



AKTA Board Members

2014-2015 Board

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 27 — “Frozen Improvisations” Workshop on Bach
with John Lutterman (page 2)

March 6 — Registration deadline for Ribbon Festival (page 2)

March 21-25 — MTNA National Conference in Las Vegas

March 28 — Ribbon Festival (page 2)

May 2-3 — Alaska Piano Competition (page 3)

May 20 — Bruce Berr composition competition deadline (page 4)

August 14-15 — Conference with Bruce Berr (page 3)

AKTA Board Meetings: Fridays mornings, February 27, March 27, and April 24. Meetings usually begin at 9:30 a.m., except on workshop dates when they will follow the workshop. Call or email a board member to confirm the time and location. All AKTA members are welcome to attend.

Website Update

www.pianoakta.org

Our website has a new look! At the end of January, AKTA hired James Wardlaw-Bailey to update and revise the old website. The new site is still under construction, but feel free to take a look and if you have any comments or suggestions, let a board member know.

One area of the website we are working to update is the “Find-a-Teacher” page. Once launched, this page will give potential students and their families a way to find local piano teachers, and create more business for our studios! Please use this private link to fill out your information: http://pianoakta.org/add_teacher

AKTA Piano Solo and Ensemble Ribbon Festival

Saturday, March 28, 2015

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Ribbon Festival is almost here! This Festival offers piano students the opportunity to perform solos, duets, ensembles with other instruments, and compositions, as well as participate in the ever-popular scale testing and theory games.

- Students receive a ribbon for each performance, each completed scale, and each game they complete, and ribbons can be traded in for prizes at the on-site Ribbon Store.
- Forms and information were emailed February 12th.
- There are now three ways to register! You can:

- ▶ Print paper applications and fill them out by hand;
- ▶ Fill out the pdf forms by computer, then either print and mail or email them to the Festival chair;
- ▶ Apply online at <http://pianoakta.org/ribbon-festival-teacher-page>

You will still need to “snail” mail a check to the Festival chair to complete your application. Registration and payment must be **received by March 6th.**

- **Important:** Teachers entering 3 or more students are required to be present and to help with the running of the festival the entire day. This is necessary in order to assure optimal student/teacher ratios and create an exciting educational experience for all involved.

Contact Festival chair Dean Epperson for more information: epperson@gci.net or 346-4565.

AKTA Workshops

All workshops are open to current AKTA members, \$20 per person. More workshops may be offered this spring; watch for announcements in future newsletters and emails.

Frozen Improvisations; Did J.S. Bach compose musical works?

February 27, 2015 9:30-11:00 a.m.

University of Alaska Anchorage

Room 124 – Fine Arts Building

workshop for students and teachers by

Dr. John Lutterman

Professor of Music Theory, Baroque Expert, and Entertaining Lecturer!

Free to UAA students, \$20 admission for AKTA members

**AKTA/AMTA Conference
with Bruce Berr
August 14-15, 2015**

AKTA and AMTA are teaming up to bring Bruce Berr back to Alaska! Some of you may remember his wonderful presentations from the AMTA conference in Fairbanks in 2011. He has agreed to come to Anchorage along with his wife, Jennifer Merry, for a two-day conference this August 14-15. Stay tuned for more information! You can read more about Bruce Berr on his website, www.bruceberr.com.

**Composition Festival/
Competition**

**for
AKTA State Conference,
Anchorage
Aug. 14-15, 2015**

Bruce Berr, who will present at the conference in Anchorage this August, has offered to adjudicate our students' compositions and provide written comments.

Those choosing to do so can make recommended revisions and then resubmit their compositions to Dr. Berr for competition judging.

There is NO charge for this event and winners will be chosen in each age group and the compositions performed at the conference in August.

Dr. Berr's rules, regulations, and deadlines were emailed in January. The deadline for submitting compositions is **May 20th**.

Please contact AMTA president Cindy Epperson with questions: epperson@gci.net, 346-4565.

**Alaska Piano Competition
May 2-3, 2015**

Hosted by the University of Alaska
Anchorage Music Department

Information for this year's competition will be posted soon. You can find rules and repertoire lists at http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/music/Events/ak_piano_comp.cfm

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Alaska Music Teachers Association

News from Sitka

Julia Amanda Kruger and Victor Bunin were in Sitka January 22 for Master Classes, and on January 23 gave a fabulous duet concert at the Sitka performing Arts Center. They are amazing! Everyone was blown away with this American and Russian duo. How lucky Sitkans were that attended!

