

THE SCORE



President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you are staying warm as you recover from the holidays and get back to your teaching routines. The new year always brings opportunities for resolutions to do better in our studios and professional lives. Here's a great New Year's Resolution: get more involved in NSMTA!

Probably the easiest way to get involved is to come to monthly meetings, chat with other members during coffee break and enjoy one of the terrific programs we have planned. It's always great to network with colleagues and learn new things that you can apply to your own students.

Or you might like to share your special knowledge with other members by presenting a pre-meeting



**Jennifer Merry,
NSMTA President**

program. We are currently seeking pre-meeting presenters for the March and April meetings (see more information later in the newsletter.) This can be a good opportunity for you to organize a topic of interest that could be expanded into a full program later on.

We are also looking for a person to be in charge of our library—this is a small and easy job for someone who comes regularly to meetings. You might also consider volunteering to be an officer or to serve on a committee that is of interest to you.

As AIM theory exams and the Sonata-Sonatina Festival get underway this month and next, many of us will be called upon to judge, monitor or supervise events in some capacity. These jobs offer wonderful opportunities for us to learn new skills, meet other members and interact with the public in a positive way. Thank you in advance to everyone for all of your hard work—we couldn't do it without you!

I hope you will join me this year by sharing your talents and making NSMTA the best organization it can be!

JANUARY 22 PRESENTATION

ABE STOKMAN

The Goldberg Variations Examined

(see next page for program description)



Abraham Stokman was born in Tel Aviv, Israel. He was offered a scholarship from the Julliard School in New York City where, after attending, he obtained his Master's Degree and his Bachelor's Degree in Music.

Significant teachers and mentors:

One of Mr. Stokman's most significant teachers/mentors was the instructor he had while he was attending Julliard- Edward Steuermann.

Awards and achievements:

After graduating from Julliard, Mr. Stokman served as a vocal coach in Julliard's opera department for five years until proceeding to give solo and chamber concerts in the United States and Canada. He then moved to Chicago and became the artist-in-residence and assistant professor at the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University, while also serving as chairman of the piano department at the American Conservatory of Music

in Chicago. Abraham has had countless successes in solo recitals at the Alice Tully Hall, the Town Hall in New York City, the Gardner Museum in Boston, the Phillips Gallery in Washington, and Mandel Hall in Chicago & the Gilmore Festival in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He premiered Ramon Zupko's Piano Concerto in Alice Tully Hall and the Kennedy Center. He was also featured as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Stokman has recorded Ramon Zupko's music for CRI, as well as a CD of twentieth century American piano music for Centaur records. He also recorded "Hyperbolea" on a CD of Music by Shulamit Ran. Over the years, Mr. Stokman has also participated in a series of chamber music concerts with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, given throughout the Chicagoland area. For five years the Illinois Arts Council and the Steinway Piano Co. sponsored him to give solo concerts for the Chicago Public Schools.

Professional affiliations & activities:

Mr. Stokman was a member of the Contemporary Chamber Players with Ralph Shapey for many years, and has played for CUBE through the years as well. He is currently teaching piano and improvisation at the Music Institute of Chicago, where he has also founded the contemporary music series, "Music for a While". For ten years, this series featured contemporary composers and their music, presented in a format that made their music more accessible to the audience.

ABE STOKMAN

The Goldberg Variations Examined

The Goldberg Variations: There will be a discussion of the background and make-up of the work- problems of dynamics, touch, phrasing, ornamentation and hand-crossings. He will also discuss other pianist's approaches to playing the work and how he differs from them.

Deadline for Festival registration is Jan. 15!

Be sure to complete your registration for the Sonata-Sonatina Festival soon! The deadline is Monday, January 15, and can only be done online. Also, please provide complete and accurate catalogue information on the repertoire—otherwise that creates extra work for SSF volunteers.

NOTE: The link to register is on the lefthand column of the NSMTA home page, NOT on the Programs and Forms subpage, as some documents indicate.

Bruce Berr
Co-chair, SSF

- - - **Announcements** - - -

Would YOU like to present a pre-meeting program?

We still have a few spots available for NSMTA members to present pre-meeting programs in March and April. Do you have some teaching ideas you'd like to organize and share with your colleagues? Perhaps you have experience with technology and how it can help in the private lesson studio? If you have a favorite topic you would like to share with us, we want to hear from you!

Pre-meeting programs are just thirty minutes long, and take place from 9:30-10:00 AM, before the NSMTA business meeting at 10 AM. If you are interested, please e-mail Jennifer Merry, jmerry@comcast.net, or Eric Sutz, ewsutz@aol.com.

AIM NEWS

AIM Theory Exam

AIM Theory Exam Schedules are online!

To get your schedule, follow these steps:

1. Go to our website, www.nsmta.org
2. Click for AIM Online Login link in the yellow side bar on the left
3. Login in with the same email and password that you created to enroll your students (gray box)
4. From your account, Click “ AIM Theory – Get Student Report” link

Once you retrieve your schedule, please check over all the information for accuracy, especially correct spelling of students’ names and correct level. If there are any errors, email Jia-Yee Tang or Jennifer Cohen as soon as possible, however, **please do not request any scheduling changes.**

For Levels 1A, 1B, 1C

The entire exam will be given by the judge, including aural skills and performance of 2 pieces.

There is no written exam at these levels.

