

# September 2022



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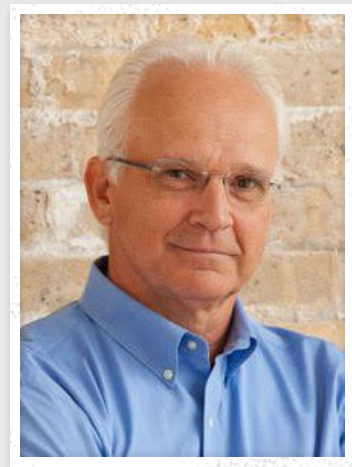
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Welcome to a new season of NSMTA activities. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and I know we are all ready to return to teaching, sharing and making music!

We will have our first meeting of the season at our new venue, the Northfield Community Church, at 400 Wagner Road, Northfield Illinois 60093. Our deep thanks to Helen Raymaker for making the arrangements at this new venue. The meeting will take place in person, and also by Zoom for those who prefer. We are all looking forward to a gradual return to our pre-pandemic format. There are two excellent topics scheduled for this meeting; Jia-Yee Tang will provide the pre-meeting presentation, which will be an introduction to the new NSMTA website. The main topic will be "Exploring Some Unfamiliar Contemporary Gems from AIM Levels 8-9-10" by Janice Razaq. We are looking forward to these interesting and inspiring presentations.



George Radosavljevic

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## TIME AND LOCATION:

September Monthly Meeting

- Monday, September 26, 2022
  - 9:30 AM 12:00 PM
  - Northfield Community Church, 400 Wagner Road, Northfield, IL, 60093 United States ([map](#))
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## COFFEE BREAK/LUNCHEON

Please note there won't be coffee/snacks provided at this meeting.

Also, there won't be a luncheon after the meeting like previous years.

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## 9:30-10:00 PRE-MEETING DISCUSSION

**Presenter: Jia-Yee Tang**

**Program: Introducing the New NSMTA Website, Member Portal, Find a Teacher database and more!**

Jia-Yee will reveal the advanced features of the new NSMTA website built by her husband, Jason Craft. NSMTA members who have not already migrated to the new platform by the time of the meeting can learn:



- How to register your new member accounts on our new platform
- How to create, customize and edit your Teacher Profile for maximum public visibility (and how to disable the public profile if you wish)
- How to add students to your personal student roster
- How to use the Event Portal to register for AIM, SSF and Competition (which will be a different process from before)

Bring your personal device (computer, mobile or tablet) to the meeting and register your account and/or interact with the site live during the discussion! Jia-Yee can answer any questions or address any issues during the Q&A.

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## **BUSINESS MEETING 10:00-11:00:**

### **NSMTA WEBSITE NEWS**

Dear NSMTA Members,

As you know, the NSMTA website has been under construction for the last year, and we are now in the process of releasing the new **Member Portal!** This is a new way of creating and managing your NSMTA member account and public profile.

Please be on the lookout for an invitation from [admin@nsmta.org](mailto:admin@nsmta.org) to create your account. You will need to have your MTNA member ID number and email address registered with MTNA on hand.

You will receive a series of emails to complete the process:

- One to verify your membership
- Once verified, another email to register your user account (create your user ID and password).
- A confirmation that your account registration is complete!

After you have created your username and password, you can [login](#) to the Member Portal and create your Teacher Profile. We highly recommend that you take advantage of the customization features of the Teacher Profile so that you can be best represented publicly on the website!

A LOT of work and thought has gone into making this process as streamlined as possible. However, if you need assistance or would like to be walked through the process, please attend the **September Pre-meeting on September 26th at 9:30am** where Jia-Yee will present the new Member Portal and hold a Q&A. Visit the website ([www.nsmta.org](http://www.nsmta.org)) for meeting details.

More to come!

Best,

Jia-Yee Tang (Website Chair) and Jason Craft (Technology Admin)

[admin@nsmta.org](mailto:admin@nsmta.org)

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## AIM NEWS

In 2021-22, NSMTA ran a successful year of in-person and remote AIM exams, all the while navigating the ever-evolving COVID-19 world. We are grateful to all the teachers and students for their participation, flexibility, and cooperation!

For the 2022-23 year, we will again offer **in-person** or **remote** exams. Students may choose either option for Theory and Performance exams and are not required to stick with one format for the whole year. Reminder: all members must have paid dues by October 31, 2022 in order to enroll students in AIM this year.

Be on the lookout for the **2022-23 AIM Packet** to be released on our website in the coming weeks: [www.nsmta.org/aim](http://www.nsmta.org/aim).

Please bear in mind: the NSMTA website has undergone substantial changes this year. With the new Member Portal and Event Portal (coming soon), AIM registration will look a lot different than before. We ask that teachers keep up with the NSMTA communications on how to create your teacher profile and student roster. More information forthcoming.

All AIM Exam dates and locations can be viewed on the [website](#).

- **In-person exams for Levels 3-12** will be held at our two locations: the Music Institute of Chicago, Lake Forest and the Northwestern Music Academy in Evanston. We will adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols set forth by each location.



