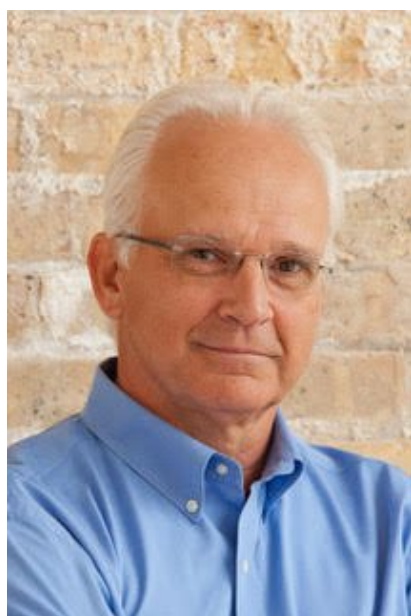


NSMTA



North Shore Music Teachers' Association



George Radosavljevic, President

Dear friends and colleagues,

Celebrate the first day of spring by joining us for our March meeting.

We have two distinguished presenters scheduled - their insightful and interesting information will clearly be of great value to all of us, as well as for our students.

Our Pre-Meeting Presentation will be provided by Lam Wong:
Demystifying Sight-Reading: What Scientific Research Tells Us About Reading Fluency

At 11:00 we will welcome Ann Surace for our main program:
Stress-Free Performance Through Intelligent Preparation (A Pianist's Checklist)

The nominating committee is hard at work preparing a slate of excellent candidates for our upcoming board election.

Join us in person or by Zoom to hear firsthand updates about all our ongoing endeavors, meet old and new friends, and enjoy the wonderful presentations.

****Please note the March meeting has been moved up to the 3rd Monday in March to avoid conflict with the MTNA conference in Reno.**

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NSMTA Monthly meeting will be

March 20, 2023
from
9:30 am - 12:00 pm
at
Northfield Community Church
400 Wagner Road
Northfield, IL
60093

Pre-Meeting Presentation - Lam Wong



Demystifying Sight-Reading: What Scientific Research Tells Us About Reading Fluency

Sight-reading is the skill that fulfills a significant need for pianists but is overlooked by many teachers and traditional training programs. Its acquisition seems to be a mystery to many students, including some professionals.

This presentation will provide a framework to understand sight-reading from a scientific point of view by studying a sample of important research conducted in

the past decades. Some generally used terminology related to sight-reading will be introduced, followed by a consideration of the research process and an examination of the results.

Concepts such as eye movement, pattern recognition, and the correlation between them will be discussed in detail, as well as how other metrics such as eye-hand span, predictive ability, psychomotor speed, and cognitive and behavioral processes all play an important role as indicators and predictors of a good sight-reader.

We will also assess selected musical excerpts through the lens of sight-playing, looking specifically at how one's theoretical knowledge of and familiarity with certain types of notation affect sight-reading capacity. Lastly, we will discuss practical strategies and methodology for developing and enhancing sight-reading fluency in advanced-level pianists.

Bio

Known for "great imagination and extraordinary musicality" (Shantou Daily) in his playing, classical pianist Lam Wong made his debut with *Liszt: 12 Études d'exécution transcendante* at the age of fourteen. He has since appeared in numerous festivals and concert venues in Asia and North America. He has also worked with distinguished artists Marc-André Hamelin, Mikhail Voskresensky, and performed in master classes of Boris Berman, Richard Goode, Robert Levin, Nelita True, and Arie Vardi. He is also the winner of the Thaviu-Isaak Piano Competition, Lillian Fuchs Competition, Dover Competition, and finalist of MTNA Chamber Music Competition. As an avid chamber musician, Wong performed in chamber music festivals, including Sarasota Music Festival, Ravinia Festival Steans Music Institute, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Manchester Music Festival, and Aspen Music Festival. His recent chamber performance can be heard on the radio station WFMT in Chicago.

