



# Alaska Music Teachers Association

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.*

6901 Round Tree Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
(907) 346-4565  
Email: [epperson@gci.net](mailto:epperson@gci.net)

***Cynthia A. Epperson, NCTM***

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Dear Anchorage Area AMTA members:

This correspondence is an announcement of the AMTA Adjudications to be held November 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>st</sup> at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church (**NEW**--Elmore and O'Malley) in Anchorage. Our fall adjudicator is Dr. Jody Graves from Eastern Washington University. (See attached bio).

You may either email me at [epperson@gci.net](mailto:epperson@gci.net) (**note new email address**) or call (346-4565) to request your registration packet. The deadline for submission of forms and checks is Friday, **October 16<sup>th</sup>**. Please note the following change: Schedules and other information will be **emailed** Saturday, **October 31<sup>st</sup>**, and ribbons will be given to the teachers by the adjudicator at the time of their adjudications. Please contact me if you would prefer these items to be mailed.

This event is for students who play at the Elementary 3 level or higher. Teachers purchase blocks of time (15 minutes/\$15, 25 minutes/\$25, or 35 minutes/\$35) during which their students perform 2 pieces of contrasting style for an adjudicator to hear and write comments about. One piece should be "recital-ready" and memorized, while the other piece should have all the notes and rhythms learned, but can be "in progress" and needing additional refinement. The adjudicator works with the student at the piano during this mini-lesson and parents and interested parties are welcome to attend. All students receive a ribbon for participation. Adjudicators are chosen for their teaching skills, their musical and pianistic knowledge, and their ability to work with students in a positive and constructive manner.

For teachers who are unfamiliar with the adjudication process, you are welcome to attend and observe free of charge. Please contact me first if you would like to observe. This is a great educational experience for both students and teachers and I hope to see many of you participate.

Cindy Epperson, NCTM  
State and Local Adjudication Chair

### About the Artist

Jody Graves maintains an exciting, diverse and active performing career, and is recognized nationally as a distinguished artist and teacher of piano. Her recital engagements as a soloist and collaborative pianist take her across the United States and abroad. She has performed concerts in Austria, Norway, France, Scotland, Germany, Japan, and in May 2006 toured in the Persian Gulf serving as a Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. State Department. The Middle East Tour, with the Sapphire Trio, included concerts in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The press reviews have called their performances "*exciting...imaginative and compelling.*"

She is in great demand as an adjudicator for piano competitions and festivals. Each season takes her across the country as an MTA clinician, and she has an active schedule each year as a workshop presenter for teachers. Ms. Graves was a presenter at the *National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy 2009*, and has been a presenter and performer at numerous *State and National MTNA* conferences. She has also served as a judge for the *International Piano Competition* at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Dr. Graves also served as a faculty member for the *International Workshops* summer festivals from 1998-2004. Recently she was invited to develop a program for the Eastman School of Music Summer Session titled '*Plays Well With Others*', featuring sessions on collaborative arts performance. She has also authored articles for *American Music Teacher* and *Clavier* magazine.

Ms. Graves completed her third recording project '*Whispers of Light*' in 2007, featuring the music of Edward MacDowell, Rachmaninoff and others. She has performed solo and chamber recitals across the country at university guest artist series and community concert events, and has been a featured performing artist several times on public radio.

Ms. Graves is the pianist with the nationally acclaimed *Sapphire Trio*. They were featured guest artists at the *National MTNA* conference in Seattle 2005, and the *International Clarinet Festival* in Tokyo.

Ms. Graves is especially interested in promoting concert art music, creating unique and contemporary ways to foster a collaborative experience between artist and listener, and is dedicated to maintaining the life of music in our schools and culture. Ms. Graves is recognized for her creative ability to engage the audience during her concerts with anecdotes, historical perspectives, and humor.

Jody Graves holds a Doctorate Degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and her Masters degree from Catholic University in Washington D.C. Her major performance teachers include, Fernando Laires, Jeffrey Kahane, Bela Nagy, Margaret Saunders Ott, and Marilyn Neeley. Dr. Graves is an Associate Professor of Piano at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington and Director of Keyboard Studies.

You can find additional information about the artist at [www.sapphiretrio.com](http://www.sapphiretrio.com)