
The Score

Jia-Yee Tang, Editor

The Newsletter of the NSMTA

August 2008

From our President...

It seems only weeks ago that I was at the June luncheon “officially” taking over the position as president. At that time, I was a bit scared at the prospect, but also filled with a great deal of excitement at being such an integral part of this organization. I have the utmost confidence in our dedicated officers and the numerous committee chairs in making this year another success.

I hope you were all able to take the time to relax and enjoy the lazy days of summer. I always look forward to summer because I intentionally reduce my teaching load and do mundane chores like cleaning out the closets and basement. I even enjoy occasional weeding. For most of us, those weeks in May and early June are so hectic with end of year recitals, awards and competitions, not to mention many of the other end of year activities that goes on in our students and our own lives. The relaxed summer gives me a chance to reflect back on what I’ve accomplished this past year as a teacher, what my students have gained from studying with me, and what I want to accomplish in the coming year. But most importantly, it gives me a chance to revisit ways that I’ve enriched myself as a musician.

August is the time to rejuvenate our goals that may have gone a little stale towards the end of the school year. August is the time for hope and starting with a fresh slate as we think about repertoire choices for our students. August is the time to renew our interests in self-growth as a musician. It is this commitment to continually grow that propels us to become better teachers. What better way to start the new school year than to make a promise to attend at least one of our meetings this year? The benefits of attending the meetings are numerous, from enriching our minds, sharing our teaching and musical ideas with others, or simply to socialize with fellow musicians and teachers. I try to attend as many meetings, workshops, master classes, and conferences as my time allows and I always leave a little wiser, a little richer and always glad that I made the time, no matter how busy I may be. I know Mary Beth Molenaar has some great programs lined up for us this year, so I hope to see you all and get to know you better this year.

Jennifer Cohen, president

NSMTA Officers for 2008-2009

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847-328-3728
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In this Issue:

- President’s Message
- 2008-2009 NSMTA Officers
- NSMTA Membership Information
- ISMTA Northeast District Audition Information and Entry Form
- September Meeting Program
- AIM Wine and Cheese
- Audition and Job Opportunities

Membership and Contact Information

If you have not sent in your 2008-09 MTNA dues yet, please be sure to do it by August 31st to ensure that you are listed in this year's directory. If you sent in your dues after July 31st, or any of your contact information has changed from last year's directory, please contact Nancy DeHaven at 847-864-2911 or nancydehaven@yahoo.com and give her the updated information.

As we progress further into the technological age and more communications are done via emails, it is very important that we are up to date with your current email address. Please make every effort to let us know as soon as possible when it changes. You can call or email our corresponding secretary, Jia-Yee Tang at 858-246-1678 or jiayeetang@gmail.com.

More than 65% of SCORE is sent electronically via emails through a PDF file. If you are new to receiving SCORE via email, you will need Acrobat Adobe Reader in order to be able to open the file. You can download this for free at our website, www.nsmta.org. Click the Acrobat Adobe Reader link and follow the directions to download it. Hard copies will continue to be sent to members who do not have an email address but it is our hope that we can reach 100% of our members via email in the near future!

ISMTA Northeast District Auditions

The Northeast District Auditions will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at Northwestern University. **The deadline for application is September 9th.** Local chapters in the Northeast District include Chicago (CAMTA), Kankakee Valley, North Shore (NSMTA) and South Suburban. Any member of these chapters with active and current membership dues paid by September 1, 2008 may enter students in the Northeast District Auditions. Students must have studied with the teacher at least six months prior to competition date.

Elementary (grades 4-6) – Students shall perform 2 contrasting pieces no longer than 10 minutes. No minimum time is required. Pieces must be memorized.
Fee: \$20

Duets: Elementary and Junior High – One piano, four hands. The duet team will perform two contrasting selections and must switch parts between selections. Each duet team will be judged as a whole performance. No minimum time for pieces with a maximum of 10 minutes.
Fee: \$15.00 per team

Junior High (grades 7-9) – Entrants must be in grades 7-9 at the time of competition. Students shall perform 2 or 3 contrasting repertoire from contrasting style periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionist, or Contemporary). Maximum playing time is 15 minutes. All repertoire must be memorized.
Fee: \$40.00

High School (grades 10-12) – Entrants must be in grades 10-12 at the time of competition. Students shall perform 3 contrasting repertoire from 3 contrasting style periods. Maximum playing time is 30 minutes. No concertos.
Fee: \$50.00

Students will receive a score rating of "1", "2", or "3." Winners in the Junior High and High School level that receives a score rating of "1" will move on to the state competition on November 15, 2008 at Wheaton College at the ISMTA State Conference. Elementary and Duet performers do not move on to state competition.

Application form is included in this newsletter. You can also obtain one from the ISMTA website at www.ISMTA.org. Please follow grade requirements accurately. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. Send applications to:

Jennifer Cohen, NE district chair
13 Old Barn Road
Hawthorn Woods, Il 60047
847-438-7971
Jicohen1@aol.com

Illinois State Music Teachers Association
2008 Competitions Entry Form

Student's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

District: _____

ISMTA Elementary School Competition - \$20 Entry Fee

Piano

ISMTA Duet Competition - \$15 Per Team Entry Fee

Elementary Junior High Senior

ISMTA Junior High Competition - \$40 Entry Fee

Piano Strings Brass, Woodwinds

ISMTA High School Competition - \$50 Entry Fee

Piano Voice Strings Brass Woodwinds

Repertoire: _____
(Composition, Composer, and Performance Time - example: Sonata Op. 27 no. 1 1st mov., Beethoven, 7 min)

Repertoire: _____

Repertoire: _____

Repertoire: _____

Teacher: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

District: _____

Local Assoc: _____ Date Dues Paid: _____

This student has studied with me 6 months prior to September 2008.

