

THE SCORE

Dear Friends and colleagues,

As I am writing this the forecast high temperature for next Monday is 58 degrees. Enjoy the taste of spring and join us at our February meeting! Both presentations planned for our February 26th meeting are focusing on the skill of improvisation, which is often an overlooked area of musical training.

Eric Sutz will give the 9:30 AM Pre-Meeting Presentation:

“How to create Jazz Lines for the Classical Teacher”

As we all know Eric is an excellent pianist in both the classical and jazz genre, so he has the experience address this subject from both sides, which will be of great value and interest to all.

Dr. Christina Tio will give the 11:00 AM Program:

“Improv in the Studio: Integrating Basic Improvisation into everyday practice by way of the “Happy Birthday song”

Dr. Tio is a dedicated and brilliant educator, with extensive experience as a presenter, competition adjudicator, and highly successful teacher. Her presentation promises to be illuminating.

Lastly, a couple of reminders:

The Piano Competition will take place on May 5, 2024.

Registration is March 1 through April 15. As always, information is readily available on our wonderful website.

The NSMTA Teachers Recital and Luncheon will take place on June 10, 2024. Last year we had a lovely recital with a variety of repertoire, followed by a delightful lunch, where we enjoyed our delicious lunch, chatted with friends, and met new people. Brush up a favorite piece and join in for a thoroughly enjoyable event!

George Radosavljevic - President

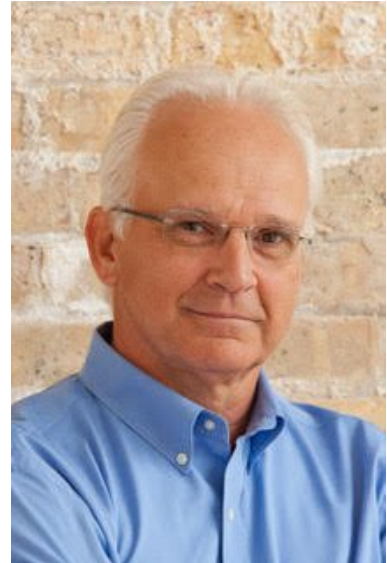


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February Monthly Meeting

February 26, 2024

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

at

Northfield Community Church

400 Wagner Rd

Northfield, IL 60093

Pre-meeting Presentation 9:30-10 am

Presenter: Eric Sutz



Title: [How to create Jazz Lines for the Classical Teacher](#)

Program: I have long wrestled with how to teach a deep and complex subject in a fun and easy way. Well, I have been working on this program idea for several years and I believe I'm ready to do a test run on teachers. I've been using this approach with students for several years and I've seen great results. Please join me for a lot of fun and creativity!

BIOGRAPHY

Eric Sutz graduated with a Bachelor of Music from DePaul University in 1980. While at DePaul he played a wide variety of engagements in addition to teaching piano and guitar. He has been employed as a musician, accompanist, arranger, conductor, and teacher for over 46 years.

From 1981-1993 Eric worked full time as a music director, rehearsal and audition pianist for the Candlelight, Marriott Lincolnshire, Wisdom Bridge and Goodman Theater. Eric also taught music theory at Carmel HS and was the assistant and primary choral director, accompanist, and solo pianist for the European tour of the Concert Choir.

Eric studied classical piano with Eloise Niwa, conducting with Dr. William Huber and Kevin Stites, and jazz studies with Judy Roberts, Howard Levy, Larry Novak, Willie Pickens, John Campbell, Joel Daley, Mike Kocour, and Greg Fishman. He also studied the history and styles of the great Chicago boogie and blues artists with Erwin Helfer. He has been an active member of the NSMTA since 1978. He has presented programs for teachers and schools since 1985. His book: "How to Play and Teach Popular Music Creatively" was first published in 1986 and has had three printings. Eric is a faculty member of the Music Institute of Chicago and has been teaching in his Wheeling, IL home studio since 1984. His hobbies include: martial arts, investing, travel, yoga, self care, scuba-diving, history, natural history and reading.

Main Presentation !1:00 am - 12:00 pm

Presenter: Christina Tio

Program: Repurposing a Party Pleaser: Keyboard Skills, Musicality and...The Happy Birthday Song

This presentation seeks to share strategies of using the "Happy Birthday" song for training the ear, teaching hands-on theoretical concepts and developing an appreciation for basic improvisation. By way of a 7-step process, students of all ages and abilities may be guided to listen, sing, and play the HB song around the Circle of Fifths. The illustrations will also be interspersed with excerpts of lesson videos demonstrating real learning situations, along with sample recordings of creative renditions by students of various playing level.



