freypiano@gmail.com.



Alaska Music Teachers Association

News from Unalaska

I'm very happy to announce the release of my first book of music, Alaska Sketches. It features 8 Alaska inspired piano solos for intermediate pianists. One of the pieces, Williwaw, was selected for the NFMC 2014-2016 Festival Bulletin.

Here is the direct link: <http://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.do?itemid=119637&lid=0&keywords=Alaska%20sketches&subsiteid=1&>

Lynda Lybeck Robinson

Alaska MTNA Performance Competition News

On Saturday, November 16, 2013, the Alaska State MTNA Competitions were held at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The event was chaired once again by Dr. Timothy Smith, NCTM and co-sponsored by UAA and AMTA. Dr. Smith was generously assisted by Paula Gray and Cindy Epperson.

There were entrants in Woodwinds, Junior Piano, Senior Piano, Senior Piano Duet, and Junior Strings. Our Woodwind judge was Dr. Mark Wolbers from UAA and the Piano judge was Michael Gurt from Louisiana State University. There were single entrants in both Piano Duet and Strings, and per MTNA rules, there is no competition at the state level and those students go directly to the Northwest Division competition. Results of the competition are as follows.

Alaska Junior Performance Piano	Winner	Yu-Jin Choi	Teacher	Alla Artemyeva
	Alternate	Sakura Likar	Teacher	Rumi Smith
Alaska Senior Performance Piano	Winner	Alexandra Flint	Teacher	Rumi Smith
	Alternate	Jessen Cao	Teacher	Rumi Smith
Alaska Senior Performance Woodwind	Winner	Allison Stapleford, Clarinet	Teacher	Crystal Hanson
	Alternate	Remy Libbrecht, Oboe	Teacher	Hal Nonneman
Alaska Senior Piano Duet	Representative	Johanna Yun Samantha Simpson	Teacher	Svetlana Velitchko
Alaska Junior Performance String	Representative	Hahni Johnson, Violin	Teacher	Dr. Richard Toole

These students worked very hard to prepare for the competition and they and their teachers are to be congratulated. We wish the State Winners and Representatives the best of luck as they move onto the Northwest Division competition to be held at Reed College in Portland, Oregon on January 10-12, 2014.

Cindy Epperson, NCTM
Alaska Music Teachers Association, President