

NWSMTA Agenda for Member Meeting, January 19, 2026

Meeting Location: Rolling Meadows Library.

9:45am Call Meeting to order – President Lois Veenhoven Guderian

Read minutes from November Meeting, 2025 – Recording Secretary, Helen Chang. Mary Anne moved to approve minutes, Marcia Mally second. 15 in house and 6 online. Minutes were approved

Reports from Officers

President: Lois V. Guderian

- **Annual Report Deadline:** Tuesday, January 20 is the deadline for submitting the forms for Annual Reports/Budget Requests for 2025 events. Links are on the NWSMTA website
- **AIM Judges Meeting:** Wednesday, January 21, 9:45 AM is the Judges Meeting for AIM: Levels 3-12 Theory.
- **AIM Theory Exams:** Sunday, January 25, AIM: Levels 3-12 Theory Exams, Harper College.
- **Registration Deadline for MKPC:** Saturday, January 31, Registration Deadline for the *Midwest Keyboard Performers Challenge*. See also the report from Brenda Haynes below under the alphabetic listing of Committees and Events.
- Search for a New Accountant
- Virtual Illinois Music Teachers Association (VILMTA)
- Additional news, business and updates delivered according to where and when they appear in the Agenda below.

First Vice President and Programs Chairperson – Justyna Weirich

- **January Presenters:** Piano-duo Claire Aebersold and Ralph Neiweem.
- “The Joy of Teaching Music for Piano, Four Hands and Two Pianos”**
- **February Water color**
 - **March business only meeting, virtual only**
 - **April-French suites**

Second Vice President and Membership Chairperson: SuZane Ray

A hearty welcome to recent new members: **Monika Boguszewski and Yifang Liu**

Current membership: 116 (two new members since the last meeting)

Recording Secretary

Helen Chang

Treasurer Xin (Cindy) Li

Report

BMO Checking Account: 18,0002.42

Mutual Funds Account: 52,570.84 increase 98.48

COMMITTEE and CHAIR REPORTS

AIM: Achievement in Music – Chairs of Areas and Levels Reports

Theory 3-12 Deadline was December 15 for Theory exams. Registration process went smoothly this year. Reminder emails and constant contacts were sent to teachers for them to get their registrations and fees sent on time. 294 Students were registered and 43 teachers entered students. Greatest number of entrants by level are 4 and 6. Level 12 has 24 students entered. At this point it is impossible to change student appointment times since all Judges and students have their schedules for the whole day. If any high school students are interested to get volunteer or community service hours, they can contact Helen Chang. If volunteering, the hours will have to be after they have completed their own exam. Question asked if the student volunteer is required to be an AIM student. Committee members present were in agreement that since student volunteers would be tasked with room monitoring, they don't have to be an Aim or piano student.

Performance 3-9 Repertoire must be from Syllabus. Deadline for special approval from State Repertoire chair Stephanie Meyers has passed Jan.15th. Students registering for Performance must pass Theory before registering.

Reminders, Updates

1. Judges Meeting: Theory Exam Levels 3-12, January 21, 2026, 9:45 AM Zoom
2. Theory Exam Levels 3-12, January 25, 2026: Harper College

Camp Scholarship: Suyi Su

Certification: Jennifer Cohen (Applications, Education and Renewals)

Classical and Pop and Jazz Recitals (No new news.)

Deadline for Classical Recital Online Registration: Sunday, April 12

Deadline for Pop and Jazz Online Registration: Sunday, April 12

Classical Recital: 1:30 PM, April 26, St Michael's Church in Barrington

Pop and Jazz Recital: 3:30 PM, April 26, St Michael's Church in Barrington

Festival of Pianos: Report from Yoko Amano

30th Festival of Pianos

Dates: February 14 & 15, 2026.

**Location: The Music Institute of Chicago Nichols Concert Hall
1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201**

Registration Deadline Passed (Final Deadline was December 30, 2025)

Rehearsal: February 14, 2026

Performance: February 15, 2026, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The 30th Festival of Pianos will be held on Feb.14 (Saturday Rehearsal) and Feb.15 (Actual Performance) from 12:00pm-4:00pm at Nichols Hall in Evanston. Please be reminded that this most likely will be the very last festival since Yoko is stepping down from the chair position. Please come see us in action at any time on Saturday or Sunday.

Our official registrations have closed; however, we still have empty slots available if you or your students are interested in performing. Please contact Yoko ASAP if interested. Text message to 847-212-7256 is the best way of communication. NWSMTA teachers are welcomed to perform free of charge; however, we ask the students for the participation fee.

Marcia Mally reports that for the piece Resonance by Kevin Olson Dedicated to Joan Drolet is only available as a digital download at Sheetmusicplus.com. Diane Adamek who is an artist designed a special cover and Yoko took it to the printers for a cover. The cover cannot be downloaded from the sheetmusicplus.com website, if interested contact Yoko.

Evanston parking on Chicago Ave limited but parking available nearby. 4 pianos-3 Steinway and one Bosendorfer

Finance/Vision: We currently have an individual who is considering the role of Interim Chair.

Gold Medal Recital Chair: Reinstatement in process. Elena Goptseva has come forward to Chair the recital in 2026.

Group Ticket Sales: Genya Kantorovich

Historian/Hospitality: Mary Hough continued

Jazz Combo Experience: Maureen Flood* & Justyna Weirich
Sunday, June 21, 2026 Father's Day
House of Music & Entertainment at Noon

Luncheon: Marcia Rudin

Marcia is in the process of inquiring & gathering information about sites for the NWSMTA May Luncheon.

