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# The Score

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Jia-Yee Tang, Editor

The Newsletter of the NSMTA

September 2008

## From our President...

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you have all had a good summer, hopefully taking some time to relax and enjoy outdoor activities to freshen our bodies as well as our much over-taxed mind. It's always exciting to begin a new school year because there are so many opportunities to enrich our students' musical training as well as to enrich ourselves through the various events that NSMTA sponsors. Certainly, one of the highlights is the chance to hear highly regarded professionals speak of a variety of topics at our monthly meetings. It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we welcome Abe Stokman, our program speaker for September. His program is entitled "How to Practice" and if the title alone doesn't grab your interest right away, I'm sure his credentials and background will entice you to want to attend. Read more in detail about Mr. Stokman's program in the following pages of this newsletter.

Our first meeting will be Monday, September 22, 9:30 AM at the Music Institute. As a special treat for the first meeting of the year, NSMTA will provide lunch immediately following the program. You can speak with Mr. Stokman and spend some time sharing old and new ideas with your fellow colleagues and friends. The round table will cover some of our favorite teaching materials, which is always greatly anticipated. I love hearing a new idea that I can't wait to go home and try. I loved Nancy DeHaven's "Music Baseball" that she shared with us last spring. I implemented the game at one of my group classes shortly after the AIM exams, and no one grumbled at having to review the theory again. On the contrary, the students could not answer the questions fast enough to hit a home run! The round table discussions always go by so fast, so the lunch will provide the perfect opportunity to continue where the discussions leave off.

I will also be hosting an informal chat regarding MTNA National Certification during lunch. I am

renewing my interest, along with Fran Larimer, our Certification Chair, to better promote certification among our members. If you've read any of the recent issues of the American Music Teacher magazine, there have been some wonderful articles about the importance of getting nationally certified. The benefits are numerous and it helps to define our goals and our role as a professional teacher of music. The hardest part is getting started, so please make a note to stop by my corner during lunch and get some feedback on how to get started. There will be a more formal Certification meeting in the future, so be sure to keep your eye open for it.

Finally, be sure that all chairpersons update your event items for the yearbook and website. Updates for the Yearbook will go to Nancy DeHaven, our Yearbook and Directory chair. Updates for the Website will go to Lynd Corley, who will continue as liaison to our Webmaster.

The 2008-09 Yearbook and Directory will be available at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. We are hoping to have as many of the yearbooks and directories picked up as possible. If you know you won't make it, or know of any member that will not be able to attend, please make an effort to have someone pick it up for you or pick one up for a friend. I look forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones. See you all in a few weeks!

Jennifer Cohen, NSMTA President

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**AIM DATES 2008-2009**

Monday, Nov. 3, 2008	Theory judge's meeting and application deadline
Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008	AIM Theory Exam
Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009	AIM Theory Exam
Monday, March 9, 2009	Performance judge's meeting and application deadline
Sunday, April 5, 2009	AIM Performance Exam (Lake Forest only)
Sunday, April 19, 2009	AIM Performance Exam (both locations)
Sunday, April 26, 2009	AIM Performance Exam (Northwestern location only)
Sunday, April 26, 2009	Honor's Recital (Lake Forest Only)

**AIM Wine and Cheese... and more**

Bev Sheridan and Debbie Gillette are looking forward to new faces and familiar ones at our fall kick-off Wine and Cheese event *this* Sunday, September 14 from 2:00-4:00pm at Bev's home. Her address is: 9 Robin Hood Court in Lincolnshire (847-948-7783). We will have some materials for purchase as well as an informal discussion of AIM.

Last year's enrollment in AIM was significantly up from the year before. Student retention is improving which is a good indication that the upper level revisions have been successful. At the state level we continue to meet in committee to tweak this program. Look for an even better program in 2010... we listen to your feedback and are thankful for the countless hours teachers all over our state have dedicated to this curriculum.

**2008 AIM Achievement Award winners:**

Debbie Shi, Level XI (D. Gillette)  
 Hannah Kay, Level XI (B. Huang)  
 Jessica Walker, Level X (K. Tobias)  
 Jaime Cohen, Level X (J. Cohen)  
 Maggie Sanabria, Level X (J. Merry)

**2008 Level IX - XII Plaque and Bar winners:**Level IX:

Lily Chang (S. Belsky)  
 Kevin Cheng (C. Lim)  
 Minie Duan (M. Molenaar)  
 Mengsha Gong (J. Merry)  
 Jonathan Spalding (T. Zhang)  
 Alex Strobel (A. Hsiao)  
 Alexa Wong (S. Osborn)

Level X:

Jaime Cohen (J. Cohen)  
 Allison Wilbur (J. Cohen)  
 Brianna Nielsen (J. Merry)  
 Maggie Sanabria (J. Merry)  
 Benjamin Sheu (J. Merry)  
 Suzanne Torrey (M. Yelenosky)  
 Max Vikhter (K. Elgersma)  
 Jessica Walker (K. Tobias)

Level XI:

Debbie Shi (D. Gillette)  
 Hannah Kay (B. Huang)  
 Frank Wu (B. Huang)  
 Andrew Hile (M. Molenaar)

Level XII:

Andrew Ly (B. Huang)  
 Nathan Noh (B. Huang)  
 Renee Dworak (H. Smith)

**Position Chair and Committee Updates**

Welcome to the following new position chair and committee. Congratulations and a big thank you for stepping up.