[Christina Tio](#) earned her piano performing and teaching diplomas, BA (Hons) and MMus in Piano Performance in the United Kingdom at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Reading University respectively, as a student of Frank Wibaut of Royal Academy of Music in London. Her interest in musicology, and the award of a scholarship led her into musicological research with Nicholas Cook, under whose guidance, she completed her PhD in Musicology at the University of Southampton, UK.

First began teaching the piano at age 14, Christina maintained a studio all through her school and college. Before moving to Chicago, she also taught for five years at various colleges and universities in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, including Universiti Malaya (UM), University College Sedaya International (UCSI) and National Academy of Arts (ASWARA).

Dr. Tio has been a regular session presenter. Recent conference presentations include the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) Leadership Retreat in May 2019, Illinois State Music Teacher Association (ISMTA) Conference in November 2019 and a Poster at Music Teacher National Association (MTNA) Virtual Conference 2022. She also presents regularly at local Music Teacher Association monthly meetings, at Naperville Music Teacher Association (NMTA) in October 2019 and March 2022, and North Shore Music Teacher Association (NSMTA) in September 2020. Dr. Tio has also served as a Piano Masterclass clinician at the biennial Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) Teachers Conference in Minneapolis in 2018. She frequently adjudicates at festivals and competitions, and enjoys teaching and mentoring students, parents and fellow teachers at workshops and summer institutes around the US, as well as in Singapore.

Passionate about the Suzuki philosophy, Christina considers Parent Education and Developing Musicality her forte. She enjoys a thriving piano studio characterized by excellence and joy, where music making is appreciated as a lifelong endeavor. Her students frequently receive awards at local, regional, national and international competitions. They also perform extensively in the community at festivals and nursing homes to warm critical acclaim. Prize winnings have also led her students to appearances at SAA Conferences in Minneapolis (2014 to date), Alice Millar Chapel at Northwestern University, IL (2017), Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall (2019, 2021), Merkin Hall in Kaufman Center in New York (2019), Beethoven Haus in Bonn, Germany (2021), as well as MTNA Virtual National Conference (2022). Christina is currently a Suzuki Piano faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago. Aside from in-person lessons and group classes, Christina also teaches online with students in California, Kansas City and Colorado, in the UK and in Singapore. Also a homeschool mom since 2013, she lives in Skokie, IL with her husband and son.

AIM News

With the completion of AIM Level 3-12 Theory Exams, we look ahead to the AIM Level 1-2 Exams in March!

Registration for AIM Level 1-2 Exams ends on **Monday, February 19th**. The schedules will be released shortly after the deadline. Check your email for the notification that the schedules are ready to be sent to your students (via the Member Portal).

AIM Level 1-2 Exams – *In Person Only*

AIM Level 1-2 Exam Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024
 Exam Location: Music Institute of Chicago, Winnetka
 300 Green Bay Rd, Winnetka, IL 60093
 Registration Fee: \$20 per student
 What to Bring: Piano books that have their performance pieces in them.
 Dress Code: None

Please remind all participating families that no changes can be made after the schedule is published. All volunteers and families should block off their schedules at the requested Exam Period indicated on the volunteer/registration form.

Please be sure to review the **2023-24 AIM Packet (pp. 12-13)** for detailed information on the AIM Level 1-2 Exams, including timeline, exam components, and returned exam sheets. AIM Packet is found on our website: <https://www.nsmta.org/aim>

AIM Level 3-12 Performance Exams

Registration Dates: March 11 – March 25, 2024
 Zoom Judges Meeting: March 11, 2024
 Video Submission deadline: Sunday, April 21, 2024
 In Person Exam Dates: Sunday, April 21, 2024 (NU location only)
 Sunday, April 28, 2024 (at both NU and LF locations)

We are working on some new mock judging videos, so please be aware that all teachers entering students for Level 3-12 Performance exams will once again be expected to complete at least one mock exam judging before registering students.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to continued success in AIM!

