

# Northwest Suburban Music Teachers Association



## Newsletter

March 20, 2017

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### February Minutes

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## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As I am writing this it is the beginning of March and we still have the threat of winter weather. However, there are hopeful signs of spring. We are enjoying more sunny days with warmer temperatures and will be moving our clocks ahead soon. I have even spotted some emerging green shoots from flowering bulbs.

At this point in the school year we piano teachers find ourselves busier than ever. We are preparing students for AIM

performance exams, the awards competition, and spring recitals. We may be juggling our schedules daily to accommodate students who are participating in spring sports and school musicals. While we look forward to spring break, it can also disrupt our schedules since

MTNA NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
Saturday-Wednesday,  
March 18-22, 2017  
Baltimore, MD

PROGRAM:  
IMT (Independent Music  
Teachers)  
"The 21st Century Piano  
Teacher"  
Monday, March 20, 2017  
Rolling Meadows Library  
9:15 A.M. IMT  
(Independent Music  
Teachers) Chat  
9:45 A.M. Meeting

Monday, March 27, 2017  
Deadline: Teachers'  
Musicale

#### APRIL

Saturday, April 8, 2017  
Deadline: Awards  
Competition

TEACHERS' MUSICALE  
Monday, April 10, 2017  
Steinway Gallery of  
Northbrook  
141 Skokie Blvd.,  
Northbrook, 10:00 AM

students from different districts have different weeks off from school. These challenges can raise our stress levels and make it difficult to maintain the motivation and energy that we need to give our best to each student. In March I sometimes feel as if I am running on empty and that the finish line is far down the road!

Fortunately for those of us in NWSMTA this month has brought two great opportunities for boosting our morale. First was the workshop with Peter Mack, who was both funny and inspiring. Those of us who were able to attend came away with some practical teaching suggestions and lists of really interesting and relatively unknown repertoire. Later in March our meeting will feature an Independent Music Teacher presentation by two of our members titled "The 21st Century Piano Teacher." I can't wait to hear how they manage the unique challenges of remote distance teaching and traveling to students' homes for lessons. I think that they will help us to be open to trying new approaches and thinking outside the box.

I am reminded once again how much we benefit professionally by having opportunities to hear lectures by outstanding pedagogues and to exchange ideas with and learn from our colleagues. Many thanks are due to Brenda Buchanan and the Workshop Committee and to our Independent Music Teacher presenters for giving us a great spring tonic! Happy Spring!

Suzanne Murray

### AIM LEVELS 3-9 PERFORMANCE RESULTS



The AIM Performance Levels 3-9 exams were held Sunday, March 12 at Harper College. A total of 184 students participated in the exam.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP  
 Saturday, April 15, 2017  
 Send entries to  
 Pat Borchardt  
 36652 N. Oakwood Dr.,  
 Lake Villa 60046

Monday, April 16, 2017  
 Online Registration:  
 Classical and Pop & Jazz  
 Recital  
 Check must be mailed by  
 April 16th.

AIM JUDGES' MEETING  
 for April Exam  
 Monday, April 17, 2017  
 9:00 A.M. Rolling  
 Meadows Library before  
 the general meeting

PROGRAM:  
 Dr. Mary Beth Molenaar  
 "Girl Scout Tricks - What  
 music teachers can learn  
 about retention from  
 scouting"  
 Monday, April 17, 2017  
 Rolling Meadows Library  
 9:15 A.M. IMT  
 (Independent Music  
 Teachers) Chat  
 9:45 A.M. Meeting



Thank you, Teachers, for your participation in preparing students and helping out the day of the exam! Exams/dictionaries maybe picked up at the home of Helen Grosshans after Tuesday, March 21.

Awards for Level 9 will be available later. Makeup exams are being scheduled and should be completed by March 31. Below are the results of the exam.

	Low	Average	Median	High	# Students Judged
Overall	71.00	92.87	94.50	102.00	184
L09	78.00	93.03	94.75	101.00	15
L08	80.00	92.25	92.25	98.75	17
L07	81.00	94.70	96.50	102.00	24
L06	72.50	89.40	90.25	102.00	42
L05	71.00	94.73	95.50	102.00	33
L04	72.00	92.02	96.25	101.75	22
L03	86.00	95.06	96.00	99.50	31

Vonnie Mrozinski and Helen Grosshans  
 AIM Performance 3-9, co-chairs

## \$1000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



This is the last reminder before the college scholarship deadline which is April 15. If you have a high school senior graduating this year and majoring in music, don't forget to have him/her



apply for the \$1000 college scholarship. Please remember that the student must play 3 different pieces. One from the Baroque Era, one from the Classical Era and one from either the Romantic or Impressionistic Era. Pieces must be memorized.

Teacher of the instrument the student is performing on and majoring in, must be the primary teacher of this student and have been a member of NWSMTA for at least 3 years. All rules, info and application forms are on the website. If you need more info, please call or send an email with college scholarship in the subject line.

Pat Borchardt  
847-356-6016  
pborch@ameritech.net

Thank You,  
Pat

## **MARCH INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS MEETING**

Independent Music Teachers Meeting:  
The 21st Century Piano Teacher

Our meeting on Monday, March 20 promises to be a great one! Two of our NWSMTA teachers, Deb Lynch and Rachel Wojcicki, will present topics of interest to all of us. Deb will give a demonstration of how she is successfully using Skype to teach her twin grandsons in California. Her husband, Terry Goedken, will be on hand for technical support and questions. Rachel Wojcicki is a traveling teacher - she has built a very successful studio in a very short time, and will share tips on how she accomplished that. She will include topics such as Podcasts, Social Media, Advertising, Creating a Website, iPad Apps, and many more.