Wong maintains a wide range of research interests in topics ranging from performance practice to piano pedagogy. As an active member and presenter, he has held sessions at state and national conferences. His recent presentations include a research topic on Beethoven's Manuscript at the Illinois State Music Teacher Association (ISMTA) Conference (2022), a study on Piano Four-Hand Repertory at the Music Teacher National Association (MTNA) Virtual Conference (2021), and a pedagogical topic on Developing Sight-Reading Fluency at the ISMTA Conference (2019).

As the Coordinator of Piano Pedagogy Courses, Wong currently teaches undergraduate and graduate piano pedagogy courses at Northwestern Bienen School of Music. In addition to his teaching duties at the University, he is also on the faculty of the Northwestern Music Academy, offering private and group lessons. His teaching experience includes working with students of all ages and levels while on the faculties of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and Music Conservatory of Illinois. He frequently adjudicates at local festivals, competitions, and standardized exams. His students have won regional piano competitions and scholarship auditions, earned high honors and distinctions in standardized exams, and been accepted into some of the country's finest music schools to study music.

Wong holds a bachelor's degree from Manhattan School of Music, and a master's from Yale School of Music. He is currently pursuing Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance and pedagogy at Northwestern University, studying with James Giles. His previous teachers include Hung-Kuan Chen, Christopher Elton, Peter Frankl, and Marc Silverman. As a piano performance and pedagogy dual major, he also works closely with the Former Director of Piano Pedagogy, Dr. Marcia Bosits, at Northwestern University.



Main Presentation - Ann Surace

Title: Stress-Free Performance Through Intelligent Preparation
(A Pianist's Checklist)

The miserable truth is that Insecurity and Fear of Failure can immobilize a would-be recitalist. He/she is doomed to join the thousands (perhaps millions) who "don't perform anymore." A proven procedure can enable pianists who "used to perform" to return with confidence and joy to their first love--self-expression through musical performance.

Ann Surace has devised a checklist with workable solutions that have been used by middle-aged teachers, college students, and pre-college students preparing for contests and recitals.

Ann Surace Biography

Ann Surace is a piano instructor at the Music Institute of Chicago at Lake Forest and Director of Music/Organist at Christ the King Anglican Church in Evanston.

She holds a MM in piano performance from Northwestern University where she studied with Gui Mombaerts and taught in the preparatory department under Guy Duckworth. Her BM in performance is from St. Olaf College under Charlotte Donhowe. There she minored in violin and was principle first violin in the college orchestra.

Her musical background is enriched by many years of study in violin, clarinet, organ and voice, with experience in orchestral, chamber, and church music. She was soprano soloist in countless oratorios and sang the role of Alice in her husband's chamber opera, "Wonderland."

Her teaching career began in her mother's piano studio at age 13. After college she taught on the faculties of St. Olaf College, the U of Cincinnati College Conservatory, and Jacksonville State University: applied piano; pedagogy; theory; and class strings. When her two children were young she taught pre-college piano in her private studio for several years.

Her extensive experience in music competitions started in elementary and high school where she was a Wisconsin State Winner in piano, violin, clarinet, and vocal auditions. As a young adult she won the Farwell Piano Competition and was a finalist in the National Association of Teachers of Singing voice auditions at the graduate level.

Many of her students have won prizes in competitions: several state winners of the AMTA Mason-Hamlin High School Auditions and AMTA Baldwin Competition; NSMTA Sonata Festivals and AIM auditions; and numerous college scholarships in piano and voice.

AIM - March SCORE Article

Thank you to all who attended the AIM Performance Judges meeting on Monday, March 13th! Members can access the meeting recording in the Member Portal, under Resources.

AIM Performance Registration Dates: Friday, March 17 through March 31

How to register:

1. Log in to the Member Portal and click on the **2022-23 AIM Performance Exams** event
2. Click **Register** next to the student's name
3. Fill out the registration form and submit the repertoire information. No payment is required at this time.

