



Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

September 2024 Newsletter

gatewaymusicteachers.org

Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends!

I hope the start of the academic year has been fulfilling for each of you!

Please keep an eye on our events calendar as we continue making confirmations and updates. Our first event on August 24 was a success and a great chance to start off the year with community, encouragement, and coffee!

I am excited to hear all the amazing ways in which you impact students, teachers, and parents through music this year. And I hope you will join us for Gill and Abbey's presentation on September 27!

Please take care of yourselves, and I hope to see you soon!

Joe

Contents

Upcoming GAE Events

MTNA Professional Certification

Arch Cup Contest

GAE Executive Board Meeting

Thanks from Masterworks Chorale
Children's Chorus

Note from Treasurer

News from Members

Upcoming GAE Events

September 27th

Performance Lecture

A performance and lecture by Gill and Abbey to highlight and represent duets written by female composers. This event will be at Gill's home and will start at 10:00am.

October 19th

Guest Presentation by Daniel Kuehler

[Dr. Kuehler](#) will share what cognitive science can teach us about learning music efficiently and securely. Details on location and timing are TBD and will be sent out when confirmed.

November 1st - 2nd

ISMTA conference at Millikin University in Decatur

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

Arch Cup Contest

Students play one memorized piece for a judge. Each student will receive adjudication comments and a rating (Gold, Silver, or Bronze). Depending on the rating students may receive a trophy, ribbon, or certificate. The contest will take place at Webster University on October 13th, 2024. Applications are due by September 14th. For more information, click [here](#).

Executive Board Meeting

The GAE executive board recently had their annual board meeting to discuss budget, business, and activities for the upcoming academic year. You can read the meeting minutes [here](#). Additionally, we would like to encourage any members who would like to step into a board role for the 2025-2026 term to get in touch. We would love to see some new faces in these positions!

♪♪♪ **Hallelujah!** ♪♪♪
**To our wonderful Singers,
Musicians, Patrons and
Friends,
Thanks for Fifty Glorious
Years!**



After half a century of bringing great choral music to Metro-East, Masterworks is concluding its artistic service to Southern Illinois.

We are deeply grateful to
our benefactors, sponsors, and supporting institutions,
our devoted audiences, and most of all,
to our dedicated directors and performers.
It has been a joy and a privilege to share
the beauty of choral singing with all of you.

After a highly successful 50th jubilee season in 2023-24, including a dynamic performance of Handel's Messiah, the Masterworks Chorale and Children's Chorus of Southern Illinois announces the conclusion of operations. With immense gratitude, we acknowledge our devoted members and our many enthusiastic supporters. We thank those community institutions which have offered support and assistance, especially St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville; St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church, O'Fallon; and the Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville; Southwestern Illinois College; and the Hettenhausen Center for the Arts at McKendree University.

We are especially grateful to the Chorale's two primary conductors for their inspired leadership and musicianship in that 50-year span: Dr. A. Dennis Sparger, founder and director emeritus of Masterworks; and our current conductor for the past fifteen seasons, Dr. Stephen Mager. We also thank the many excellent professional guest soloists and musicians who have performed with us over the years.

We proudly acknowledge our major national and state supporters, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency; and we thank our generous local sponsors and donors for their unwavering support, especially the Art on the Square and the Belleville News Democrat. Finally, we thank our loyal audiences for their support, their applause, and their friendship, which we readily accepted. It's been a great fifty years!

Note From Treasurer

This is just a friendly reminder to send in your MTNA membership dues if you haven't already done so. Last year's count was 23 members and we'd love to see everyone back! If you know of others that may benefit from our group, please invite them to join us or send Joe or myself an email so that we can contact them directly.

News from Members

Vocal student of **Dr. Stephanie Owen** was a paid soprano singer with Rich Thompson's Philharmonic Chorale at St. Peter's Cathedral in Belleville on July 14 to honor Monsignor Braxton's 80th birthday. Her Name is Evangelina Duman.

Amy Jo Sawyer's original compositions for accordion were performed at the International Accordion Festival. GAE member, Amy Jo Sawyer, attended the 83rd annual Accordionists & Teachers Guild Annual Festival held in Kansas City, Missouri, July 23 – 28. Amy Jo is a past president of the organization and continues to be a board member. Four of her original compositions were performed at the event along with her arrangement of "All The Things You Are". They were: RECUERDOS (memories) – Accordion solo, performed by Zach Grindle from Indiana. JUST SWING IT – Accordion duet, performed by Brian Money and Kathleen Grambsch of Canada. STROLLIN' ALONG BLUES – Free Bass Accordion solo, performed by Rebecca Huck from Texas. CARNIVAL – from a Brazilian suite – Accordion orchestra, performed by the ATG Orchestra.



Pictured: Amy Jo with Maureen Jarosh, conductor of the "Jarosh Ensemble" from Canada. The ensemble performed Amy Jo's arrangement of Jerome Kern's "All The Things You Are".



Dr. Joseph Welch, Artist-in-Residence for Opera Edwardsville, was pianist for OE's 2024 Opera in the Park. This year's concert was held at the end of August and the weather was perfect. Several hundred attended the event in Edwardsville City Park to hear selections from grand opera and the golden era of musical theatre.