Jazz Festival was February 6 weekend and a huge success, again!

Now lucky Piano Guild students will get to be heard by Julia Kruger in Sitka May 4-5. She will also be in Anchorage and then off to Japan to open a Guild Center in Tokyo!

Respectfully submitted,
Jammie Wileman, NCTM

News from Unalaska

Hello everyone,

I set up a Facebook Group called Alaska Piano Teachers. It is meant as a forum to discuss issues and fun things that are particular to our teaching in Alaska, very similar to the other piano teacher groups that are so popular in Facebook. Though you and I are united in our Alaska bond, we are spread far and wide. It's great to have a place to touch base, and my hope is that the MTNA/AKTA/AMTA representatives will post news there as well.

It has been an open group, which allows everyone, even non-members – and all our friends – to see what is said there, mostly in hopes that people will

see it and join. However, it is going "private" soon. What that means is that anyone in the group who posts a question or fun story about Alaska teaching is seen only WITHIN the group instead of for the whole world to see.

I hope that you will come and join us.

In other news, my book Alaska Sketches (Level 4) published by Hal Leonard, happily has done very well. Besides various sheet music pieces of mine they have published, my NEW one is called An Awesome Adventure (Late Level 2 to Level 3). I sure hope you will check them out, and post your reviews on FB or send feedback to me at any time.

Best regards,
Lynda Lybeck-Robinson

News from AMTA

Greetings from AMTA—the Alaska state affiliate of MTNA!

In the past couple of years, the activities of the state organization have been operating rather quietly but know that things are going on in the background to make sure your dues are used responsibly and appropriately. Reports have been filed; tax status has been maintained, state fees paid, etc. and I am happy to have the opportunity to update the membership on AMTA's current status. Historically, the state has assisted with three main events: Competitions, Adjudications, and Conferences and I will limit this report to those activities.

Competitions:

Last November, the Alaska MTNA Performance competitions were held at UAA in Anchorage thanks to the hard work and generous support of Dr. Timothy Smith. Alaska student winners were named and sent on to the Northwest Division competition where they competed at the next level. Alaska was well represented and three students were awarded prizes: Isabelle Libbrecht, student of Harold Nonneman (Alternate in Senior Woodwinds--Flute), Maya Suzuki, student of Rumi Smith (Honorable Mention in Junior Piano) and Sakura Likar, also student of Rumi Smith (Honorable Mention in Senior Piano).

Congratulations to these students and their teachers.

Adjudications:

After years of consistently breaking even, the state-sponsored adjudication program took a bit of a "hit" when student demand diminished suddenly a couple of years ago. The income from the event was not covering the cost of travel for Outside adjudicators and their fees. It was decided to

temporarily discontinue this event until alternative plans could be discussed that could keep this event in the "black." In May of 2014, Fairbanks held adjudications for their students in conjunction with their yearly local competition. The event successfully supported itself and is to be repeated again this May. Also, AKTA sponsored and held adjudications in November using a local adjudicator but the student numbers were still down from past years. Watch the newsletter for updates.

Conferences:

The state allocates monies to support the conferences and this year, thanks to AKTA, there is an exciting conference scheduled for August 2015 in Anchorage and AMTA members are invited to attend. The featured presenter, Dr. Bruce Berr gave fantastic presentations in Fairbanks a few years ago and we are happy he has agreed to return to Alaska. Also, I hope you received my email announcing the Composition Adjudication/Competition that will be a part of the conference and that you are currently working with students on composing pieces for this event. I hope to see many of you in attendance at the conference.

AMTA functions as the umbrella organization for the local associations and maintains a strong working liaison with MTNA. Thanks in large part to the strength of the local associations, AMTA's role has changed over the years to become more of a support organization. Although AMTA does not currently have its own website, I would encourage you to browse the MTNA website (a great resource) and specifically look at the Alaska Portal for information about board member contact, competition dates and other event info. And, of course, please check out the NEW and IMPROVED AKTA website (currently "under construction") which is showing great promise.

Cindy Epperson, NCTM

AMTA President