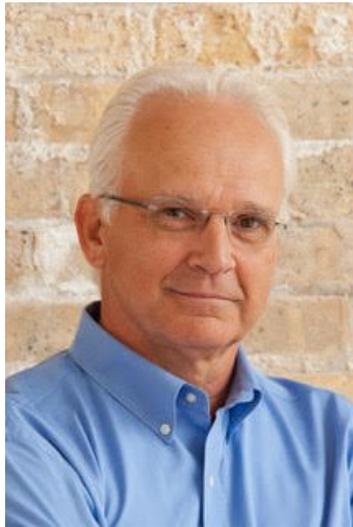


THE SCORE



George Radosavljevic,
President

Dear friends and colleagues,

Thanksgiving season is upon us, and as I consider the wealth of activities that are being created and supported by the members of our NSMTA, there is good reason to be thankful!

Last month we enjoyed an excellent presentation by Jennifer Cohen and Jia-Yee Tang outlining the AIM Examination program. Then an entertaining and fascinating exploration of the Children's Album by Tchaikovsky, placed in historical context and performed by Dr. Svetlana Belsky.

This month we are looking forward to two presentations of great interest and pedagogical importance:

Dr. Michael Finlay will provide the Pre-Meeting Discussion: "Healthy Piano Technique: Strategies for Preventing Injuries and Developing Strong Foundations".

The 11:00 program by Dr. Mary Beth Molenaar will be "Autism, ADHD, Anxiety or Attitude - sorting out challenging student behaviors"

Congratulations to Heidi Mayer, the 2024 MTNA Foundation Fellow for the ISMTA.

Congratulations also to Lindsey Baer and Jia-Yee Tang who are the 2023 Members of the Year for the NSMTA.

Please remember to check our website for all the information you may need, such as AIM and Sonata Sonatina Festival registration information, which have registration periods beginning on December 4, as well as the Competition repertoire- it's never too early to start practicing!

Come join us! This month's door prizes include a variety of FJH technique books. The books are from Mary Beth Molenaar's library and include "new" books by Kevin Olson, others with motivating stickers, and some with fun teacher accompaniments.

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November Meeting
November 27, 2023
9:30 am - 12:00 pm
at
Northfield Community church
Northfield, IL 60093

Pre-Meeting Program

Dr. Michael Finlay

Healthy Piano Technique: Strategies for Preventing Injuries and Developing Strong Foundations



Playing the piano is an inherently risky activity. Studies indicate that between 70-90% of musicians experience some form of injury over the course of their careers. This presentation will focus on the most common injuries afflicting pianists, including posture-related injuries, overuse injuries such as tendonitis, and neuropathies such as carpal tunnel syndrome. It will also present specific practice and teaching techniques to promote good posture, leverage, and alignment at the piano, ultimately helping pianists avoid injury and conquer technical challenges in the repertoire.

Biography

Dr. Michael Finlay, an acclaimed concert pianist and chamber musician based in Chicago, is well-known for his mentorship of emerging pianists, particularly in the realm of piano technique and injury prevention. He travels globally to deliver lectures and masterclasses on these topics. Recent lecture topics include "Forearm Anatomy for Pianists," "Practicing with Arm Impulses: 3 Approaches," and "Comparing Taubman, Russian, and Durand Approaches to Piano Technique." This season, he has been invited to present at Northwestern University,

Main Presentation:

Presenter: Dr. Mary Beth Molenaar



Program: “Autism, ADHD, Anxiety or Attitude - sorting out challenging student behaviors”

Most of us have taught students who have “bad” behavior in their lessons – students who don’t listen, fidget on the bench, are reluctant to switch activities, etc. Sometimes students even refuse to come in the door or challenge us in the lesson. And since COVID’s year of remote lessons and recitals many students have increased anxiety and an overwhelming fear of performing. Is it just a bad attitude about practice and lessons - or are there psychological or neurological reasons behind their behavior that we should learn more about? Are there strategies teachers can use that can help? What are ways to talk to parents about behavior problems?