Teacher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make check payable to "ISMTA."
Check must accompany application and is non-refundable.
Mail application to your District Chair.
All applications must be postmarked no later than September 9, 2008.

Oakton Six Piano Ensemble Auditions

Be part of a unique musical experience as a member of the Oakton Six Piano Ensemble.

Upcoming performances for the Ensemble during 2008-2009, include:

- MTNA 2009 Pedagogy Saturday in Atlanta, Georgia on March 28
- Convention Artists for the Virginia Music Teachers Association State Conference at Shenandoah University on November 8
- National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum (GP3) at University of Oklahoma in Norman on August 1

Auditions for this internationally acclaimed touring group will be on Monday, September 15 and Wednesday, September 17 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Room 1360 at Oakton Community College, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines. For more information about the auditions, contact Glenna Sprague at gsprague@oakton.edu or (847) 635-1905.

Interested pianists may bring a prepared piano piece, but music will be provided. Formed in 1980, the group performs original arrangements from the classical, ragtime, jazz, and popular repertoire that are

transcribed for the six pianos by the ensemble's founder and conductor, Glenna Sprague, Professor and Coordinator of Music at Oakton, where she also teaches piano. The rich layered sound of the Six Piano Ensemble is comparable to that of an orchestra, with each member playing a different part of a composition as the melody transfers from pianist to pianist. The ensemble provides an excellent opportunity for those pianists who do not want to perform as soloists, but want to keep up their playing skills and be part of an ensemble situation.

Critics hail the sound of the Oakton Six Piano Ensemble as "extraordinary." The ensemble has performed in concert throughout the United States and Europe, including the International Conference of the College Music Society in Vienna, Austria; Hawaii Music Teachers Association in Honolulu; National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy in Oak Brook; Civic Opera House and Navy Pier in Chicago; MTNA National Conference in Spokane, Washington as well as numerous state MTA conferences.

Also, available on CD is *Oakton Six Piano Ensemble: Live in Concert*.

Illinois State Music Teachers Association 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 14-15 · Wheaton College · Wheaton, IL

Our featured guests will include...

Conference Artist Marc-André Hamelin
Master Teacher Alan Chow
Pedagogy Clinician Robert Duke

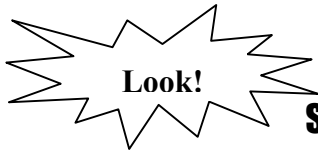
Watch your mailbox for the Conference Book, arriving in early September.

Visit: www.ismta.org and click on "conference" for more info. Online registration will be available starting in September.

Choral Accompanist Needed – Conant High School

Conant High School is currently looking for a full time choral accompanist for the next school year 2008-2009. The job includes accompanying 4 choirs of different levels daily from 8am-12pm, accompanying these groups at concerts throughout the school year, and opportunities to accompany the spring musical. The position pays \$25/hour and the musical includes a separate stipend of pay.

Conant High School is located in Hoffman Estates, IL near the intersection of Higgins and Plum Grove Road. This High School has recently gone through a multi-million dollar renovation to the music department and currently has a brand new, 9 foot, concert grand Nordiska piano that we use in both rehearsals and performances. Anyone interested should directly contact Holly Kamberos at 708-227-2260.



September NSMTA Meeting

Date: Monday, September 22, 2008

Topic: Abe Stokman - "*How to Practice*"

Abe Stokman is currently on the piano faculty of the Music Institute of Chicago. As a performer he specializes in contemporary music and often collaborates with living composers.

Originally scheduled in March, this workshop is a "rain check" opportunity that you won't want to miss! Start the year out with practical ideas you can implement with your teaching and in your own practice this fall.

Achievement In Music

AIM has grown in teachers and students significantly over the last 5 years. Consider using the AIM curriculum with at least some of your studio in the upcoming school year. The materials are very accessible and the comprehensive leveled approach is designed to compliment all teaching styles. Come and meet Bev and Debbie and others in an introductory Wine and Cheese - AIM style on Sunday, September 14, 2008 from 2pm to 4pm at Bev's home in Lincolnshire. Back by popular demand, we will have some syllabi and workbooks for sale as well as a time to ask questions, look through the materials and just talk shop! Call Debbie at 224-730-5279 to R.S.V.P and for more information.

Bev Sheridan's home:
6 Robinhood Court
Lincolnshire, IL 60069
847-948-7783

A Note of Thanks . . .

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*Dear Karen and North Shore Chapter,*

*Thank you so much for the generous gift you sent to me after the fire. I'm thankful all of my colleagues and friends in MTNA/ISMTA have been so supportive!*

*Thanks again,*

*~Chris Goldston  
Sonata Festival Judge, Area Composer*



*The Score*

The Newsletter of the NSMTA  
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