



**AKTA Board Members**

2015-2016 Board

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November 13-14** — Adjudications with Ann Fernandez

**November 13** — Sara Davis Buechner Recital (page 5)

**November 14** — AMTA Piano Competition (page 5)

**November 20** — Presentation on Piano Marvel Method (page 2)

**January 29, 2016** — Dr. Laura Koenig Workshop (page 2)

**April 2-6, 2016** — MTNA National Conference in San Antonio, TX

**April 9, 2016** — Ribbon Festival (page 2)

**Spring 2016** — Dr. Jill Timmons Workshop (page 2)

**April 30 and May 1, 2016** — Alaska Piano Competition (page 3)

**AKTA Board Meetings:** Fridays mornings, November 20, January 29, February 26, March 25, and April 15. 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.

**Do you have openings in your piano studio?  
Join the AKTA “Find-a-Teacher” page**

[www.pianoakta.org](http://www.pianoakta.org)

AKTA’s “Find-a-Teacher” page gives potential students and their families a way to find local piano teachers, and create more business for our studios! AKTA hopes that all current members will add their names and information to this page. This will help local music stores, families new to the area, and anyone interested in piano lessons find the right teacher for local students. Please use this private link to fill out your information:

[http://pianoakta.org/add\\_teacher](http://pianoakta.org/add_teacher)

## AKTA Workshops

AKTA invites local professionals to present on various topics of interest to music teachers. All workshops are open to current AKTA members, \$20 per person.

### **Piano Marvel Method November 20th, 10:30 a.m.**

**6901 Round Tree Drive  
(please park in the nearby cul-de-sac)**

Dean and Cindy Epperson will give a presentation at their home on Piano Marvel, a teaching method that includes piano education software with instant feedback and grading to help students practice and reach their goals.

This workshop will follow a 9:30 AKTA board meeting at the same location. All AKTA members are welcome to attend.

### **Dr. Laura Koenig January 29th, 2016, 9:30 a.m. University of Alaska Anchorage Fine Arts Building**

Dr. Laura Koenig, University of Alaska Anchorage professor of music, will present on a music history topic, to be announced. Dr. Koenig has presented for us many times in the past and always gives interesting and insightful workshops.

Following the workshop will be an AKTA board meeting at the nearby Ichiban Restaurant, located at 2488 E Tudor Road. All AKTA members are welcome to attend.

### **Jill Timmons Spring 2016**

Music educator Jill Timmons plans to visit Anchorage this spring to present her new book, *The Musician's Journey: Crafting Your Career Vision and Plan*. Plans are also in the works for a masterclass with local students. Dates and more details will be announced later this winter.

## AKTA Piano Solo and Ensemble Ribbon Festival

**Saturday, April 9, 2016**

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

The Ribbon Festival is a fun and motivating event for piano students! 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, theory games, and flashcards.

- 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.

- Instrumentalists, singers, and other ensembles are welcome, provided they include a student pianist.
- Forms and detailed information will be available early in 2016. To see last year's information, visit [pianoakta.org](http://pianoakta.org) and look under the Events tab.
- **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.

## **Dr. Bruce Berr Composition Festival and Competition Results**

This past summer, renowned pianist and teacher Dr. Bruce Berr offered AKTA students the opportunity to submit their original compositions in a festival and competition. Dr. Berr reviewed written compositions and sent individual comments to each participating student. After the initial festival level, students had the option to revise their compositions based on his comments, and submit them to the competition phase of the event. Dr. Berr gave additional comments to these students and chose winners in each age group. Additionally, he recorded himself performing the pieces of the students who won or placed. AMTA provided trophies and ribbons for the winners. Photos of the winners and their teachers can be viewed on the AKTA website, along with Dr. Berr's recordings: <http://pianoakta.org/winners-of-composition-competition>

Thank you to Dr. Berr for giving our students this opportunity, and to Cynthia Epperson for organizing the festival!

