
The Score

Jia-Yee Tang, Editor

The Newsletter of the NSMTA

January 2010

From Our President . . .

Happy New Year! I hope you were all able to enjoy some relaxing time with family and friends. While the thought of traveling to a warm place sounds appealing during this time of the year, I find that the best winter breaks for our family is when we make as few plans as possible and stay home, cooking together, reading or watching a good movie by a roaring fire! Although I could use another week, or even a few more days, I feel ready for the challenges and rewards that the New Year will bring.

As in the past, the January meeting will be a home meeting at the home of Mary Beth Molenaar. I especially enjoy these meetings because we have no real agenda or program. It gives our members a chance to discuss any issues or share ideas with each other in a warm, inviting and casual setting. Please consider attending this meeting and share your ideas or pose your questions.

As we approach the mid year point and nearing the end of my term as president, I am thankful to all of you that have volunteered your time and talents to our organization. We are seeing two wonderful technological tools being implemented this year. The first is the trial use of the iPod for the aural portion of the AIM Theory Exam, which will be used at the Northwestern location only this year. I want to give our sincerest appreciation and acknowledgment to Kristin Elgersma for the many hours that it took to record all the aural portion of the exam for levels 3-12. Sample exams of each level is also on our website for teacher and student practice. The second is the use of online registration for the upcoming Sonatina Festival. I want to thank all of you who have embraced the use of technology and especially to Eric Sutz, who has pushed me and others to always look ahead. I am again in awe of what technology has to offer. Yes, I have to ask my children and students to help me with tasks that seem so simple to them. But then, if I don't ask, I don't learn, and I don't grow with the future.

I wish all of you good health and prosperity in the New Year!

Jennifer Cohen
NSMTA President

Upcoming Dates and Events

Jan 17	AIM Theory Exam (Both Locations)
Jan 24	AIM Theory Exam (Both Locations)
Jan 25	<u>Home Meeting</u> Starting topic - "Pressured Students and Pressured Teachers."
Feb 21	Sonata-Sonatina Festival 9:00-4:00p Music Institute of Chicago 300 Green Bay Road, Winnetka
Feb 22	<u>Business Meeting and Program</u> Wendy Unrath: Yoga at the Piano - using our bodies more efficiently at the piano

January Home Meeting – Monday 1/25/10

Location: Mary Beth Molenaar's Home
3550 Grove St
Evanston, IL 60203

9:30 Coffee & Music Exchange

**E-mail Mary Beth if you would like to bring a treat to go with our coffee and tea.

Bring extra music that you'd like to give away or sell.

10:00 Discussion

Topic - "Pressured students and pressured teachers." - The overextended student and the overextended teacher. The discussion is open to any and all topics.

DIRECTIONS

From Golf Rd

- South on East Prairie
- Pass the light at Church Street
- 3 blocks - turn Right (going West) on Grove Street.
- 4th house on the right - a blue and white cape cod
- Street parking is fine

From Dempster

- North on East Prairie
- 5 very short blocks.
- Turn left (going West) on Grove Street.

In This Issue:

- AIM Performance Meeting Info
- Mozart Mini Master Class
- Music Instruments Needed
- List of New Members
- Evanston Symphony Orchestra Concert
- Free Online Resources for Teachers

AIM – Performance Exams

The Theory Examinations are well under way with the Northwestern site inaugurating new innovations in testing that should help save valuable testing time. Many thanks to Kristin Elgersma for undertaking recording the aural skills portion of the exam as well as some practice files on our website. These files are available for free download on the website. January 17 and 24 are the remaining testing dates. We must remind all of our teachers that this program can only hum along with all of your help. Please do make it a priority to be at your designated testing assignment. A big thank you in advance to all of our committee heads and teachers who help to make this program a success. The rise in enrollment over the last several years is a testament to its success.

The AIM Workbooks are sold at many meetings as well as through the ISMTA website, ismta.org. These are copy written protected materials that need to be purchased individually for every student. There may be some confusion with teachers over this important distinction. Only ONE syllabus per teacher needs to be purchased, but if you choose to use the AIM workbooks, no copying is legal. If you have any questions over this point, please feel free to contact Bev or Debbie for further clarification.

March 8, 2010 marks the Performance Enrollment Form deadline as well as the Performance Judge's Meeting. Marlene Chatain will graciously host our teachers once again at her home at 9:30 am. Many thanks to Marlene for her hospitality through the last several years as well as her dedication at the State level to editing our theory exams. Her contribution is very appreciated. Level I and II students may test at any date throughout the year, so there is still time to consider entering elementary students this year in AIM. We welcome new participation!

