



# THE SCORE

Dear friends and colleagues,

As I am writing this the temperature outside has risen to a balmy 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Luckily as musicians we always have plenty to do indoors: practice, teach, watch concert videos and on and on.

Next week promises to be quite a bit warmer so it will be a great opportunity to join us at our January meeting. The pre-meeting will be a wonderful four-hand piano recital performed by NSMTA Members, Lam Wong and Nathan Canfield. Their program and impressive bios are easily available on our website.

The 11:00 presentation will be given by Janna Williamson:

Demystifying Memorization: Stop “hoping for the best” and discover what really works.

I am looking forward to starting the New Year with these enjoyable and valuable presentations, I hope to see everyone there!

Happy New Year!

George Radosavljevic, NSMTA President

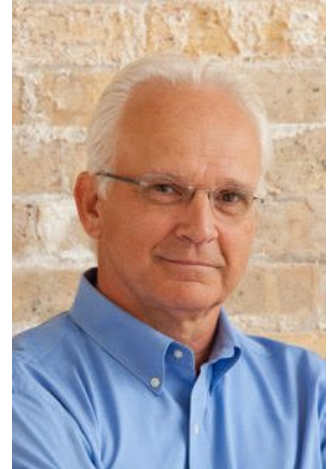


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**January Monthly Meeting**

**January 22, 2024**  
**9:30 am - 12 pm**

**Northfield Community Church**  
**400 Wagner Rd, Northfield, IL 60093**

## 9:30-10:00 Pre-Meeting

### **Four-Hand Piano Recital performed by NSMTA Members, Lam Wong and Nathan Canfield**

#### PROGRAM

#### **Maurice Ravel: Ma mère l'Oye**

I. Pavane de la Belle au bois dormant: Lent

II. Petit Poucet: Très modéré

III. Laideronnette, impératrice des pagodes: Mouvt de marche

IV. Les entretiens de la belle et de la bête: Mouvt de valse très modéré

V. Le jardin féerique: Lent et grave

#### **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: The Sleeping Beauty Suite, op. 66a (arr. Sergei Rachmaninoff)**

I. Introduction. La Fée des Lilas

V. Valse

#### **Greg Anderson: Papageno! (a concert fantasy for piano four-hands)**



Nathan Canfield, Biography

Nathan Canfield serves as a staff pianist at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. An eager collaborator, he cherishes performing with musicians from his native Illinois and beyond, including members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Ravinia's Steans Music Institute. He is also a passionate arranger and transcriber for his instrument. In 2024, he plans to release a debut album featuring his own arrangements of Sergei Rachmaninov's lesser-known works. He is an alumnus of Northwestern University, where he completed a Master of Music degree under the guidance of James Giles.

In addition to performing, Nathan maintains a private piano studio in the North Shore suburbs of Chicago. His special teaching interests include creating original and arranged pedagogical works tailored to each student, as well as organizing joint recitals with other local piano instructors. He has been a member of NSMTA since 2021.



## Lam Wong, Biography

Known for “great imagination and extraordinary musicality” (Shantou Daily), classical pianist Lam Wong debuted with Liszt’s 12 Études d’exécution transcendante at the age of fourteen. He has since appeared in numerous concert venues across Asia and North America and prestigious music festivals, including Ravinia Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Sarasota Music Festival, and Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. He is also the winner of the Thaviu-Isaak Piano Competition, Lillian Fuchs Competition, and Dover Competition.

Wong currently serves as the Coordinator of Piano Pedagogy Courses, teaching undergraduate and graduate piano pedagogy courses at Northwestern University Bienen School of Music. He also gives frequent masterclasses, presentations, workshops, and conference lectures. Wong holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music and Yale School of Music, respectively. He is a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Northwestern University, studying piano performance with James Giles and piano pedagogy with Marcia Bosits.

## 11:00-12:00 Program

**Presenter: Janna Williamson**

**Program: Demystifying Memorization: Stop “hoping for the best” and discover what really works**

**Short Description:** Faced with an upcoming memorized performance, students tend to play through repeatedly, and then, in performance, “hope for the best.” Help your students build their memorization muscles, overcome challenges, and gain new strategies from this presentation.

