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GATEWAY ARCH EAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

March 2015

<http://gatewaymusicteachers.org> Illinois State Music Teachers Association

President: LeAnn Halvorson; Vice President/Programs: Mary Anderson; Secretary: Stephanie Owen; Treasurer: Karen Koch



UPCOMING EVENTS (See details in articles)

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| Sat-Wed, Mar 21-25
Fri, Mar 27 | MTNA National Conference at Las Vegas Rio All-Suites Hotel
GAE Meeting 10 AM at Piano Distributors. Program: "Duet Variations" by Dr. Stephanie Owen and Gill Cerbin |
| Sat/Sun Apr 11-2, 18-19
Fri, Apr 24 | AIM Performance Exams, All Levels
GAE, 10 AM at piano Distributors. Meeting "History of stride Piano, Ragtime, and Boogie Woogie" by Stephanie Trick. |
| Fri, May 15 | GAE, 11 AM Business Meeting and Luncheon at Ravanelli's Restaurant, O'Fallon. Elections, Member of Year Selection |

GAE MEETING MARCH 27 IS "DUO"-PURPOSE

Dr. Stephanie Owen and Gill Cerbin will team up to perform "Duet Variations" at the upcoming meeting to be held at Piano Distributors in Fairview Heights. They did a warmup for St Louis Music Teacher groups earlier. (See Tidbits below).

GAE MEETING FEB 20 AT McKENDREE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Joseph Welch's presentation titled "Introducing Collaborative Pieces for Early Advanced Pianists" was a bonanza of information and performances. He shared quotations from several of his former teachers who comprise some of the most respected collaborative pianists today. In stressing the importance of entrepreneurial efforts in the current job market, these quotations all supported the idea that collaborative skills are one way for pianists to achieve gainful employment, whether in church jobs, orchestral reductions, vocal coaching, teaching, or

as part of a band or a community musical effort. To illustrate the point, he and his 16-year-old student Kalei Swogger performed a duo of Faure's "Le Jardin de Dolly". Then Kalei accompanied vocalist Emily Ottwein and a violinist all of whom treated the audience to some beautifully nuanced performances. In support of his interest in developing competent collaborative pianists, Dr. Welch announced his plans for a 3-day summer workshop for high school and above pianists. Detail will be announced soon, but the workshop will be titled "The Business of Being a Pianist".

And yes, a bit of business was conducted at the meeting, namely the approach to handling the departure of Donna Guillaume as website editor. Since her son-in-law has been the web host while she was serving as webmaster, there was discussion of finding a local web host for the website. Joan Witte was asked to pursue some options and Karen Koch agreed to contact Zach, the current host, to determine his thoughts.

It was announced that the joint sponsorship of Dr. Fred Karpoff's technique without tension workshop involving St. Louis MTA, the St. Louis Piano Teachers' Roundtable, GAE and a \$500 donation from the Steinway Gallery will take place at Steinway on Friday, September 11, 2015 from 9 AM to midafternoon. Details about the specific topics will be announced soon.

AIM INFORMATION

Any needed updates after this newsletter goes out will be mailed direct, as this editor will be attending the MTNA National Conference in Las Vegas and thus be out of the loop until shortly before the March 27 meeting. Detail person extraordinaire, Scheduler Joan Witte, will have thing well in hand!

This year's edition of Achievement in Music Theory Exams for Levels 3-12 took place February 14-15. SWIC Theory Scheduler this year is LeAnn Halvorson, and Dr. Huei Li Chin schedules at SIUE. Enrollments have been received from 8 students/4 teachers at SIUE and 57 students from 11 teachers at SWIC. This included three Level 12 students this year. Other levels were 17 for Level 3, 10 for Level 4, 10 for Level 5, 8 for Level 6, 5 for Level 7, 3 for Level 8, 4 for Level 9, 3 for Level 10, 1 for Level 11.

In a related bit of news to apply for next year, Christine Hermanson's online Music Learning Community has announced that they have updated their games to reflect updates for the AIM Syllabus. They have restructured Levels 1A through 7 to reflect the changes, and have added written a aural theory test learning games for Levels 8 and 9. Teachers subscribe to this service, and their students can log on from home with their own username and password. Additional information is available at <http://www.musiclearningcommunity.com> .

SIUE YOUNG PIANISTS COMPETITION (from Dr. Huei Li Chin)

We're excited to announce the SIUE Young Pianists Competition scheduled for April 18, 2015! You may enter students in three divisions, categorized by their ages as of January 1, 2015. Each contestant will perform piano pieces of two contrasting styles and era. Judges will select three winners from each division. Cash prizes are awarded to each winner!

Attached are a poster and competition information. The application deadline is April 4, 2014. For more information, click [here](#).

PIANIST POSITION AVAILABLE (from Dr. Huei Li Chin)

Anyone interested to volunteer to be pianist at Swansea Baptist Church? He/She may call Pastor Wilson Wickiser at 931-623-1492 for more information, if interested.

TIDBITS

Current GAE members **Dr. KRIS PINEDA (piano)**, **EMILY OTTWEIN (voice)** and **AMY JO SAWYER (accordion)** had the honor of appearing in concert on February 28 as two of twenty



Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumni who were invited to perform in the university's first alumni concert.

Students Christine Fink (**GILL CERBIN**) and Lauren Cerbin (**DR. STEPHANIE OWEN**) participated in **Dr JOSEPH WELCH'S** masterclass on March 3rd at McKendree University. Lauren Cerbin sang "Se tum'ami by Parisotti Sunday February 22 with the Alton Philharmonic as the Deborah L Fox Guild award winner and received \$75. She is the voice student of **DR STEPHANIE OWEN. STEPHANIE** and **Gill** also performed for SLAMTA and the Piano Teachers' Roundtable in St. Louis at the Steinway Gallery on Friday the 13th. They played Beethoven's "Ich Denke Dein Variations" and Mendelssohn's "Variations OP. 83.

DR. LINDA PERRY who has retired from SIUE has sent word that she would like to be kept on the newsletter mailing list in order to keep up with GAE activities and the activities of several of her former students. "I am still very active in the Suzuki Association, as editorial consultant and piano collaborator for their revised violin books, but I decided, since I'm not teaching any more, I would drop the MTNA membership."



Judge Barry Morgan, winners Jacob and Jordan Nguyen, instructor **Amy Jo Sawyer** and Judge **Dr. Kris Pineda** are pictured at the Metro South Scott Joplin Piano Competition in St. Louis on Feb 5. Jordan performed "Chevy Chase" by Eubie Blake and won first place in the 11-14 year old division and received a \$75.00 prize. His brother, Jacob, performed "Space Shuffle" by Robin Frost, and won second place in the 15 – 18 year old division receiving \$50.00. The winners performed in a concert on March 8, at 2:00 PM at the Peace United Church of Christ in Webster Groves, MO.

AMY JO SAWYER'S granddaughter in California just gave birth to the Sawyers' first GREAT grandchild, making them now eligible to become GREAT, GREAT GRANDPARENTS! Congratulations to all.

BONUS

It is contest and recital time. Here is a link to a blog by Marcia Vahl, a NCTM teacher in Minnesota, about how to give helpful and interesting comments when judging.
[The Four Elements of a Great Critique](#)