Jennifer Cohen, LFaim@nsmta.org, AIM chair and Lake Forest Area AIM coordinator
 Jia-Yee Tang, NUaim@nsmta.org, AIM Level 1-2 and Northwestern Area AIM coordinator

2024 Sonata-Sonatina Festival

The 2024 NSMTA Sonata--Sonatina Festival was successfully held on Sunday, February 4, 2024, at the Music Institute of Chicago in Winnetka.

There were 293 students entered, represented by 67 teachers. Congratulations to all students and teachers who participated! Scores are now available for viewing in the Member Portal at nsmta.org. Scoresheets and medals have been distributed to teachers.

Medals were awarded as follows:

Gold:	83	(28%)
Silver:	172	(59%)
Bronze:	29	(10%)
No Medal	0	(0%)
No Score	9	(3%)

We thank the following 16 adjudicators for their expertise and work on behalf of the SSF:

ROOM A: Annie Hsiao & Michael Messer

ROOM B: Adrian Metzger & Pei-I Wang

ROOM C: Kathy Sbarbaro & Grace Trang

ROOM D Chris Goldston & Lisa Mioduszeweski

ROOM E: Junichi Sato & Lynette Zelis

ROOM F: Lam Wong & Helen Chang

ROOM G: Alessandra Odazaki & Haysun Kang

Room H: Grace Koeun Lee & Matthew Mason

Please see the adjudicator's biographies listed below:

The Gold Medal Recitals were held on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 1024 Lake Street in Wilmette, IL 60091. There were 3 programs at 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00 PM. Congratulations to all of the Gold Medal winners who gave fantastic performances!

We would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered their time and efforts to make the SSF run smoothly and successfully.

Special thanks to:

Yeeseon Kwon, Co-Chair, served as liaison to MIC and Trinity United Methodist Church, organized the adjudicators, organized and assigned the volunteer jobs and ran the judges' meeting on the day of the festival. Distributed honorariums and handled finances. Also oversaw the Gold Medal Recitals.

Jennifer Merry, Co-Chair, handled the excel spreadsheets, made lists and signs, contributed articles for the SCORE, corresponded with teachers, and oversaw operations on the day of the festival. Also oversaw the Gold Medal Recitals.

Jason Craft and Jia-Yee Tang handled the festival scheduling, created the Member Portal and registration pages on the NSMTA website, updated the website and handled all of the festival data.

Grace Juang ordered the blue ribbons and medals and oversaw sorting of the medals at MIC.

Jennifer Cohen did the mail merge to produce and print the scoresheets.

Adam Chlastawa and Christina Tio, Gold Medal Recital Chairs, contacted all of the Gold Medal teachers, organized the recital programming, made the programs and oversaw recitals on February 11, 2024.

And everyone else: A big thank you to ALL teacher volunteers who helped to check-in students at the front desk, monitored the rooms, delivered lunches and snacks, and helped with all of the other needed tasks. Special thanks go

out to those teachers who stepped in and did extra work to cover extra tasks as needed.

In summary: Overall, the SSF ran successfully with the help of countless volunteers. We hope that it was an enriching experience for all students and teachers. Thank you to everyone for a terrific event!

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Merry and Yeeseon Kwon, Co-Chairs

NSMTA Sonata-Sonatina 2024 Adjudicator Bios:

Helen Chang earned M.M. (University of Illinois - Urbana) and B.A. (University of Illinois-Chicago) degrees in piano performance. Active in MTNA since 2004, Helen teaches at her independent piano studio in the Northwest Chicagoland and at Harper College Community Music and Arts Center. She has a passion for developing students with comprehensive musical skills and appreciation for music.

Christopher Goldston is published by Alfred Music and FJH Music Company, and in 2021, launched Goldston Music, dedicated to publication and promotion of compositions by Christopher and Margaret Goldston. Christopher has been the national coordinator for the MTNA Composition Competition since 2010, and recently served as MTNA National Secretary-Treasurer. www.chrisgoldston.com.

Annie Hsiao received her Doctor of Music degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Northwestern University. Her research included rhythmic analysis in Russian piano etudes, flexibility of tempo rubato, and Lisztian piano technique. She currently teaches private and group lessons in the Music Academy and keyboard skills classes at Northwestern University.

Dr. Haysun Kang is associate professor of piano at Loyola University Chicago. She has appeared extensively in solo recitals, chamber music concerts, and as soloist with orchestras at the Carnegie Hall, Kaufman Center of New York, Preston Bradley Hall of Chicago Cultural Center, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Teatro de la Paz in Mexico, and Fryderyk Chopin University Concert Hall in Poland.

