

**AKTA Board Members
2009-2010**

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Visit the AKTA website at
www.pianoakta.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Deadlines:

January 20 - Applications due for Duet Ribbon Festival (see below)

April 1 - Application Deadline for Alaska Piano Competition
(see page 4)

Special Events:

February 22, 2010 - Workshop with Laura Koenig (see page 2)

February 27, 2010 - Duet Ribbon Festival

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

May 1-2, 2010 - Alaska Piano Competition (see page 4)

May 3-7, 2010 - AMTA Spring Adjudications

August 13-14, 2010 - AMTA Conference in Sitka with Jennifer Linn
(see visitor information on pages 3 and 5)

Board Meetings: January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30 (special meeting, TBA). All members are welcome to attend. Meetings are held at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 10955 Elmore Road.

Duet Ribbon Festival

Saturday, February 27th, 2010 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church
(corner of Lake Otis and Tudor)

Applications are due January 20th

Please note: In addition to duet adjudications, scale testing, and theory games as noted on the application forms, **flashcard testing** will also be offered at the festival.

For more information or if you did not receive an application, please contact Dean Epperson at 346-4468 or epperson@gci.net

Why Did Schumann and Chopin Kill the Sonata?

A workshop for living musicians by Laura Koenig

You have probably noticed the large amount of sonatas and sonatinas written by composers of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. But have you ever wondered why this musical form mostly disappeared by the late Romantic Era? Join Laura Koenig as she discusses this transition, while celebrating the bicentennial years of Robert Schumann and Frederic Chopin, two composers who wrote very few sonatas.

Friday, January 22nd, 2010, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 10955 Elmore Road

(corner of Elmore and O'Malley)

\$20 per person, payable to AKTA

Thank You, Christine!

Christine Kastanopolous resigned from her position as president of AKTA on December 4th, 2009. Chris has been a tremendous asset to AKTA in the six years she served as president. She contributed countless hours to organizing events and always has new ideas on creating opportunities for local music students. She plans to take some much-needed personal time, including going on long walks with her dog, Jack. Chris will no longer attend board meetings, but is happy to stay in touch with the board and the membership and to remain involved with AKTA events, as fits her schedule. At the end of this academic year she will become the AMTA president.

I have personally experienced the difference Chris has made in the Anchorage music community. She was my first piano teacher when I was 4, and again from ages 6 to 8. After college as I established my own piano studio, she became my colleague and friend. I have had the privilege of serving on the AKTA board with her for the past two years. She is an energetic and dynamic person with a great sense of humor. Thank you, Chris, for everything you have done for me and so many others, and for all of us in AKTA!

With much love and gratitude,
Freya Wardlaw-Bailey

Letters of appreciation may be sent to:
Christine Kastanopolous
13810 Mainsail Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

If you would like to share your thoughts with the membership in an upcoming newsletter, please email them to me at: freypiano@yahoo.com

Dr. Laura Koenig earned her Doctorate from the University of Iowa where she was the first performer to be awarded the Iowa Fellowship. She also holds degrees from UCLA and UC San Diego, and completed graduate work at Oxford University. She is a specialist in Baroque flute as well as contemporary flute techniques. In addition to flute, Dr. Koenig also teaches the upper-division music history seminars at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Join the AKTA Board

The current AKTA Board will turn over their positions to a new board in May 2010. Five of the current board members are willing to continue for another 2-year term. Two or more additional AKTA members are needed to complete the group. 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 held on the last Friday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and are always open to the general membership.



AMTA Conference August 13-14, 2010

Sitka Visitor Attractions

1. PRINCESS MAKSOUTOFF'S GRAVE is behind the Pioneer's Home in the Lutheran Cemetery. Princess Maksoutoff was the wife of Alaska's last Russian governor, Dimitrii Matsoutoff.

2. RUSSIAN BLOCK HOUSE Replica of the blockhouse that separated Russian and Tlingit sections of Sitka after the Tlingits moved back into the area 20 years after the 1804 baffle. Located behind the Pioneer's Home on Katlian Street.

3. SHEET'KA KWAAN NAA KAHIDI COMMUNITY HOUSE Constructed on a site that once housed the Indian Government School, this Tribal Community House offers Native dance performances in full regalia, storytelling, cultural events, and an artist's market with authentic Native artwork. It is located on Katlian Street, next to the Pioneer's Home.

4. ANB HALL Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall is a registered National Historic Landmark built in 1914 in the heart of the traditional Tlingit village and today is an Alaska Native community center.