Midwest Keyboard Performers Challenge: February 22; registration deadline January 31 Report/Reminder from Brenda Huang

Please register your students via the MKPC link on the NWSMTA website and email Brenda with any questions.

The registration form is a program written by a high school senior. We are streamlining the process to make it as easy and as quick as possible. It will continue to improve for next year.

Directions

- Teachers can add themselves to the drop-down teacher box.
- Students can register themselves as well as teachers registering for students.
- The repertoire search data in the drop box is still not running efficiently but manual input is fine.
- Points will be added by me manually if the repertoire was typed in manually
- Any repertoire is acceptable

Mentor Program: SuZane Ray

Mentors: Helen Grosshans, Deborah Lynch, Marcia Mally, Suzanne Murray, Marie Rutter, Carol Walgren-Georgas

Newsletter: Deborah Lynch

If you have news or information that you would like included in the online Newsletter, please note that it is always due on the 5th of the month. Please send your items to Deb Lynch.

is looking for someone to take over the Newsletter. Newsletter editor don't necessarily need to come to the monthly meetings.

Special thanks to Deb for her ongoing work in providing NWSMTA with our beautiful and informative monthly Newsletters.

Parliamentarian: Mary Anne Block

Pop & Jazz Recital: Chyi-Ling Evans (and Michelle Ho for Classical)

We look forward to welcoming more students who are passionate about performing to participate in the Spring Classical and Pop and Jazz Recitals. The recital will be held on **Sunday, April 26, 2026**, and registration will be open from **February 26 through April 12, 2026**. Please check the NWSMTA website for details.

Publicity: Lily Zhang

Reminder: Please send photos of events to Lily. send the photos to Lily's phone for upload to the website or Facebook.

Sonata-Sonatina Festival – Michelle Ryder-Smith, Jerry Dolins

Gold Medal Recital – Elena Goptseva (new work in process) Committee members please give your input now.

New Google form as a possibility for SSF and Gold Medal recital in 2026 – Deb and Terry Lynch

Teachers Musicale: SuZane Ray

Technology Committee: Chyi-Ling Evans

Virtual Illinois Music Teachers Association (VILMTA) Join free this year. Annual dues in future years, \$10.00. Register for the upcoming Soiree on Friday, January 30, 7:00 PM.

www.vilmta.org

Website/ENews: Maureen Flood

Yearbook: Maureen Flood

ISMTA Special Report/Announcement from Brenda Haynes, ISMTA eCompetition Chair

ISMTA eCompetition 2026 is available to all ISMTA and non-ISMTA member teachers and all students in Illinois.

2 categories: Junior (grades 7-9) and Senior (grades 10-12)

Instruments: Band, String, Voice (all solo entries)

Registration opens on March 16.

Winners receive \$100

More details are on the ISMTA.org website and current dates will be updated there soon.

Please contact Brenda with questions or for more information.

OLD BUSINESS

We continue to seek volunteers to be on the SSF Committee during the 2026-2027 and ongoing.

Reimbursement of dues for retired teachers: Reminder: Members can apply for the funds by way of an online Google form. See the link below.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/1yd6cejH6TmOjUjq39RTyndiRV720ocVUIbxWk9N7il4/edit?usp=drivesdk>

Additional qualifications to be eligible for partial reimbursement of dues include:

Qualifications for eligible applicants:

1. At least 5 years membership with NWSMTA
2. Retired from teaching
3. No students enrolled in student events

Professional Development Scholarships/Grants

Application period closed. Five applications have been submitted and are currently under review by the review team.

Reminder: Job Descriptions Available In Two Ways

Way #1: Available on the website via Google Drive. Way #2: There is an existing page on the NWSMTA website for Job Descriptions. It is located under Home / About US / Job Descriptions. All the positions are listed, and some are linked to job descriptions; however, many are not. The links are to job descriptions stored on Weebly, but it is a good idea to have the job descriptions also on the Google drive and have the website link to them.

NEW Business

1. Recent scam: Suggestions in how to reduce the possibilities of it happening again. One of our members, Joan James, is a technology professional. Joan believes that our public “find a teacher” list might have caused it. Joan suggests possibly providing an input box for users to fill out when they need a teacher nearby, instead of listing all the emails. Then someone can send a response with a teacher referral or two. Joan believes that this approach would require an email address such as [‘findateacher@nwsmta.org’](mailto:findateacher@nwsmta.org) or on that order which can be forwarded to someone. Other option is to set up a Form on the NWSMTA website for teacher inquiries. She has offered to serve NWSMTA by handling the referrals if this would be help our membership. Kathy Sbarboro stated that ISMTA took off personal contact info to the Officers on their website. West Suburban also took off personal contact info as well. Only teachers that wanted their websites and addresses published opted in. Jerry stated that CAMTA does not publish a contact info on their find a teacher site. Naperville uses a Find a teacher coordinator. Marcia Mally motions that NWSMTA pursues ways to limit people from finding teacher’s personal information through the NWSMTA website. Vonnie second. Jerry Dolins states that monthly updates from him always has the option of opting out of contact info from getting published. Unanimously passed

2. Transitional year for Sonata-Sonatina leadership. If you are interested in being on the SSF Transition Committee for 2026 and would like more information, please let Michelle Ryder-Smith or Lois Guderian know.

3. New accountant sought for NWSMTA.

Please continue to check the Yearbook and the Website for upcoming events and registration deadlines for the events.

Marcia Rudin motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lyn Erhgott second.