
The Score

Susan Atkins, Editor

The Newsletter of the NSMTA

August 2005

From the President ...

We are almost to the new year. Mark your calendars for Monday September 26, 2005, our first meeting. I have enjoyed hearing about the activities that everyone has undertaken this summer. You have been busy. I am working on updating the website. Please go to nsmta.org and check the information, especially on the Teacher Locator page. E-mail me as soon as possible at corley@corley.wg.com, if you find errors. This is the information that will also go into the yearbook.

Speaking of the website, you can now read a current newsletter on-line. This will be very handy for those of us who lose our newsletters. Now we can print out a new one and save a lot of aggravation.

There is still time to solicit advertising for the yearbook. Let me know the contact and I will send them a letter with the information. The final deadline for yearbook information will be August 20.

Have you sent in your membership renewal? Remember that you must be a member by the entry date of an event to participate. It takes time for your membership to be processed by MTNA. If you did not receive a renewal notice, please go to mtna.org or contact Joan Kurtenbach, 773-774-6906 for help in renewing your membership.

Jennifer Merry will be serving as Publicity Chairperson this year. Please contact her if you have ideas for publicity or events to place in the newspaper or on the website.

This year has gone very quickly and I am very proud of everything that the organization has achieved. I hope that we will be able to add many members with the letters NCTM following their name. You have no idea what these letters mean!!! There will be a meeting at my home in early October and you can find out how you can add these letters to your name.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of November 4-5 and plan to attend the State meeting at Illinois State University in Normal, IL.

Enjoy the month of August and I hope to see you all at the September meeting.

Lynd Corley

From the Program Chair...

Programs for NSMTA 2005-2006

Sept. 26, 2005 Professor Jim Giles of Northwestern University. "Uses of rubato in Chopin's piano music." Names of some of the pieces will be in September newsletter.

October 24, 2005 Professor Dmitri Rachmanov of Roosevelt University. "P.I. Tchaikovsky's Piano Music: Hidden Treasures." Specific pieces will be listed in October *Score*.

November 28, 2005 Piano Instructor Elaine Felder of the Music Institute of Chicago. "Teaching our Contest Repertoire."

December no meeting

January 23, 2006 Home meetings. Sign up in October and November.

February 27, 2006 Dr. Bruce Berr, Independent piano teacher and composer. "Dynamic markings are overrated! Teaching music interpretation from the inside out."

March 27, 2006 Independent Music Teachers Forum. TBA

April 24, 2006 Ms. Jennifer Merry, Independent piano teacher and instructor at Northwestern Music Academy. "The Young Beginner: Approaching the piano playfully."

May no meeting

June 5, 2006 Luncheon. Details to be announced.

Karen Tobias, Vice President in charge of programs.



2006 NSMTA PIANO COMPETITION

The 2006 NSMTA Piano Competition will be on Sunday May 7, at Northwestern University. The repertoire will be as follows:

Primary:

Bach - Minuet in d minor (Music for Millions, v. 17)
Kabalevsky - Prelude (g minor) (M.M. vol.17)

Elementary:

Bach - Little Prelude in E major (#5 from group of 6)
Bartok - Romanian Folk Dances, #4
Tchalkovsky - Baba Yaga from Album for the Young

Junior:

Scarlatti - Sonata in C major, L. 104
Chopin - Nocturne in c#-minor, op. post
Debussy - Dr. Gradus ad parnassum from Children's Corner

Senior:

Liszt - Au lac de Wallenstadt, from Annees de pelerinage, Book I
Barber - Excursion #1

Please contact Matt Hagle at (847)763-9151 or MHagle@earthlink.net if you have any questions.

AIM

For all those teachers who have heard about AIM and wondered just how to get started....it is really quite simple. AIM (Achievement in Music) offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes theory, technique and performance at twelve sequential levels. The syllabus is only \$25 and can be ordered from the State Office. It is very teacher friendly and could also be used as a teacher resource outside of AIM. I have found the repertoire listings at each level to be invaluable to my teaching through the years especially in the pacing of the intermediate student. Also available is a Teacher Guide for \$15 written by Karen Rogers. The guide is very helpful to teachers in presenting new material at each of the levels and offering teachers added suggestions and aids in the teaching of this material.

The supplemental workbooks are now available for Levels II - VII. From my own teaching, I can

encourage other teachers that these workbooks save much lesson time and help reinforce especially theory concepts *between* lessons. Written by Karen Rogers, the AIM workbooks are available from the ISMTA State office for purchase. The workbooks must be purchased individually for each student however only one syllabus need be purchased for each teacher. Levels II - V are \$5 each and Levels VI and VII are \$6 each. Make checks payable to ISMTA Student Foundation and mail to Matt Talbott, ISMTA Central Office, 113 S. Walnut, Champaign, IL 61820. Add \$4 for USPS and \$7 for UPS and for orders over \$50, add \$4 additional. The Syllabus and Teacher's Guide are also available from the same place. Order forms are also available on the state website and ISMTA newsletter. Matt Talbott can be emailed at matt@ismta.org.

LeAnn Halverson has materials available for supplemental use also. Her materials include ear training CDs and Midi files. Her email is at LeAnnHalverson@musicperceptions.com and her web page is MusicPerceptions@musicperceptions.com.