Koeun Grace Lee, a versatile South Korean artist, holds a D.M.A. in Piano Performance from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. A dedicated performer and educator, Dr. Lee released her album, "Variations on a Theme by Stefan Wolpe and Other Selected Piano Works," in 2023. She received a 2022 Steinway Top Teacher Award.

Matt Mason is a pianist, composer, and educator currently serving as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Musicianship at Roosevelt University. He holds a Ph.D. in Music Composition & Theory from the University of Iowa. Matt is also the founder and pianist of the New Third Space Ensemble.

Pianist **Michael Messer** performs music in a wide spectrum of styles and enjoys presenting audiences with less familiar works while bringing fresh interpretations to the classic repertoire. Messer completed a doctorate in music at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 2021 and has taught piano at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music since 2018.

Adrian Metzger teaches piano at Concordia University. He holds a bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University and a master's degree from Roosevelt University. He performed nationally with the Oakton Six Piano Ensemble and locally recorded a solo album. Adrian was a winner of the Chicago Union League piano competition.

Lisa Mioduszewski is a pianist, pedagogue, and adjudicator in the Chicagoland area. She completed her master's degree in piano performance at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

Alessandra Odazaki Rodriguez, a Brazilian educator and performer in Chicago, serves as a membership and AIM Theory chair at CAMTA. She teaches at Merit School of Music, DePaul Community Division, and runs a private studio. Her research centers on piano music by black Brazilian composers in the 19th century.

Junichi Steven Sato is an active piano and theory instructor in Chicagoland and has been adjudicating the NSMTA SSF since 2005. He is very happy for the opportunity to hear these talented young students!

Kathlyn Sbarboro, NCTM, teaches group and private lessons at Harper College, where she also serves as the Piano Program Coordinator for the Harper Community Music and Art Center. Ms. Sbarboro also teaches Music Together classes, runs her own piano studio, and frequently judges piano festivals and competitions.

Grace Trang holds a Licentiate of Music from the Royal Schools of Music, Bachelor of Music from Concordia University Chicago, and master's degree from Western Illinois University. She is on the music faculty of Illinois Central College. She is currently first vice president of PAMTA, and Senior Competitions Coordinator for ISMTA.

Dr. Pei-I Wang is Assistant Professor of Music and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. She is a frequent adjudicator, performer, presenter, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Illinois State Music Teachers Association. Wang teaches piano at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan during the summer.

Lam Wong is an accomplished pianist and educator. He has appeared in numerous music festivals and concert venues across America and Asia as a soloist and chamber musician. He currently serves as the Coordinator of Piano Pedagogy Courses at Northwestern University, and he is an active presenter and sought-after adjudicator.

Lynette Zelis is the owner of Noteable Notes Music Academy in Wheaton and Bloomingdale, and an adjunct faculty member of Wheaton College. She is a former board member of MTNA and past president of ISMTA. Lynette received her BM & MM, & MA degrees from Hope College and NIU in piano performance and pedagogy.

NSMTA Piano Competition

Registration will open March 1st, 2024 through April 15th, 2024.

www.nsmta.org/competition

2024 Piano Competition Repertoire

Primary

Tchaikovsky - "Song of the Lark" Op. 39 No. 22. From Album for the Young, Op.39

Kabalevsky - Prelude in g minor. In "Easy Classics to Moderns": Music for Millions vol. 17, edited by Denes Agay

Elementary

Burgmüller - "Berceuse", Op. 109, No. 7. From 18 Characteristic Studies Op 109

Bartok - Romanian Dance #1 from Romanian Folk Dances, Sz. 56

Junior

Chopin - Nocturne in g minor Op. 37#1

Prokofiev - Prelude in C major, Op. 12#7.

Senior

Schumann - "Des Abends" from Fantasiestücke, Op. 12

Bach - Italian Concerto, BWV 971, 3rd movement: Presto

MTNA Elections for East Central Division Director-Elect: *Please Vote!*

Yeeseon Kwon, a longtime NSMTA member and Immediate-Past President of ISMTA, is on the slate for East Central Division Director-Elect. East Central Division represents Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan. Division Directors serve on the MTNA board of directors.