Competition Chair – Dr. Christine Hwang

Hospitality – Laura Clements

Sonata-Sonatina Festival – Eric Sutz, chairperson

Committee members: John Ford, Joni Kurtenbach, Julie Demerath, Jennifer Cohen, Elaine Felder, Mary Beth Molenaar, Jennifer Merry, Soo Lee

The following positions still need to be filled:

Recital Chairperson - Duties include procuring recital venues for the 2 recitals:

1. Gold Medal Winner's Recital on Feb. 22
2. Winners Recital in mid May

Teacher Recital and Luncheon in June

Barbara Kudirka will be stepping down as the chairperson, but will be available to help. This is our end of year highlight, and not to be missed.

## Programs and Dates 2008-2009

9:30 Round Table

10:00 Business meeting and refreshments

10:45 Program

### September 22

Abraham Stokman "How to Practice!"

Lunch to follow. Members bring a small appetizer or dessert to share.

### October 27

Livia Ayal "On Technique and Musicianship"

Member of the year, Livia Ayal shares her thoughts!

### November 24

Program: Teaching the Competition Repertoire

Soo Lee - Elementary level repertoire

Matt Hagle - Advanced level repertoire

### January 26

Home meetings

### February 23

Janice Razaq - "Music of my Ancestral Heritage: Scandinavian Composers"

This lecture recital will feature music by Edvard Grieg (Norway), Wilhelm Stanhammar (Sweden), Erland Von Koch (Sweden), Jon Leifs (Iceland) and possibly other composers.

### March 23

Marcia Bosits - Intermediate Level Master "Class"

4th, 5th, and 6th intermediate level students perform for Dr. Bosits and each other.

### April 27

Kevin Olson "Motivational Methods in the Piano Studio"

An expanded program this month showcases this F.J.H. composer and his music.

9:15 Meeting with quick coffee (note change of time)

9:45-12:00 Program

## September Meeting

Abe Stokman will share his thoughts on Practicing! In addition to his unique insights on the basics of what, how, when and how much to practice, Abe will also discuss his thoughts on the role of concentration in practice and ways to tailor your approach to different styles of music and different types of students.

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.

### Guest Biography

Abe Stokman is on the piano faculty of the Music Institute of Chicago where he teaches private piano and improvisation. He performs in traditional programs as well as those specializing in contemporary music and often improvises in concerts. He began piano studies at age six in Tel Aviv, Israel. He has piano performance degrees from The Juilliard School where he studied with Edward Steuermann and served as a vocal coach. Mr. Stokman has served as pianist-in-residence and assistant professor at the Chicago Music College of Roosevelt University; and is the former chairman of piano department, American Conservatory of Music. Composers Robert Lombardo, John Austin, Ralph Shapey, Ramon Zupko and Ernst Krenek have written works for him. In addition to his recording credits, Abe Stokman has appeared as soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and founded Music for a While series, devoted to contemporary music.

### Potluck Lunch!

Bring an appetizer or small dessert item to share and join us for lunch after our September program. The chapter will provide the rest of the goodies....

## MTNA Certification

<p>What is Certification? Why get certified? Who should get certified? These may be some of the questions you have asked or heard. I know most of us hold music degrees and even several music degrees from very reputable universities. Certainly, most of us have been teaching in our chosen field from a few years to many decades. We may already have a full studio and don't need to add more students. Perhaps, some of us are college faculties and already regarded as highly qualified teachers.</p> <p>The one constant in the diverse group of men and women that have chosen music teaching as a career is that we want to be validated as a quality teacher and advance the value of music study to our students and peers. We are committed to continued excellence in our</p>	<p>profession and wish to uphold the highest standard of teaching.</p> <p>The MTNA Professional Certification Program does all this and more for teachers that are just starting out to teachers that are well established. In addition to validating our qualifications as a quality teacher, National Certification demonstrates the value that we place on the professionalism of our business. We need to strengthen these ideals by example.</p> <p>Cathy Albergo, NCTM, states in her article in the June/July issue of American Music Teacher magazine, "Many highly qualified teachers regard becoming certified as a "duty to the profession." We should collectively support a program that establishes a high standard of teaching." I couldn't agree more!</p>	<p>I know many of you have thought of getting certified. Many of you have visited the MTNA website and perused the Certification page. Some of you have even begun the process. Please do more than think about it this year. I am making a personal pledge to mentor anyone who is interested in getting certified this year. Now is even a better time to get certified. The board unanimously passed a motion in the spring to reimburse all successful candidates in the amount of \$100.</p> <p>For more information, you can visit the website at: <a href="http://www.mtnacertification.org">www.mtnacertification.org</a>. Frances Larimer, our Certification Chair, and I are more than happy to answer any questions you may have.</p> <p>Jennifer Cohen, NCTM</p>
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## 2009 NSMTA Competition Repertoire