In the May 2005 Winner's Recital, four AIM students were honored for their achievements in Levels X -XII. AIM Achievements Awards of \$75 each were awarded to :

Jacob Bernhardt, Level XII	Debbie Gillette, teacher
Ellen Biss, Level XI	Debbie Gillette, teacher
Jeff Wang, Level XI	Harriet Smith, teacher
Grace Biss, Level X	Debbie Gillette, teacher

And finally, our AIM testing dates for the coming 2005-06 years are as follows:

Theory: December 11, 2005 and January 22, 2005

Performance: April 2, 2006 and April 23, 2005

Level IA, IB, IC, and II are tested at the Performance exam times only. Please send questions about AIM to Debbie Gillette at pianodeb@msn.com or Bev Sheridan at BevSherida@yahoo.com. This program is available to all NSMTA teachers!

Debbie Gillette and Beverly Sheridan
AIM Co-Chairmen





District Auditions

We hope you have been preparing your students over the summer for our annual Illinois State MTA District Auditions. This is not to be confused with MTNA Auditions. **This is a competition. Winners to play at State in the fall.** Our North East District auditions will be on Saturday, October 8, 2005 again at Northwestern University. Two fine judges are being selected. Note the entry form in this issue and mail to Karen Tobias by September 20. Please refer to the May Score for rules and contact information or go to NSMTA.org.

Application in this newsletter. The deadline will be September 20, 2005.

Karen Tobias and Susan Osborn, District Chairs

First Meeting September 26th

Mark your calendars now for our first meeting of the year. On September 26, Piano Professor Jim Giles of Northwestern University will discuss the uses of rubato in Chopin's piano music. All meetings take place in the Concert Room of the Music Institute of Chicago, 300 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois, unless previously announced.

Our September forum will feature performances by Matthew Hagle and Svetlana Belsky; details to be announced in the September *Score*.

Welcome New Member

Keumsoo O. Cho
4816 N. Keeler Street
Chicago, IL 60630

If you have moved, e-mail your change of address and phone number to Susan Atkins at theatkins@sbcglobal.net. If your name is listed on the Teacher Locator page of our website, send your changes to Pat Borchardt 36652 N. Oakwood Dr, Lake Villa, IL 60046.

Jazz Showcase

The 2006 Jazz Showcase has been scheduled for March 5, 2006. Now is the time to start preparing your students for this rewarding event. Watch in the next newsletter for additional information!

Eric Sutz, Jazz Showcase Chairperson

Score Submissions

Do you have a news item you would like printed in the *Score*? It could be a newsworthy event or an honor given to one of our members, or simply a piano for sale.

Send your articles to Susan Atkins at theatkins@sbcglobal.net or you may fax me at my home number 847-473-4701. I would also like to receive digital photos of any event sponsored by MTNA, our state and local chapters.

Susan Atkins, Corresponding Secretary

Get Certified!

Do you want to take your professionalism to the next level? Did you know that the MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to help you accomplish that goal? Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients, and peers that which the individual knows and is able to do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice.

In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for personal professional achievement, and validates expertise for the individual and to those outside the field. The MTNA Certification Program exists for teachers who teach music to students of any age level in private or group settings. The program is based upon a set of five standards defining what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do.

You may be asking yourself why pursue MTNA Professional Certification? Below are just a few of the reasons certification is important to the music teaching profession.

For MTNA:

- Fosters excellence in music education through the development of criteria, standards, and guidelines for assessing educational competencies in performance, music theory, music history/literature, and pedagogy/teacher education.
- Assures the educational community, the general public, and other agencies or organizations that the MTNA Professional Certification Program for applied music teachers has been clearly defined with appropriate objectives.
- Provides a national forum for the discussion and consideration of concerns relevant to the preservation and advancement of standards in the field of applied musical education.
- Develops a national unity and strength for the purpose of maintaining the position of applied music study in the family of fine arts and humanities and providing qualified teachers to guide that study.
- Sets a uniform national minimum standard of achievement without restricting the development of new ideas, experimentation, or the expansion of personal standards.

For the Applied Music Teacher:

- Encourages improvement in teaching through continuous self-study and planning.
- Raises the likelihood for a higher level of teacher competency and effectiveness.
- Increases the potential for earning power for applied music teachers.
- Improves the level of professionalism within the field of applied music teaching.
- Identifies for the public competent applied music teachers.

For more information about the Certification Program, visit the website at www.mtnacertification.org or contact the national headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or mtnacertification@mtna.org.

Also, watch the newsletter for an announcement about our own certification meeting coming in October.

Frances Larimer, Certification Chair



MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition

My purpose in writing to you is to encourage participation in the MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition. This national competition has been in existence since 1988. Over the years, winners of the competition have included string quartets, piano trios, saxophone quartets, piano quartets and a woodwind quintet.

Here are a few significant facts to note regarding the MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition:

1. The average age of ensemble members must be 18 – 26 as of January 1, 2006.
2. The ensemble must consist of at least 3 performers and may have no more than 6 performers.
3. During the course of a performance, an ensemble may change in size, through the addition or subtraction of personnel (for example, a woodwind quintet might add a piano and become a sextet, or a string quartet might be reduced to a string trio).
4. Ensembles may be any combination of brass, piano, string and woodwind instruments.
5. Ensembles with piano only are not permitted.
6. Application deadline is September 13, 2005.
7. Entry fee is \$100 for each ensemble, not per member.

For more detailed information about the MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition, please check the MTNA website www.mtna.org. Just click on "Competitions".

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

James C. Norden, Coordinator
MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition
Phone: 414-351-3098
haydnout@hotmail.com

NSMTA Officers for 2005/2006

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Recording Secretary - Peggy Pascal

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ppiano@comcast.net

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