

**AKTA Board Members  
2009-2010**

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Visit the AKTA website at  
[www.pianoakta.org](http://www.pianoakta.org)



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Deadlines:**

**November 20** - Program information due for Museum Performances

**January 20** - Applications due for Duet Festival (see page 5)

**Special Events:**

**November 14-15** - MTNA Piano Competition

**November 16-20** - AMTA Fall Adjudications at Amazing Grace  
Lutheran Church

**November 20, 9-11 a.m.** - General Meeting and Workshop with  
Dr. Jody Graves (see page 3)

**December 4, 9-11 a.m.** - Board Meeting at Amazing Grace Lutheran  
Church (see below)

**December 6, 13, and 20** - Museum Performances

**February 27, 2010** - Duet Festival (see page 5)

**March 20-24, 2010** - MTNA National Conference, Albuquerque, NM

**May 1, 2010** - Alaska Piano Competition

**May 3-7, 2010** - AMTA Spring Adjudications

**August 13-14, 2010** - AMTA Conference in Sitka with Jennifer Linn  
(see hotel information on page 4)

**Board Meetings:** December 4 at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30 (special meeting, TBA). Unless otherwise noted, meetings are from 9:00-11:00 AM at Chris Kastanopolous, 13810 Mainsail Drive. All members are welcome to attend.

**Special Board Meeting**

All AKTA members are encouraged to attend the **December 4th** meeting from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. The AKTA board will finalize plans for upcoming events and report on current projects. The last portion of the meeting will be a discussion about duet repertoire. Applications will be available for the Duet Festival, and there will be coffee and tea for all!

## **From the President of AKTA:**

The 2009-2010 teaching year has taken off like a team of wild horses!

The AKTA Board has worked diligently to find venues for student and teacher events for the school year. It has been a challenge, but with the Board working together the task has been accomplished. It is a great pleasure to work with dedicated teachers tirelessly strive to make this organization a success. Please celebrate their achievements by thanking each board member when you meet them at functions.

Linda Green has created an AKTA website that is a pleasure to investigate. If you have not visited the website do it now! The web address is located on the front page of this newsletter. She also was responsible for having the German Band play at the May Garage Sale, as well as helping to work with Anchorage Opera.

Gretchen Thomas and Freya Wardlaw-Bailey have worked to create a successful teaching program at the Mountain View Boys and Girls Club which is in its second year of operation.

Gretchen has also arranged for AKTA to perform in the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Mall in a fund raising event for the Boys and Girls Club program.

Nancy Campbell keeps the AKTA membership list current, which is no easy task!

Connie McFarlane has worked with the Anchorage Museum creating a program for AKTA students to perform in three performances this holiday season at the museum.

Connie also chaired the audit of the AKTA finances, giving great insight and suggestion for keeping the board in line with the budget created by the board.

Dean Epperson has tirelessly organized, reorganized and reorganized again our finances so we can function accountably to the general membership. This is a HUGE job.

Margaret Turner has helped with every event the board plans. Her experience with Suzuki programs has been invaluable. Her knowledge of music available for all levels of students will dazzle you at the November 20<sup>th</sup> AKTA general meeting.

Freya is last on the list for a good reason. The AKTA newsletter just keeps getting better with each edition. Newsletter Editor is a huge job that she has grown into with the same grand style she continues to evolve her performing career. Freya's efforts keep us all connected to each other.

Please join me in expressing my gratitude to this incredible AKTA Board of Directors.

Christine Kastanopolous, President

### **Wanted: New Board Members!**

The current AKTA Board will turn over their positions to a new board at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Contact a board member (listed on page 1) or attend a meeting to learn more about how you can help the Anchorage piano community thrive, create opportunities for students, and have fun with your colleagues! Board meetings are currently on Fridays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on the dates listed on page 1, and are always open to the general membership.



## *Alaska Music Teachers Association*

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.*

### **“Over the Barline and Through the Notes”**

#### **Workshop with Dr. Jody Graves**

A workshop for music teachers that discusses and demonstrates specific practice techniques and motivational activities for elementary and intermediate students. While this workshop focuses on younger students, the techniques also translates well for more advanced students. Highlights include tips and creative ideas on ways to ensure quality practicing and progress between lessons.

November 20th, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

AKTA general meeting from 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 10830 Elmore Road

\$20 per person, pre-registration not required

please make checks payable to **AKTA**

#### **News from Unalaska:**

It's Official: the Hearts and Hands Project is now a non-profit. Unalaska students and parents, and especially their teacher and board members, are excited. Now the real work begins. The Hearts and Hands Project was incorporated to provide opportunities for music students in Unalaska and, eventually, other communities in the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands. Opportunities include: Music scholarships (not just for Lynda's students, but for any student instrumentalist who applies and qualifies) for music camps, music scholarships for college bound music majors, visiting composers to do annual workshops in the community (airfare here is exorbitant, so this fund will make so much possible!), continued annual Hearts and Hands CD productions featuring songs written by the students, and eventually a fund to support a visiting intern (music/pedagogy grad student) to come and assist in the overwhelming demand for private lessons in this area.