Debbie Gillette and Beverly Sheridan

Mozart Mini Master Class

How about that for a tongue twister! (Good thing this session wasn't scheduled in March.)

If you have a student who would like to play Mozart in our April 26th Mini-Master class, please contact Mary Beth now. We are looking for one or two students (depending on repertoire and length) as the focal point of a workshop by Ludmila Lazar of Roosevelt University.

Your student would need to be available during the 11:00-12:00 hour on Monday April 26th. (Think home school students or students who can afford to miss a bit of school.)

Mary Beth Molenaar
847-676-2060
m-molenaar@northwestern.edu

Musical Instruments Needed

The Music Department of the Waukegan Public Schools needs instruments for the excellent programs in orchestra and band offered to children from the lower grades through high school. Many children who wish to participate do not have access to instruments. Please help us help them.

Do you have an unused instrument you would consider donating? Contributions are tax deductible and will be acknowledged by the Office of the Superintendent of the Waukegan Public Schools.

To obtain more information or to arrange a pickup, please call 847-295-5599. If no answer, please leave a message for Pat.

New NSMTA Members (as of November 2009)

Teresa Egan, Piano & Voice -- new collegiate member
3214 Harrison St.
Evanston, IL 60201
720/296-1702
theresalegan@yahoo.com

Jaclyn T. Rada, Piano -- new member
927 W. Newport Ave. #2
Chicago, IL 60657
630/222-3287
jaclyn.t.rada@gmail.com

Francesca Ann Ratner, Piano - new collegiate member
898 Bromley Pl.
Northbrook, IL 60602
847/668-3307
francesca.ratner@gmail.com

Free Online Resources for Teachers

Compiled by Karen Koch – kk@musicmarket.com
www.musicmarket.com

<http://www.toddfamily.com/policies/> A comprehensive resource for teaching ideas and studio policies compiles from contributions to the Piano Pedagogy List.

<http://www.claviercompanion.com/> Clavier Companion Magazine is the wonderfully merged combination of Clavier and Keyboard Companion. Many articles are posted online, but a print subscription is definitely worth it.

<http://www.webs.com/> Create a studio website for free.

<http://www.marthabeth.com/pedagogy.html> Martha Beth Lewis, a California teacher, offers a Q & A format. Teacher section includes articles on pedagogy, copyright issues, business practices.

<http://www.smu.edu/totw/toc.htm> Theory on the web from Southern Methodist University. Includes and overview of basic theory, part writing rules, and basic composition all with good sound clips. Also a colorful dictionary of terms.

http://www.kathyabago.com/pianorep/basic_results.php A fabulous reference for selection of 157 intermediate 20th century piano pieces by 57 composers. Searchable database includes many search options such as technique, rhythmic issues, harmonic scheme, level, etc.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/dihtml/divideos.html> Go here to see clips of historical dance styles through the ages—quadrille, bouree, polonaise, minuet, etc. They are classified by musical period.

<http://www.agelesslearner.com> All kinds of motivational information.

<http://www.piano-lessons-master-teachers.com/piano-mastery> Piano Lessons with Master Teachers. The original publication was titled, "Piano Mastery - Talks with Master Pianists and Teachers," written by Harriette Brower in 1915. The work has since gone into the US public domain; a vast resource of vintage works no longer under ownership or copyright.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=95336672> NPR Interview with Oliver Sachs author of Musicophilia on how the brain processes music. 20 minutes long.

<http://www.pianonet.com> National Piano Foundation website has information on choosing a piano, history of the piano, and lesson ideas.

<http://www.karadar.com/Default.htm> Karadar Classical Music World contains vast quantities of information on composers, periods, etc.

<http://pianoeducation.org> The Piano Education Page is a one-stop resource for teachers, students parents sponsored by the West Mesa Music Teachers Association in New Mexico.

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/CrissCrossSetupForm.asp> Create crossword puzzles on any topic. You input the words and clues, and the site will arrange them into a crossword puzzle format that can be printed out. Ideas for puzzle topics: Musical Italian, Composers and their works, Dynamics, Tempos, etc.

Evanston Symphony Orchestra Concert

The Evanston Symphony Orchestra invites you, your music students and their families to our February 7 concert at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall. Eleven trumpets and two tenor tubas join an augmented ESO in the blockbuster Sinfonietta by Janacek, inspired by Czech folk music and village bands. Don Cagen, ESO principal trumpet, will perform Haydn's Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra. Two tuneful favorites, Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis and Scherzo Capriccioso by Dvorak round out this spectacular program. Tickets for the February 7 concert at 2:30 p.m. are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$5 for children over 12. Children 12 and under are always free, making this an excellent value for music students and their families. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.evanstonsymphony.org or call 847-864-8804.

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