



# Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

November 2024 Newsletter

[gatewaymusicteachers.org](http://gatewaymusicteachers.org)

## Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends!

It was great to see many of you at the ISMTA annual conference earlier this month. I hope it was as enjoyable and enlightening for each of you as it was for me. And congratulations to Abbey and Gill on a wonderful performance and presentation at the conference!



Dr. Daniel Kuehler's presentation on October 19 about cognitive science and efficiently learning music was successful. See more in the recap below!

We have finally gotten around to publishing the studio tours from last year, so please make sure to find those links on the next page, and thank you again for all who participated.

Please stay warm, have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I'll see you again soon for the December Christmas party!

Joe

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## Upcoming GAE Events

### December 13th

#### *Christmas Party*

Gill will host a get-together at her home for Christmas Caroling! This laid-back event gives us an opportunity to casually make music with friends. We will gather around the piano, take turns playing, and sing festive tunes! There will be refreshments.

## GAE Studio Tours!

Last year, several GAE members participated in providing a tour of their studio with insights into their teaching methods and set-up. Thank you to everyone who participated, and please find the links to each studio tour below.

LeAnn Halvorson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ5QcARDhzI>

Joan Witte: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWk9u50p8Ko>

Deb Meier: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-Yn4rEk550>

Karen Koch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-V1ODiKr2Y8>

## MTNA Professional Certification

It is a great time to take advantage of the MTNA Professional Certification Program!

For information, go to the MTNA website: <http://www.mtnacertification.org/> or contact Gill Cerbin, ISMTA Certification Chair at: [gillcerbin@yahoo.com](mailto:gillcerbin@yahoo.com)

## Job Opportunity as Catholic Music Coordinator

Scott Air Force Base is trying to fill a Catholic Music Coordinator position in Belleville.

The services are held Monday through Thursday from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM and Sunday from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM, with rehearsals to be scheduled and coordinated with the chapel staff and the pay rate will be \$1,275 a month. More information can be found [here](#).

## October Presentation Recap

Dr. Daniel Kuehler's presentation on October 19 about cognitive science and efficiently learning music was a success. It was an insightful and valuable experience for us all! For anyone who wasn't able to make it, a link to his presentation slides can be found [here](#).



## Job Opportunity at Steinway Piano Gallery St. Louis



STEINWAY & SONS

Dear Friends in Music:

We are expanding our staff in Saint Louis to include an additional associate in sales and marketing. The position will offer a career path to someone who would like to represent the world's finest pianos.

I'm asking my friends in the music community to pass this information on to former students or colleagues that might enjoy joining us in this full time position. If you know someone who has the qualifications listed below, please ask them to contact me directly.

- Bachelor of Music in piano performance
- Superior communication skills
- Highly motivated
- Familiarity with web based communication and social media applications

Click the box below for a more detailed list of responsibilities and qualifications.

Sincerely,

**Gerry**

Gerry Malzone  
Steinway Piano Gallery St. Louis  
314-344-1133



October  
2024 GAE Treasurer's Report

<b>Account balance 10/21/2024</b>	\$7,050.69		
	<b>2024-25 Budget</b>	<b>October 2024 2024</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>Memberships</b>	<b>\$190.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>AIM Entry Fees</b>	<b>\$2,115.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Yearbook Ads</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,355.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>AIM Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$1,530.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
AIM Medals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Misc. Supplies	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Pins	\$215.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Printing & Mailing	\$170.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ISMSTA Student Foundation	\$315.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Award Checks	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SWIC Foundation Arts Fund (donation for use of facilities)	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>AIM Syllabus for New Members</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>ISMSTA Foundation Fellow Donation</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Member of the Year Conference Expense</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>President's Conference Expense</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Printing/Mailing</b> (yearbook, newsletter, other besides AIM)	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$10.29</b>	<b>\$10.29</b>
<b>Programs</b> (includes May 2024 McKendree donation for use of recital hall)	<b>\$900.00</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>	<b>\$604.87</b>
<b>Teacher's Assistance Fund</b> (partial dues scholarship for new members and partial reimbursement of first time certification fee)	<b>\$140.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Website Expenses</b>	<b>\$357.87</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$132.92</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,107.87</b>	<b>\$560.29</b>	<b>\$948.08</b>

## ISMTA Conference Recap from Deb Meier

This year I had to ask myself "Is the ISMTA Conference for me?" Currently it looks like I'm phasing out my teaching since I'm down to two students, and I had to wonder if I should even bother with attending the conference. But, I am very glad that I did. Not only did I hear some great concerts, I attended worthwhile sessions that continue to speak to me, and I met some new Illinois teachers that attend regularly but I'd never had conversations with them in the past. I also met one of the Illinois MusicLink teachers that I've corresponded with but didn't personally know. Put this on your list for next year and attend the conference! It was also great to be with our local group; six of us there: Joe, Gill, Abby, Lisa Cripe, LeAnn, and myself.