**Abstract:** When faced with an upcoming memorized performance, most students will practice their piece by playing through over and over, and then, in the moment of performance, “hope for the best.” In this presentation, Janna Williamson will discuss the physiological and psychological realities of the memorization process, including phases of memory (short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term) and types of memory (visual, aural, kinesthetic, and cognitive). The presentation will include over 35 practice techniques for students of any level to strengthen all four types of memory and help students break the play-through habit and instead engage in critical thinking. Janna will empower teachers to help students improve their memorization skills, overcome typical memorization problems, and rebound from memory slips. Specific repertoire examples from the intermediate levels will be used.





## BIOGRAPHY

Pianist Janna Williamson, NCTM, maintains an independent studio in West Chicago, Illinois. She previously taught at the Wheaton Yamaha Music School from 2001-2020 where she also served as Supervisor of Private Lessons. A teacher of teachers, Janna is a Content Creator for TopMusicPro and coaches piano teachers around the world through her online Teacher Consultation service. Her YouTube channel features free pedagogical content, with a particular focus on how to teach intermediate historical repertoire. Janna holds master's and bachelor's degrees in piano performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, and she currently serves as President of the West Suburban Music Teachers Association. Janna and her husband stay active caring for their four children and their 1903 American Foursquare home.

## AIM News

AIM schedules and volunteer assignment details for the Level 3-12 Theory Exams are available in the Member Portal. Several emails with detailed information on how to send schedules to your students and other important items have been sent to all participating AIM teachers. If you have not received these emails, please let Jia-Yee Tang know at [nuaim@nsmta.org](mailto:nuaim@nsmta.org)

Teachers will need to send the email to their students with the schedule details. Then, it is strongly recommended that you verify with all of your students to make sure they have received these emails. As most communications, relaying of information and remote exam files are done via emails, it is very important that all participating teachers and students/parents are receiving emails from us.

Here are a few important reminders:

- Remind your students to review the exam procedures and instructions in their Student Information Sheet, contained as a link and an attachment in the schedule emails received.
- All **In Person** students should bring their own personal device such as cell phone, iPad or tablet with Wi-Fi connectivity, along with own earbuds/headsets to access the online Aural Skills Player to take their aural skills exam.
- Teachers will once again grade their own students' completed Aural Skills and Written exam pages. Informational email on this will be sent after the exams have been completed.

Good luck to all of your students for successful AIM Theory Exams! We anticipate wrapping up the level 3-12 Theory Exams by February 5<sup>th</sup> so that we can look ahead to the AIM level 1-2 Exams.

### AIM Level 1-2 Exams

Registration Dates: February 5 -19, 2024  
Schedules Released: February 26, 2024  
Exam Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024  
Location: Music Institute of Chicago, Winnetka  
Exam Fee: \$20 due at registration

All AIM level 1-2 Exams will be conducted in person. There will be no remote exam option. Registration process is similar to the level 3-12 AIM Theory Exams. Teachers will fill out and submit Volunteer Form before they are able to register students.

Jennifer Cohen, Lake Forest area and Remote Exam coordinator, [LFaim@nsmta.org](mailto:LFaim@nsmta.org)  
Jia-Yee Tang, Northwestern area and AIM 1-2 Exam coordinator, [NUaim@nsmta.org](mailto:NUaim@nsmta.org)

**SONATA-SONATINA FESTIVAL**  
**Sunday, February 4, 2024**  
Music Institute of Chicago  
300 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

We are looking forward to the SSF on Sunday, February 4 with 292 entrants and over 65 teachers registering. Schedules are now available on the Member Portal at [nsmta.org](https://nsmta.org) Teacher volunteer assignments have been sent via e-mail by Yeeseon Kwon—please confirm those times directly with her.

Here are just a few friendly reminders as we approach festival day:

Please remind your students to bring a copy of their music for the judges, with measure numbers indicated at the beginning of each line.

**NO PHOTOCOPIES ARE ALLOWED.** If your student brings an illegal photocopy, they will not receive a score.

For students using legally downloaded computer printed scores, an adult over the age of 18 will be required to sign a Music Release Form. The form will be available to download from the website. Copies will also be available on Festival Day.

Parents should plan to wait in their cars, as this eliminates congestion in the MIC lobby. For very young students who require assistance, parents may help them to check-in.

Scoresheets will be available for pick up between 5:00 and 6:15 PM in the MIC lobby on festival day. Remaining envelopes will be mailed after the festival.

The Gold Medal Recitals will be held on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with programs at 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00 PM, at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 1024 Lake Avenue, Wilmette.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Festival Co-Chairs at [ssf@nsmta.org](mailto:ssf@nsmta.org).

Jennifer Merry and Yeeseon Kwon



## 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