BIOGRAPHY

Mary Beth Molenaar, NCTM, teaches piano to children and adults and recently retired as the director of Northwestern’s Music Academy.

Molenaar holds a doctoral degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Northwestern and earned performance degrees from UW-Madison (WI) and St. Cloud State University (MN). She continues to perform frequently on piano and organ and serves as choir accompanist at Winnetka Covenant Church.

She received a Foundation Fellow award from MTNA for significant contributions to the music teaching profession. Other awards include NSMTA “Member of the Year” and SCSU’s “Outstanding Service to Music Education in Minnesota.” For thirteen years she served as the ISMTA state AIM Chair.

When she is not teaching or performing, Mary Beth enjoys travel with her husband Mitch, creating art and raising butterflies.

AIM News

Thank you to all teachers that submitted responses to the AIM Exam Options Survey last month. After the registration deadline, the option selected will be firm and students will not be able to switch from one option to the other.

The [AIM webpage](#) continues to evolve into a truly one-stop shop for all things related to AIM! In addition to the comprehensive [AIM Packet](#), there are some exciting additions to the AIM page. If you missed the AIM Orientation and Q&A last month, please visit the AIM page for the Google Slides presentations, which include important information regarding registrations, make up policy and member portal, to name a few.

AIM webpage: www.nsmta.org/aim

December 4, 2023, 9:30am: AIM Theory Zoom Judges Meeting

The Zoom meeting link will be emailed to all members a few days prior. Meeting Agenda:

- Brief overview of Level 3-12 AIM Theory Registrations and Q&A
- Mock Theory exams
- Introduction to the new and exciting **AIM Workshop**, which will invite teachers to share their “How to teach...” ideas of various AIM elements. We hope to curate these into a Video Library of teacher resources. If you have topics that you wish to contribute, please email one of the coordinators. We strongly encourage everyone’s participation!

December 4 – December 18, 2023: Levels 3-12 AIM Theory Exam Registration Period

Log in to your member portal account to register for Theory exams. Teachers must fill out and submit their Volunteer Form first.

- **New this year:** all teachers will first be expected to be available to volunteer in person.
- Teachers that feel comfortable to judge remotely on Zoom will have the opportunity to indicate this on the Volunteer Form. Teachers will need to submit their Zoom Personal Meeting ID (PMI). **Please note** that indicating this option will not guarantee that a teacher will be assigned as a remote judge.

Teachers will need their students’ transposition piece for levels 4-12.

- If the transposition piece is one of the two suggested transposition pieces from the AIM Workbooks, only the title of the transposition selection is needed.
- If the transposition piece is not one of the suggested from workbooks, teachers will need to upload a copy of the transposition piece at time of registration.

Highlights of Important Information in the [AIM Packet](#)

- p. 6: AIM Fees
- p. 8: Makeup Exam Policy and New Music Policy
- p. 8: Repertoire Substitution Deadline: January 15, 2024
- p. 9: New changes to AIM Scoring & Aim Awards
- p. 10: Level 12 Exam Information and Requirements

We look forward to another successful AIM Theory Exams!

Jennifer Cohen, Lake Forest area coordinator, LFaim@nsmta.org
Jia-Yee Tang, Northwestern area coordinator, NUaim@nsmta.org

Website & Social Media November 2023 Meeting Report

Giving Tuesday

The National Day of Giving is coming up on Tuesday, November 28th (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving). NSMTA now has a Donate page on the website that makes it easy for anyone to send in a contribution. Please spread the word about our NSMTA and encourage people to consider supporting our organization on Giving Tuesday.

Google for Nonprofits

As a 504-(c)(3) organization, NSMTA is eligible to receive an account with Google for Nonprofits. <https://www.google.com/nonprofits/>.