[MTNA Elections – Click to Vote.](#)

- You will need your MTNA Membership Number which was sent to you from MTNA with the election reminder.
 - Search your email inbox for an invitation to vote, or go to MTNA's website, search for the keyword "elections," and you'll easily find the election page.
 - You can also email info@ismta.org to request your MTNA member number.

CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF NSMTA !

Members and members with guests are invited to perform at the annual NSMTA Teachers' Recital and Luncheon on Monday, June 10. Solos, chamber music, original compositions are all welcome. The Luncheon immediately following the Recital will be catered, the cost usually ranging from \$15.00 to \$20.00.

Please consider attending as a performer and/or an audience member, to join in celebrating our good fortune in being able to belong to NSMTA and the benefits that are given to us through it.

I am including two programs from past years as information if you have not been able to perform or attend. 50 folks and more in attendance this June could be one way to honor the teachers who considered it important to found NSMTA, as we are the benefactors of their commitment to teaching and performing.

We are fortunate to have in our Archives a copy of the first Yearbook issued, from 1974-75. Agnes Anderson was the President, and also Chairman of Plateaus of Progress and the Yearbook. Ellenore Bonebrake was the Certification Chairman, as well as Chairman of Recitals.

Congratulations with gratitude to Ellenore Bonebrake, Lynd Corley, and Barbara Kreader, current members of NSMTA, whose names I found included in what seems to be a total of fifty or more teachers listed as original members. Please inform me if I missed a name, many of which are added by hand to printed pages. Each of you are an inspiration and we thank you for your outstanding commitment to the support of NSMTA.

More information will follow. It is a time to celebrate!

Marlene Chatain

NORTH SHORE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL SPRING RECITAL

June 13, 2022, 10:30 am
St. James Lutheran Church
Lake Forest, IL

Sunshine Rag from "Sunshine, Eight Cool Pieces" Ann Surace	Ron Surace
Waltz Opus 64, No.2 Tamara Dominguez	Chopin
Paganini Variations Jing Chang	Liszt/F.Say/Chang
Etude Op. 25, No. 7 John Ford	Chopin
Almost Like Being In Love Lil Darlin Eric Sutz	Lerner/Loewe Hefti
Waltz Op. 69, No. 2 Prelude Op. 33, No. 9 Beatriz Levi	Chopin Bortkiewicz
Desperate Measures Heidi Mayer	Muczynski
Don't Get Around Much Any More Ron Surace and Eric Sutz	Ellington

NORTH SHORE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL SPRING RECITAL

June 12, 2023, 10:30 am
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 Wilmette, IL

Partita on Aria Sebalдина Kirstin Synnestvedt, Piano	Johann Pachelbel
Get Ready – Seven Short Performance Pieces Keep Your Eye on the Chicken Dedicated to Tommy Clueless	Ron Surace
Sunshine – Eight Cool Piano Pieces Ballad Sunshine Rag Ann Surace, Piano	Ron Surace
Simple Gifts John Ford, Chris Morrow, George Radosavljevic, Piano	arr. Chris Morrow
Silent Noon Lindsey Baer, Voice and Piano	Ralph Vaughan Williams
Sonetto 104 del Petrarch George Radosavljevic, Piano	Franz Liszt
Kaleidoscope Mayo (An Irish County) Christopher Buckler, Flute John Ford, Piano	John Ford



Make Your Voice Heard and Nominate NSMTA's Member of the Year 2024!

If you haven't done so already, please vote at <https://forms.gle/wF7Nyz4whLTmsnfT6> and nominate the member you feel has contributed significantly to our group. You also have the option of nominating two! Please complete the form no later than March 5, 2024.

NSMTA Welcomes New Members in 2024

Alexander Djordjevic, Jung Hwang, Susan Merdinger, Rachel Silverman Barlow, Qiyun Dai and Eugenia Jeong!

Please attend and enjoy becoming involved in the business meeting, learn from our outstanding programs, enjoy the camaraderie of fellow dynamic piano teachers, and delicious treats!

We had a brunch on February 12 for new members at Susan Corkum's home. Attendees were Susan, George R, Mary Beth Molenaar, Heidi Mayer, Karen Tobias, Kathleen Logan, Shihui Yin and Ellena Chen. Sorry, we should have taken photos before Shihui and George left!

The top photo in order: Ellena, Mary Beth, Kathleen, Karen and Heidi.