For Level 2

The entire exam will be given by the judge, including aural skills and performance of 2 pieces. There is a written exam that students will take in a separate Writing/Aural Skills room.

For levels 3-12

Students will be taking 3 separate exams:

1. **Keyboard Skills** – this is the only part that will be given by a judge: Sight Playing, Sight Rhythm (levels 3-10), Harmonization, Transposition, and Melody Playback (levels 3-6).
2. **Aural Skills** – are again pre-recorded on iPods. Each iPod is provided with earbuds that are wiped down after each use. ***However, students are encouraged to bring in their own earbuds/headsets as with heavy use, the earbuds break down easily.*** There will be monitors at the aural skills station to help students get started and to provide any assistance, especially for younger students.
3. **Written Exam**

Transposition Piece for levels 4-12 - examples from Karen Roger’s AIM Workbooks are allowed as long as students bring in their own purchased copy of the entire workbook. Single pages from the workbook or photocopy of transposition examples from the workbooks are not acceptable.

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AIM NEWS (continued)

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Aural Skills and Written Exams will be taken in a separate room.

To help prepare students to take the aural skills exam in the pre-recorded iPod format, students in levels 3-12 are strongly encouraged to take the sample test that Jia-Yee Tang and Jennifer Cohen has recorded. These are the actual aural exams from the 2014 AIM Syllabus sample tests and are available on the NSMTA website.

To access the sample aural exams, go to the AIM page and scroll down past the AIM THEORY exam dates. Following the paragraph “NSMTA members Jennifer Cohen and Jia-Yee Tang created mp3 recordings...” click on the link [AIM Aural Skills](#). This will take you to a separate page with all the aural examples for each level from 3-12.

Once on this page, you can either have students take the exam directly from the website or download the files as .mp3 to the teacher or student’s computer.

REMINDER:

Repertoire substitution request deadline is January 15, 2018. Email requests to Stephanie Myers, hisamimyrs@gmail.com with scanned copies for 1st and last page of the piece. Be sure write what level the request is being made.

Repertoire approval for Level 12 exams are due at least 5 months prior to exam/recital. Email requests to Stephanie Myers, hisamimyrs@gmail.com Be sure to include syllabus pages for all repertoire that is listed in the syllabus. For repertoire not listed in the syllabus, you will need to obtain repertoire substitution approval by January 15, 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact either

Jennifer Cohen at Jicohen1@aol.com or
Jia-Yee Tang at jiayeetang@gmail.com.

Jennifer Cohen, AIM chairperson

January 22 Pre-meeting: Nancy DeHaven Using Evernote In Your Studio (and beyond!)



Nancy first downloaded Evernote on to her laptop and mobile devices in 2012. She had heard it was *amazing*, and she wanted some *amazing* in her life. She opened it up on her iPhone. She stared at it for a few minutes. She closed it back up. And there it sat, unused for the next two years. But time passed, and she eventually decided to give it another chance. She bought an eBook about how she might use it, and decided to try some of the things the author suggested. And that opened the floodgates. Now she and Evernote are virtually inseparable — student assignment pages and lesson notes, repertoire lists, links to videos, student attendance, meeting reminders...much of her studio records are managed through Evernote. But then, much of her *life* is managed through Evernote: grocery lists, sermon notes, family birthdays, articles clipped from the web to read later, reminders such as when the furnace filter needs changing...

In this very brief session, Nancy hopes to show you some of the many uses of Evernote, in hopes that it may help you to run your studio and/or your life a little more efficiently.

Nancy DeHaven has been an active musician in the Chicago area since...well, for a very long time. She grew up on the North Shore, and hoped to escape to the east coast (where she was born and where both sides of her family had always lived) when she turned eighteen. Alas, the Great Eastern Escape never happened. She received her Bachelor's degree in music from DePaul University while commuting from Evanston, and never left the area. Directly out of college and needing to pay bills, she took a secretarial job at a local insurance company and did music on the side. A few evening classes and a lot of hard work helped her soon become a computer programmer, which she did for several years, all the time still doing music on the side: some piano teaching, some composing, and lots of gigging (Staff pianist at Nordstrom Department Store, lots of private parties as solo pianist and with a small combo, children's choir director, worship leader, etc.). Corporate "right-sizing" and a decent severance package helped give her the nudge into being a full-time musician in 1994. She is very grateful that she lost her computer programming gig so very long ago.

Ms. DeHaven tries to keep her nerd credentials current by learning about website programming, editing a weekly podcast (currently about 5,000 subscribers) for download and broadcast over an Orthodox Christian Internet radio station, working on the family genealogy, and teaching herself Ancient Greek and Latin.

Dear Colleague,

If you have high school pianists considering a career in music, I hope you might take a moment to consider all that Missouri Western has to offer:

- in-state tuition for residents of AK, IA, IL, KS, KY, NE, OK, TN
- substantial music scholarships available
- \$1,000s available for students with ACT scores of 20+

In addition, our piano program prepares students for successful careers:

- our students have received fellowships at Eastman, Indiana, Manhattan, others
- extensive training in pedagogy and entrepreneurship
- teach and earn money through our Community Program, while in school
- funding for student national/international performances & presentations

I would be happy to answer any questions, and am available for free lessons on campus visits.

Students interested in university scholarships should apply before February 1st:

<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/admissions/>

Our audition days are listed here:

<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/music/>

Thank you for your attention, and all best wishes for 2018!

nathanael

Nathanael May, DMA

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Missouri Western State University