Purpose of joining:

- “Spread the word about your nonprofit’s mission, engage new supporters, and fundraise in more ways online.”
- To access all the features of Google Workspace. We had already started the Business Starter package in 2022, paying \$6.50 per user and currently have 10 users. Now that we are approved, all of our licenses are free of charge, amounting to savings of about \$70/month. This will now be allocated towards Google Cloud engine (for the portal)
- Free marketing tools that would help advance our presence online (Free Ads, Donor and YouTube video tools and support).

The application was approved on October 20, 2023.

- The current administrator of the account is Jia-Yee Tang. The administrator has access to the Admin Console and oversees all users and settings.
- For full disclosure: the original Google Workspace Business Starter subscription was from a reseller (Google Domains). In order to qualify for Google Workspace for nonprofits, we had to transfer our subscription from Google Domains to Google. This was a seamless transition.
- We now have the ability to assign unlimited users and licenses at no cost (which will be assigned to Officers and Committee chairs only)
- We will look into utilizing the provided tools at a later time.

Website-related Works in Progress

1. Now that NSMTA has a **Shared Google Drive**, we will work to establish the file structure and access settings. This will serve as the central place where each officer and committee chair can store documents such as:
 - Past meeting minutes
 - Former yearbooks
 - Treasurer records
 - Membership Lists

2. We are calling for volunteers to help digitize and archive NSMTA documents. The process would require a phone/iPad and working knowledge of scanning applications.
 - Use the device to take a picture of each page. Most scanning applications will automatically detect the borders, but they can also easily be resized if necessary.
 - Rename the file.
 - Upload to the designated folder on our Shared Google Drive.

This will likely be a long-term project, so any and all volunteers are welcome!

3. We will be researching how to set up protection from Spam, Spoofing and Phishing: SPF - Sender Policy Framework is the email authentication standard. Once the advanced settings are put in place, this should allow us to utilize our email accounts more securely and safely. Hopefully this will prevent our emails from going to spam/junk folders!

Social Media

Nothing to report at this time.

Submitted by:

Jia-Yee Tang, Website Chair

Anthony Ty, Social Media & Marketing Chair

SONATA-SONATINA FESTIVAL

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Music Institute of Chicago

300 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

Online registration for SSF begins **Monday, December 4, 2023** and closes **Monday, January 8, 2024**. All registrations are done thru the Member Portal at NSMTA.org. Please create or log into your teacher account in order to register.

The fee this year is \$40 per student, and participating teachers may enter up to 10 students.

Non-members must pay a \$25 fee to enter students. If your NSTMA dues were not paid by October 31st, you will also need to pay the \$25 non-member fee.

The Gold Medal Recitals will be held on Sunday, February 11th, 2024, with programs at 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00 PM, at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 1024 Lake Avenue, Wilmette.

ALL TEACHERS are required to help in some way on the day of the festival. No substitutes (parents, students, relatives, etc.) are allowed to replace teacher volunteers for their required job. Please plan ahead to make sure you are available on the day of the festival. Any teacher in violation of the help requirements will not be allowed to participate in the festival the following year. All festival rules and repertoire guidelines may be found online at <https://www.nsmta.org/ssf>. Please contact Jennifer Merry or Yeeseon Kwon for more information, ssf@nsmta.org.

2024 Piano Competition Repertoire

Primary

Tchaikovsky - "Song of the Lark" Op. 39 No. 22. From Album for the Young, Op. 39

Kabalevsky - Prelude in g minor. In "Easy Classics to Moderns": Music for Millions vol. 17, edited by Denes Agay

Elementary

Burgmüller - "Berceuse", Op. 109, No. 7. From 18 Characteristic Studies, Op.

109

Bartok - Romanian Dance #1 from Romanian Folk Dances, Sz. 56

Junior

Chopin - Nocturne in g minor Op. 37#1

Prokofiev - Prelude in C major, Op. 12#7.

Senior

Schumann - "Des Abends" from Fantasiestücke, Op. 12

Bach - Italian Concerto, BWV 971, 3rd movement: Presto