- **Remote exams for Levels 3-12** will be identical to last year:
  - **Theory exams** will be administered via Zoom and email correspondence.
  - **Performance exams** will be submitted as pre-recorded videos arranged in a YouTube Playlist and scanned sheet music in Google Drive.

*Remote students will need to keep an eye on the submission deadlines, as all exam dates and submission are concurrent to the in-person dates. No late submissions will be accepted.*

- **Level 1-2 exams** will be held on one day only: March 5, 2023 (both in-person at the Music Institute of Chicago, Winnetka and remotely). Please note that these levels will not be offered during the levels 3-12 exam dates in January and April.

We welcome new members or (members new to AIM) to reach out to either of the coordinators for questions and assistance in getting started with AIM this year.

Looking forward to another year of AIM exams!

Jennifer Cohen ([lfaimtheory@gmail.com](mailto:lfaimtheory@gmail.com)) and Jia-Yee Tang ([nuaimtheory@gmail.com](mailto:nuaimtheory@gmail.com))

NSMTA AIM Coordinators

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## NSMTA BYLAWS

The NSMTA Bylaws committee has been working hard for the past 2 years to revise and update the NSMTA bylaws to conform with changes at the state and national levels. At the September 26 meeting, we will hold a vote to accept the updated bylaws, and as required we e-mailed them to the membership on September 12. If you have any suggestions or comments, please direct them to one of the committee members well in advance of the September 26 meeting.

Here is a summary of the changes:

*General: Took out specific language related to the officer's duties and made them more general. An upcoming "officer's handbook" will include more detailed job duties.*

*Addition of Section III, Organizational Structure, instead of including with Article II, Purpose*

*Article V, Officers, Section 1, F (treasurer's duties): Audits of books will change from every other year to every year.*

*Article IX, Committees, Section 4: Addition of section listing of Auditing specifics*

*Article IV, Membership, Section 1, C: Removed language about high school members. Collegiate members may not vote, hold office or enter students in MTNA or ISMTA competitions. (as per MTNA and ISMTA guidelines).*

Please read over the revised bylaws in advance of the meeting, and feel free to reach out to the committee with questions or comments. Thank you!

Jennifer Merry—[jmerry@comcast.net](mailto:jmerry@comcast.net)

Marlene Chatain—[chatainco@att.net](mailto:chatainco@att.net)

Eric Sutz—[ewsutz@aol.com](mailto:ewsutz@aol.com)

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## SONATA-SONATINA FESTIVAL

**Sunday, February 12, 2023**

Music Institute of Chicago

300 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

**Online Registration Begins: Monday, December 5, 2022**

**Online Registration Closes: Monday, January 9, 2023**

**Gold Medal Recital: Sunday, February 19, 2023**

All festival judging will be in-person this year—there will be no Zoom or remote option. All current COVID-19 protocols will be followed and masking requirements will be posted in advance of online registration.

Participating teachers may enter up to 10 students. The fee is \$30 per student, and all registrations will be ONLINE only.

Your NSTMA dues must be paid by October 31st to be eligible. Non-members must pay a \$25 fee to enter students.

**ALL TEACHERS** will be 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.

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# MAIN PRESENTATION SEPTEMBER 26



**11:00-12:00 Program**

**Presenter: Janice Razaq**

**Program: Exploring Some Unfamiliar Contemporary Gems from  
AIM Levels 8-9-10**

This presentation will introduce you to some contemporary repertoire that you may not have used for your students. It's a good way to get out of the habit of always assigning the same tried and true pieces year after year! The pieces will be performed after briefly giving some teaching and practicing tips. Repertoire may include these pieces plus a few others: "Petite Berceuse" by Barber (8); "Kaleidoscopes" by Lees (8 & 9); "Rivers of America" by Matz (8); "The Firefly" by Bilotti (9); "Songs Without Words" by Tsitsaros (9); "Portraits in Jazz" by Capers (10); "Le Cahier Romand" by Honegger (10).

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Janice Larson Razaq has a DMA from Texas Tech University and other degrees from The Eastman School of Music and the University of Illinois. She has the Licentiate Diploma from the Royal Academy of Music, London. During three years as a Fulbright scholar to London she performed at Wigmore Hall. She was an award winner in the Canals International Competition in Barcelona.

Dr. Razaq is heard on WFMT and Minnesota Public Radio and plays concertos with area orchestras. Recent performances/presentations were for the American Matthey Association for Piano at College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN, The Eastman School of Music, at Arizona State University, and in Tennessee at Union University. She presented a talk on Matthey Technique for the Canadian Federation of MTA in Nova Scotia and was also featured at the MTNA National Conference in 2020. Professional offices held include Past President of the American Matthey Association for Piano, Past-President of ISMTA and Past ECD Director of MTNA. She is Director of Keyboard Studies at Harper College in Palatine, IL, where she teaches applied piano and piano ensemble. She was just named ISMTA Teacher of the Year,

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**“Harmony is when you find two notes that love one another.”**