5. TOTEM SQUARE Contains a Russian cannon and three anchors recovered from the Sitka vicinity, probably lost by early British or American explorers. The totem pole displays the double-headed eagle of Sitka's Russian heritage.

6. SITKA PIONEER'S HOME Built in 1934 on the old Russian Parade Ground, this is a state home for elderly Alaskans. Handicrafts made by the residents are sold in the gift shop located on the first floor of the home. The pioneers welcome visitors. The bronze statue standing in front of the Pioneer's Home was made by Alonzo Victor Lewis and was dedicated on Alaska Day 1949. The model was a real pioneer – William "Skagway Bill" Fonda.

7. CASTLE HILL (Baranof Castle Site) Early stronghold of the Kiksadi clan, later a succession of Russian buildings were erected on this site, the one known as "Baranofs Castle" erected in 1837. On Oct. 18, 1867, it was the site of the transfer of Alaska to the United States. Today it is managed by Alaska State Parks. (Stairs or ramp available to the top of Castle Hill)

8. BUILDING 29 (206 Lincoln Street) is one of the few log structures surviving from the Russian Era of Alaska History. Built by the Russians in 1835, it is a national historic

landmark. Spruce logs, sawdust insulation system and heavy squared beams support the structure. The building houses the Log Cache. (907) 747-3435

9. SITKA LUTHERAN CHURCH The site of the first Lutheran Church on the West coast of North America which contains original artifacts from the original 1843 Finnish Lutheran Church. Located on Lincoln Street in the heart of downtown Sitka. Volunteer-led tours offered in the summer. (907) 747-3338

10. SAINT MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL Important collection of Russian Orthodox art & church treasures. Built in 1844-48, it was totally destroyed by fire in January 1966. Many of the icons & religious objects were salvaged & are in the rebuilt structure. Summer: On large ship port of calls, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; on 'non-cruise ship days, call to check hours. \$2 donation requested. Please call for winter hours. (907) 747-8120. Archangel Michael Bookstore and Gifts located across the street.

11. GEODETIC SURVEY HOUSE - Known locally as the "White House", this building was constructed in 1916 on the site of a former Russian tea garden, as office and quarters for scientists who maintained a nearby permanent geomagnetic observatory. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This building is not open to the public.

12. SITKA HISTORICAL MUSEUM Learn about the lasting legacy of WWII in town, the earliest inhabitants, Sitkans-Tlingit, Russian & early Americans lived & made their living for the last thousand, hundred or 10 years. It's all here. Packed with displays, photographs & artifacts, the museum is a worthwhile first stop. Gift shop, which supports the museum, includes many exclusive items made only for the Museum. Admission: \$2. Summer: 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Sun-Fri, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sat. Winter: Call to confirm hours (907) 747-6455 www.sitkahistory.org

13. HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL Built in 1967 during Alaska's Centennial celebration, the Hall is still one of the finest in the state. It houses the Sitka Historical Society, a local history collection, an auditorium for public use, and a display area for art and craft collections. A large hand carved Tlingit canoe made from one log is displayed under a shelter near the Hall. Wheelchair Accessible Information provided by the Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau www.sitka.org (907) 747-5940, PO Box 1226, Sitka, AK 99835

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Timothy Smith Piano Recital

Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

University of Alaska Fine Arts Building Recital Hall

Dr. Timothy Smith, chair of the UAA Music Department, will give a solo recital in February. The program includes:

Mozart Fantasy in C minor, K. 396

Three Chinese Folk Songs

Skryabin Sonatas: No. 9 ("Black Mass") and No. 5

Selections from "Années de Pèlerinage, Italie" (Liszt) to include: Sposalizio, Sonetto 47 del Petrarca, Sonetto 104 del Petrarca, and the "Dante Sonata"

Tickets will be available at CenterTix.com and at the UAA Fine Arts Building Box Office: 786-4849
General Admission \$18
Students, Seniors, Military \$15

New MTNA Certification Process

The official Piano Teacher Profile Overview, "Workbook" and "What Will Evaluators Be Looking For?" documents are now live on the MTNA Certification web site at: <http://www.mtnacertification.org/Default.aspx?tabid=649> (Or, from the Certification home page, click on the "Apply After January 1, 2010" portal.) The Violin, Voice and Flute Teacher Profiles will be available when finalized.