Plan to be inspired as we learn how to take our studios into the 21st century!

## HOSPITALITY

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*Hospitality*



A get well card was sent to Carol Walgren-Georgas due to her knee replacement.

## FROM THE TREASURER

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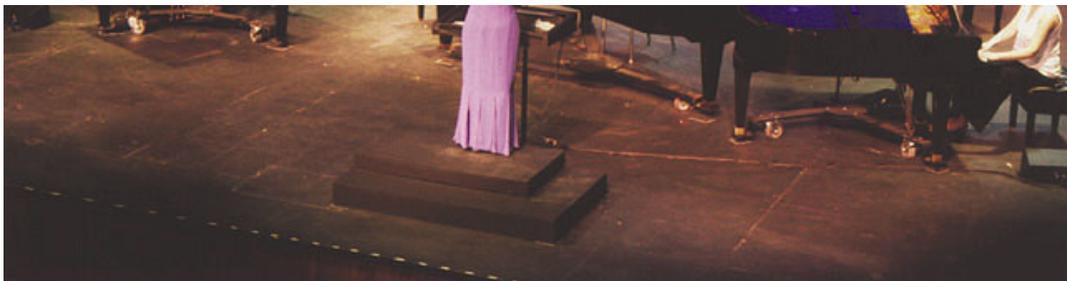
Dear members,

It might take a while for your check to be processed. In the past, it has taken up to two months. So before you close your account or reallocate funds, please make sure any check that you have written to NWSMTA has been cleared. Unfortunately, we have to charge a \$12 for any returned check to cover the bank service fee. Thanks.

## OAKTON SIX PIANO ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

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The Oakton Six Piano Ensemble, under the direction of Conductor Glenna Sprague, will present concerts on Saturday, April 29 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 30 at 3:00 p.m. in the Footlik Theater at Oakton Community College, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines.

The Six Piano Ensemble was formed by Glenna Sprague, Professor and Coordinator of Music at Oakton, where she also teaches piano. Performing at six pianos, the group performs not only traditional classical piano music; but also, symphonic literature as well as ragtime and popular music. The rich, layered sound of the Six Piano Ensemble compares to that of an orchestra, with each member playing a different part of a composition as the melody transfers from pianist to pianist. This year's concerts features "Orchestral Suite No. 2" in B minor by Bach; "Habanera" from New Spanish Dances, Op. 65, No. 3 by Moszkowski; "Malaguena" by Lecuona; "Sonatina in G major, Op. 44, No. 1 by Kuhlau; and "Juba Dance" by R. Nathaniel Dett as well as other selections.

Tickets are \$19 for general admission, \$16 for seniors and students, and \$14 for group rate. For ticket information, call the Oakton Box Office at 847-635-1900 or order tickets online at [www.oakton.edu/tickets](http://www.oakton.edu/tickets). Following each concert, there is a reception.

Widely acknowledged as one of the most unique musical groups in the world, the Oakton Six Piano Ensemble has performed in Europe and the United States, including the 32nd World Conference of the International Society for Music Education (ISME) at the Royale

Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow; the College Music Society International Conference in Vienna, Austria; MTNA National Conferences in Atlanta and Spokane; numerous MTNA state conferences; GP3 Conference at University of Oklahoma, National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy; and the Steinway of Chicago's Community Concert Series.

## **AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

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*The American Guild of Organists*

*Birmingham Chapter*

*P. O. Box 59181*

*Birmingham, AL 35259-9181*

February 24, 2017

Dear Piano Teachers:

Greetings! Our Birmingham Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced (POEA) is June 25-30, 2017 on the beautiful campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. A POEA is for students in grades 9-12 who have achieved a high level of success in organ study. Unlike the regular POE, prospective students must submit an audition recording in order to apply. A POEA provides a unique opportunity for participants to meet and interact with peers who have similar interests.

We are writing to you to learn of students with whom you are familiar who might already be studying organ, have an inclination to pursue organ study, or if you know of other teachers in your area who might have interested high school piano or organ students. Please rest assured that we are not interested in enticing your students away from your studio: as a matter of fact, we stress the importance of organists continuing to study piano even as they learn organ skills.

Our **Discount Deadline for applications is extended to Friday, March 31, 2017**. Interested high school organ students should apply now at [www.bhampoea.org](http://www.bhampoea.org) as the Scholarship Deadline is April 15, 2017.

The artist faculty includes Joby Bell, Lynne Davis, Isabelle Demers, Faythe Freese, Nathan Laube, Bruce Neswick, Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, and guest lecturer, Fred Teardo.

Featured organs include Dobson, Dyer, Holtkamp, Letourneau, Moller, Schlicker, and Walcker.

Highlights of the week will be daily organ lessons with artist faculty; practice time on a variety of pipe organs; workshops and master classes in areas such as pipe organ construction and design, improvisation and organ literature; and Faculty, Rising Star and POEA Student organ recitals.

Registration for our POEA is at [www.bhampoea.org](http://www.bhampoea.org). Our brochure detailing important items students and their parents would be interested in is located at <http://www.birminghamago.org/POEA2017.pdf>. Also, we would appreciate it if you would please announce our POEA to area piano teachers and ask them to help spread the information about this great opportunity.

If you care to send me the email addresses of interested students, we would be most happy to contact them with information on our POEA. Have questions or comments? Please contact me and thank you!

Sincerely,

Faythe Freese, Director, Birmingham POEA

Professor of Organ

University of Alabama

[faythefreese@earthlink.net](mailto:faythefreese@earthlink.net)

205-348-3329

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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To find out more come to the Independent Music Teachers program on Monday, 3/20/17.

Rachel Wojcicki and I will tell all!



Deborah Lynch

Editor