**Total Number of Teachers Involved: 10**  
**Total Number of Students Entered: 32**

### **Primary**

Initial Number of Entries: 13

Second Phase Entries: 8

**1st Place: Josiah Verbrugge with "Puffins"**

**Teacher: Carolyn Nickles**

**2nd Place: Fiona Gehrke with "On The Stars"**

**Teacher: Alla Artemyeva**

**3rd Place: Alana Kim with "The Weeping Willow"**

**Teacher: Constance McFarlane**

**Honorable Mention: Charles Q. Edwards with "Riding the Elevator With Beethoven"**

**Teacher: Freya Wardlaw-Bailey**

### **Elementary**

Initial Number of Entries: 11

Second Phase Entries: 4

**1st Place: Micaela Moreau with "Arabian Sunrise"**

**Teacher: Sharon Theroux**

### **Junior/Senior**

Initial Number of Entries: 7

Second Phase Entries: 4

**1st Place: Kami Christensen with "Sunset Melody"**

**Teacher: Cynthia Epperson**

## **Alaska Piano Competition**

**April 30th and May 1st, 2016**

**University of Alaska Anchorage Fine Arts Building**

This annual UAA Music Department sponsored competition is open to intermediate and advanced students through age 18. Students of any Alaskan piano teacher who have been studying with the same teacher since September 2015 are eligible to participate. Applications will be available in early 2016. Competition rules and information on repertoire are available at:

[https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/music/Events/ak\\_piano\\_comp.cfm](https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/music/Events/ak_piano_comp.cfm)



# Alaska Music Teachers Association

## News from Sitka

Julia Kruger and Victor Bunin will be back in Sitka for a concert on January 8, 2016 with Mario Puerini, world renowned flautist. The concert will be at the Sitka Performing Arts Center. The Sitka Fine Arts Camp will be helping promote this event.

From Sitka by the Sea!  
Jammie Wileman, NCTM  
SMTA President

## News from Unalaska

Our autumn is getting off to a steady start here. My student Caitlin Rowland won 1st place in the MTNA Composition Contest with her composition Dance in E minor. It was such a thrill for her, and a thrill for me as well. I especially loved that she wrote much of it while working with her family on their fishing boat, and so determined to keep composing even while pulling nets and hauling gear.

Our Facebook group *Alaska Piano Teachers* would love more to join, and though it's really only beginning, we do see some activity there. It's nice to have a place where we can interact, ask questions, and get feedback. It's a closed group so our conversations are private (in Facebook terms anyway) so if you would like to join us, please look us up on Facebook and ask to join.

All the best to all of you as we hit the busy season and the halls ring with merry holiday and Christmas music.

Lynda Lybeck-Robinson

## **AMTA Competition**

**November 14th, 1:30-4:30 pm**

**University of Alaska Anchorage Fine Arts Building  
Recital Hall**

The Alaska State level of the Music Teachers National Association Competition will be held this Saturday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., with winners announced following the performances. This year there are six contestants in the senior piano division. The winner will travel to Missoula, Montana in January to compete in the Northwest Division level. Division winners will compete during the MTNA National Conference in April.

## **Piano Recital**

**November 13th at 7:30 p.m.**

**University of Alaska Anchorage Fine Arts  
Building Recital Hall**

Sara Davis Buechner, this year's AMTA competition judge, will give a recital of solo piano music by Mozart and Gershwin. Tickets are available at the door, or in advance for a \$5 discount at:

<http://uaatix.universitickets.com>

## **AMTA Composition Competition Results**

Alaska Music Teachers Association is pleased to announce the results of the Alaska MTNA Composition competition.

Elementary: Winner: Josiah Verbrugge, Student of Carolyn Nickles

Honorable mention: Fiona Gehrke, Student of Alla Artemyeva

Senior: Winner: Caitlin Rowland, Student of Lynda Lybeck-Robinson

Honorable mention: Kami Christensen, Student of Cynthia Epperson