### Primary (Grades 1-3):

Bach - Minuet in G major (Music for Millions Vol. 17). Play with repeats.  
Kabalevsky - Prelude (MM 17)

### Elementary (Grades 4-6):

Kirnberger - Bourree #1 (in Bastien- Piano Literature Vol. 3). Play with repeats.  
Grieg - Arietta Op. 12 #1 (Lyric Pieces)  
Kabalevsky - "Brisk Game" (MM Vol. 37)

### Junior (Grades 7-9):

Bach - Courante from French Suite #5. Play with repeats.  
Grieg - Notturmo Op. 54 #4 (Lyric Pieces)  
Shostakovich - Prelude in d minor, Op. 34 #24 (24 Preludes Op. 34, published by Sikorski)

### Senior (Grades 10-12):

Prokofiev - "Montagues and Capulets" from 10 Pieces from Romeo and Juliet, op. 75  
Chopin - Nocturne in E major, Op. 62#2

### ISMTA 2008 Annual Conference

Please visit our Conference webpage (<http://www.ismta.org/illinois.asp?page=conference>) to access our online conference registration form and to view details about this year's exciting conference. Your Conference Book will be arriving in the mail this week. If you have not received a book by September 15, please send an email to the Central Office ([matt@ismta.org](mailto:matt@ismta.org)).

You may either register immediately by submitting the online form, or, if you prefer, wait for your book to arrive the week of September 8-12 and use the hard-copy registration form found on page 11.

This year's conference will be hosted by Wheaton College, in Wheaton, Illinois, on November 14-15. Please join us for a fun and inspirational weekend!

Featured guests will include:

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

### Sonata-Sonatina Festival

This year's Sonata - Sonatina Festival will be held on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Music Institute of Chicago in Winnetka. NSMTA members may enter up to 7 students. Dues must be paid by the application deadline on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2009. Each entrant will play either two contrasting movements of a Sonatina or one movement (the first or last) of a Sonata. Please check the yearbook for more details. Two experienced judges will hear each entrant and provide written evaluations along with a numerical score.

Students receiving a score of 96 or higher will be invited to perform at the Gold Medal winner's recital on Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. After serving as committee chair for the past 5 years, Jennifer Cohen will be stepping down from this position. She will continue to help to make the transition easy for the new committee. The new committee members include John Ford, Joni Kurtenbach and Julie Demerath with Eric Sutz serving as committee chair.

If you have questions or can help on the festival committee please contact Eric Sutz at [Seutz@aol.com](mailto:Seutz@aol.com) or call 847 204-6954.

### Job Posting – Saint Joseph Church

#### Contemporary Ensemble Director

Saint Joseph Church  
1747 Lake Avenue  
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Contact:

Dr. Jill Nennmann, Director of Music,  
[jnennmann@stjosephwilmette.org](mailto:jnennmann@stjosephwilmette.org);  
Phone: 847.251.0771; Fax: 847.251.5715

#### Responsibilities include:

Lead and accompany the Contemporary Ensemble with weekly rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 9 am, and the subsequent liturgy at 10:15 am. (No weekday rehearsal required)

- The Contemporary Ensemble typically sings hymns from Gather Comprehensive (green) for weekly mass, and may also prepare special anthems for other concerts or occasions
- The Contemporary Ensemble includes two paid singers, between six and eight volunteer singers, and one volunteer guitarist in addition to the paid leader/director. Additional volunteer members may be recruited to increase the group's size

- Additional masses on Holy Days may be possible, but will be determined based on schedule and availability of group members

Additional playing and/or singing opportunities in other areas of the Music Ministry are also available on an ad hoc basis.

#### Qualifications:

- Proficiency on piano (additional opportunities may be available for the applicant who also plays the organ)
- Ability to teach and lead (direct) a small group of singers while accompanying at the piano
- An understanding of Catholic liturgy, particularly as it relates to supporting the liturgy with music (cues, traditions, special needs)
- Strong sight-reading abilities (improvisational skills a plus!)
- Strong people skills

Remuneration will be based on experience and references. Please email resume and references.

*Listing date: 9/04/08*

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