There is much to be thankful for this season.

I'll be in Anchorage for a few days in November, as a silly past neck injury has caused some nerve damage to my left arm and hand. Since it has now completely impaired my playing, we're coming in for a little surgery to take care of things. Look forward to working with my "coach" and physical therapist Cindy Epperson when I am finished, and on the road to recovery! Something tells me I'll be rehearsing more than ever after it is through, now that I have seen what life COULD be like without playing.

I wish for all my teachers grateful hearts and strong bodies and playing hands. I am grateful for the friends and colleagues that I have met through AMTA, and for the new ones I am certain to meet along the way. Happy Thanksgiving, all!

Lynda Lybeck-Robinson

## **AMTA Conference August 13 - 14, 2010**

Hosted by the Sitka Music Teachers Association

Guest Presenter Jennifer Linn, Hal Leonard

Corporation

### **Official Conference Hotel**

Shee Atika Totem Square Inn

201 Katlian St.

Sitka, AK 99835

907-747-3693 / 907-747-2839 fax

[www.totemsquareinn.com](http://www.totemsquareinn.com)

- Check in date 8/12/2010 to 8/15/2010 Thursday - Sunday.
- Individual reservation, individual pays all charges. Based on double occupancy.
- Rooms with 2 full beds: \$114 plus 12% tax per night.
- Rooms with 1 queen bed: \$124 plus 12% tax per night.
- Check in is at 3:00 pm and check out is 11:00 am. Guests checking out after may be subject to additional room charge.
- These rates do not include the city and occupancy tax (rate subject to change).
- Has an expanded continental breakfast and airport shuttle. Fitness room available. Most rooms have been updated with microwaves and refrigerators.
- Release date is 7/12/2010 and the conference code is AMTA.
- I must advise all members that are planning on this event to make reservations now. Charter fisherman are booking for the 2010 season and this is the peak season.

### **Other hotels in downtown Sitka:**

\* Sitka Hotel, 118 Lincoln Street, 907-747-3288 / 907-747-8499 fax

\* Super 8 Motel, 404 Sawmill Creek Rd, 907-747-8804 / 800-800-8000 ph / 907-747-6101 fax

\* Westmark Sitka, 330 Seward Street, 907-747-6241 / 800-544-0970 / 907-747-5486 fax

### **B & B's close to town:**

\* Ann's Gavan Hill B & B, 415 Arrowhead Street, 907-747-8023 / 907-747-7947 fax

\* Hannah's B & B, 504 Monastery Street, 907-747-8309 / 907-8318 fax

### **Others within one mile of town are:**

\* Alaska Ocean View B & B, 1101 Edgecumbe Drive, 908-747-8310 / 907-747-3440 fax / 888-811-6870 toll free

\* Forty Winks B & B, 211 Seward Street, 907-747-6460

\* Alaska Swan Lake B & B, 206 1/2 Lakeview Drive, 907-747-5746 / 907-747-3917 message

There are other B & B's but not as close to town!

Jammie Wileman, SMTA President

## Duet Festival

The Duet Festival is back! Start preparing now for this fun event, on Saturday, February 27th, 2010 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church (corner of Lake Otis and Tudor).

Duet teams can be made up of two students, or one adult and one student. Each team may play one or two duets of similar difficulty, but contrasting styles. Teachers may not perform with students. Plans are in the works to include scale testing and theory games, with plenty of ribbons for all participants.

The application fee is \$20 per person. Registrants may play in more than one team. Teachers are required to help with the festival. In the event that a teacher is not available to help, he or she may submit a \$50 non-participation fee.

Applications will be available at the December 4th board meeting. This meeting includes a discussion and presentation of duet repertoire.

Look for more details in upcoming newsletters.

### Toyota International Teacher Program

Greetings from the Institute of International Education!

We are pleased to announce that the application is now available for the 2010 Toyota International Teacher Program to Costa Rica, a **fully-funded** professional development program for U.S. educators. Funded by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., and administered by the Institute of International Education, the program aims to advance environmental stewardship and global connectedness in U.S. schools and communities.

The program will take place **June 18 – July 3, 2010** and the deadline to apply is **January 6, 2010**. Please visit our website at [www.toyota4education.com](http://www.toyota4education.com) for application instructions, FAQs, and to apply online. Full-time classroom teachers and librarians of all subjects for grades 6 – 12 are eligible to apply!

In the words of a program alumnus:

“International opportunities such as these completely expand our worldviews and shift our priorities. My approach to teaching has changed – I have become more passionate about making my students global citizens with knowledge of and sensitivity to international issues.”

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [toyotateach@iie.org](mailto:toyotateach@iie.org) or by phone at (toll-free) 877-832-2457.

Best regards,

MarDestinee Perez  
Sr. Program Manager  
Global Exchanges  
Institute of International Education

**Anchorage Keyboard  
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