Over the past year and a half, the National Certification Commissioners have given countless hours of hard work

and professional expertise to creating this exciting New Face of Certification. Our staff at headquarters has also provided tremendous support and given many hours to getting it "web-ready." Our Commissioners are ready and willing to help you thoroughly understand and promote the Teacher Profile Projects. Please take some time to carefully read and digest these documents, and join us in celebrating the launch of this great new process!

Rebecca Johnson, Ph.D., NCTM
Chair, National Certification Commission

Alaska Piano Competition

The Alaska Piano Competition information – dates, rules, and application form – has been posted on the new UAA Department of Music website. Information and application can be accessed by clicking on the "Alaska Piano Competition" link at the Music Department homepage (located at <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/music/>)

The adjudicator for the upcoming competition will be Michael Gurt, from Louisiana State University. Mr. Gurt has studied with Martin Canin at the Juilliard School, and also with Dorothy Taubman. Mr. Gurt will also be performing a recital at UAA on Friday, April 30. More information on the concert will be posted soon.

The competition is May 1 and 2, 2010 at the UAA Arts Building Recital Hall. Application deadline is April 1. All pertinent info is on the application. Any questions may be referred to Dr. Timothy Smith at 786-1524.

AMTA Conference August 13-14, 2010

Sitka Visitor Attractions (continued from page 3)

Hiking Trails Accessible from the Sitka Road System

Beaver Lake

2.4 miles roundtrip, 1.5 hours

Moderate

Popular loop trail skirting Beaver Lake. Well suited to family outings. Vistas of nearby rugged mountains. Access road for high clearance vehicles only.

Herring Cove Extension

1.3 miles, 30 minutes

Moderate

End of Sawmill Creek Road, connects to Beaver Lake and to Beaver Lake Trail to create a loop trail. ADA accessible for a short distance at beginning.

Cross

2.5 miles, 45 minutes

Easy

Short hike close to town. Can be accessed via Indian River Trail, Gavan Hill Trail, parking lot at Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary school, Charteris Street and Cascade Street.

Estuary Life

.25 mile, 20 minutes one way

Easy

Starrigavan Rec Area. Interpretive stations with benches; brochure available from Starrigavan Host; also bird viewing shelter.

***Forest and Muskeg**

.75 mile, 30 minutes one way

Easy

Boardwalk and gravel at difficult accessibility; interpretive stations; brochure available from Starrigavan Host.

***Halibut Point State Recreation Site**

.5 miles one way, 30 minutes

Easy

Walk down service road from the large parking lot. Trail starts at the footbridge crossing the creek. Adjacent picnic and restroom facilities.

Harbor Mountain Gavan Hill

(trail construction in 2009 with occasional closures)

6 miles one way, 4-6 hours one way

Moderate

Access via end of Baranof Street or Harbor Mt. Bypass road; first 800 feet from Gavan Hill side is ADA accessible. From subalpine, vistas of Sitka Sound, Mt. Edgecumbe, surrounding mountains and islands. Harbor Mt Road

construction in 2009 with limited vehicle access; contact Forest Service listed below for most current access information.

Indian River

4.3 miles one way, 4 hours one way

Easy

Relaxing walk through northwest coast rainforest with vistas of the Sisters Mountains.

***Mosquito Cove**

1.5 miles, 1 hour

Easy

Follows beach / forest fringe to Mosquito Cove; loops back through forest. First 1000 feet ADA accessible.

Mount Verstovia

1.9 miles one way, 3 hours one way

Difficult

Lower hillslope logged by Russians in 1860. Good ocean views from top. Public parking not available.

+Sitka National Historical Park

1.5 miles, 1 hour one way

Easy

Commemorates site of the Battle of Sitka between the Tlingit Indians and the Russians in 1804.

Starrigavan Valley

2.25 miles one way

Easy

Multi use trail for hikers, bikers, ATVs and snowmobiles (winter time only).

Thimbleberry Lake–Heart Lake

2 miles one way, 1 hour one way

Moderate

For hikers and bikers. Fishing for trout is fair in both lakes. Parking at both ends of trail.

For trail maps or information, remote locations, trail conditions and brown bear precautions/safety, contact: USDA Forest Service, Sitka Ranger District, (907) 747-6671
*Alaska State Parks, (907) 747-6249

Hiking More Remote Trails? To ensure your safety should you become overdue, injured or stranded when hiking on more remote trails other than those listed above, it is suggested you file a hiking plan with the Sitka Fire Department located at 209 Lake Street, Sitka, AK 99835 or call (907) 747-3233.

USDA Forest Service Sitka Ranger District

**Anchorage Keyboard
Teachers Association**
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