Here are 2 of the handouts from sessions I attended: [handout 1](#) and [handout 2](#). The Group Piano session had some great ideas if you do any type of group teaching, even if it's only 2-4 times per year which is a great way to cover some AIM Theory and also have performance sessions so that your students get used to performing in front of others. Some teachers do a monthly group lesson, and another teacher has her students come for both a private lesson and a group lesson all in the same week. Another session titled Symphony of Knowledge: AMA (Ask Me Anything) with Illinois Piano Maestros, including [Jennifer Cohen](#), was very informative. If you don't already know 2024 ISMTA Teacher of the Year, [Lynette Zelis](#), she is a go-getter! She has such a passion for teaching and is full of energy. Lynette oversees studios for 24 other music instructors and currently has 3 locations. She has been one of our ISMTA Presidents in past years, and she is a delight to know!

Another thing to know is that the AIM Syllabus Committee has been hard at work. They hope to have the new Repertoire List published and ready for use for the 2025-2026 teaching year. Also on the horizon is a "new level," called "Level 12 Honors." Because some of the teachers have students that complete Level 12 at a younger age, (8th-11th grade), this level is made up of harder repertoire so that the student can keep studying harder pieces. There is no theory to go along with it. If a student wants to learn lots of music, they can even do Level 12 Honors two or three years in a row.

Frederic Chiu, Conference Artist, was back this year. He presented the second of 3 "Classical Smackdown" where composers face off in head to head comparisons with listeners voting for

their favorite composer. Last year the two composers were Mendelssohn and Chopin. This year's concert featured Debussy and Prokofiev. Stay tuned! I'd love to hear the 3rd in the series between Bach vs. Philip Glass! Who knows, maybe Frederic will be featured at another ISMTA Conference.

If you weren't at the conference, you missed another amazing performance of Piano Duets by Female Composers, featuring our own GAE members, Gill Cerbin and Abby Hayden. I loved the program and have heard it twice and I'd love to hear it again. They did a great job!

One more thing: To let you know of the wide variety of topics, some of the others had to do with--Reimagining Piano Instruction for the Young Beginner; Navigating Hypermobility: Assisting Young Pianists with Double-Jointed Fingers; The Evolution of Piano Technique from Beethoven to Liszt: Revisiting the Neglected Exercises of Clementi, Cramer, Hummel, and Czerny (I liked this one! We had to come up with our own fingering for some exercises and then we got to compare them to the composers original fingering, and two students' fingering...showing that fingering is ALWAYS important); Evolutionary Entrepreneurialism: Grow Your Studio One "Yes" At a Time (another good session!); The Perfect Virtual Recital: How to Create Dazzling Student Performance Videos (by Chris Goldston). I hated to miss this but went to hear Gill and Abbey; Worship Service Improvisation Skills for Classical Pianists (This was another one I really enjoyed.); and Shape the Brain!

So many (and there were a few more) that you can't attend everything, but I've noticed there is usually something for everyone! Please consider attending the ISMTA Conference next year at this time. It is so worthwhile and it's bound to charge your battery!

-Debbie

Here also is a fun short video Christ Goldston put together from the conference:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bzsg0vXbNk4>

(As per Chris's request, please refrain from sharing this video outside the GAE group, thanks!)

## News from Members

**Abbey Hayden** played harpsichord with the Belleville Philharmonic on the evening of October 26th at 7:30 at United Methodist in Belleville. She's also playing "celesta" (read: a keyboard with a celesta sound 🎹) with them for their yearly Nutcracker in the weekend of Nov 23/24th.

**Gill Cerbin** and **Abbey Hayden** presented their duet recital at ISMTA the first weekend of November. You can hear their performance [here](#). Well done to them both!



**Dr. Joseph Welch** led the Blackburn Music Showcase on October 25. They had a great crowd for the premiere of the Blackburn Community Choir, and the Blackburn College Choir has already grown so much this semester.