AIM Performance Exam Dates

- In Person:
 - April 23 (NU only)
 - April 30 (both locations)
- Remote Video Submission Deadline: April 23, 2023 (by 11:59pm)

Technique sheets with keys circled will be sent to students via email at 8:00am on the Friday prior to the applicable exam date.

Mock Judging Training Session

The mock judging is a requirement that must be completed before teachers can register students for AIM Performance exams.

Why we're doing this: Unlike other music festivals or competitions where outside judges are hired, one of the unique and valuable components of the AIM program is that all participating teachers are expected to serve as judges for each other's students.

While first time participants are asked to observe an experienced judge their first year, we realize that this doesn't necessarily equip teachers with the tools to dig in and judge in an effective way in the following years. *Besides an exam score, all participating students deserve to receive valuable, constructive feedback in a consistent and encouraging manner*, which may be the catalyst that propels students to stay in AIM year after year.

It is our sincere hope that the required mock judging will serve as training sessions to achieve that goal, whether you have never judged before or you are a seasoned judge. Consider this as a professional development opportunity to become better judges and better teachers.

Resources for participating AIM teachers:

- Emails from AIM Coordinators
- Website: www.nsmta.org/aim
- Member Portal: [Login](#)

Submitted by:

Jia-Yee Tang and Jennifer Cohen, AIM coordinators

Website - March 2023 Score Article

The Member Portal is designed to be self-service and customizable. At any time, you can edit your personal information by clicking on your Member Icon in the upper right corner.

- **Account Settings** (your unpublished personal information used only by event coordinators)
- **Find a Teacher profile** (your public listing on the Find a Teacher website)

Members Need to Verify Mailing Addresses

A recent discovery found that **apartment or unit numbers** are missing from Members mailing addresses (in the Account Settings).

In order to correct this omission, you will be prompted to verify your mailing address the next time you log in to the Member Portal. Simply view your address listing and click **VERIFY** if it is correct.

For incorrect listings or missing unit or apartment numbers:

1. Enter the new information (note there's a separate field to type in the Unit number) and click **SAVE**
2. Review the listing and click **VERIFY**

For all edits, it is important to click SAVE first and VERIFY last.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Submitted by:
Jia-Yee Tang
Website Chair

Registration is now open!

The **Piano Competition** is to challenge musicians to go beyond practice and studio recitals. It is an opportunity to perform, compete, learn and improve while engaging with experienced teachers. It is ideal for older students who are interested in an opportunity to strengthen their resume. All students are encouraged to participate!

Registration Dates: March 6 - 27, 2023

Piano Competition Date: May 7, 2023

Location: Music Conservatory of Illinois, 2809 Central St, Evanston, IL

Please visit our website -

www.nsmta.org/competition

For questions about the competition, please contact:

Lindsey Baer lindseypoling@gmail.com

Larry Baer lawrencebaer@gmail.com

Winners' Recital

The NSMTA Winners' Recital is scheduled for Sunday, May 14th, 2023 at 2 p.m.(Mother's Day). Winners of the Piano Competition as well as Scholarship winners are invited to perform.

It will be held in the sanctuary of the Northfield Community Church, 400 Wagner Road, in Northfield.

**Karen Tobias
Winners' Recital Chairman.**

CELEBRATE ANOTHER TEACHING YEAR IN JUNE IN WILMETTE
AT THE TEACHERS' RECITAL AND LUNCHEON

NSMTA members and guests are welcome to perform in and/or attend the Annual Teachers' Recital and Luncheon on Monday, June 12, beginning at 10:30. The location will be in Wilmette at the Trinity United Methodist Church. A catered luncheon is being planned.

Solos and chamber music performed by members or members and guests are welcome. Please notify me by email of the literature that you will perform.

More information will follow. You are welcome to call or write with questions.

Please mark the date for a wonderful social event with beautiful music, special social time with colleagues, and a time of sharing lunch together.

Marlene Chatain

chatainco@att.net

847-475-3635