

**AKTA Board Members  
2009-2010**

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



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Deadlines:**

**March 26** - Registration Deadline for AMTA Spring Adjudications  
(see page 2)

**April 1** - Application Deadline for Alaska Piano Competition  
(see below)

**Special Events:**

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

**April 17** - Playathon at Borders Books (see page 2)

**April 23 at 7 p.m.** - AKTA end-of-the-year party and election of  
2010-2012 board, Steinway Piano Gallery

**April 22, 23, 24, 26, and 27** - AMTA Spring Adjudications (see page 2)

**May 1-2, 2010** - Alaska Piano Competition (see below)

**August 13-14, 2010** - AMTA Conference in Sitka

**Board Meetings:** April 2, 9:15-11 a.m. and April 23 at 7 p.m. (special meeting, see above). All members are welcome to attend. Meetings are held at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 10955 Elmore Road, except for April 23rd which will be held at the Steinway Piano Gallery, 637 A Street.

**AKTA Board Elections**

Voting Day is coming up for AKTA! The current AKTA Board will turn over their positions to a new board in May 2010. Join us on **April 23rd at 7:00 p.m.** at the Steinway Gallery for the AKTA end-of-the-year party and board elections. There will be food, beverages, music, and time to catch up with your colleagues! If you are interested in joining the board in 2010-2012, please contact a board member listed above.

**Alaska Piano Competition**

The Alaska Piano Competition will be held on May 1st and 2nd, 2010 at the UAA Arts Building Recital Hall. **Application deadline is April 1.** 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/>) Any questions may be referred to Dr. Timothy Smith at 786-1524.

## From the President of AKTA

Greetings Friends,

I hope everyone is feeling the rejuvenating effect of the extended daylight. We made it!!! Oops, forgot about the snow... hang in there and drive carefully.

Congratulations to our member, Juliana Osinchuk, who has had her first piece of music published with the Alfred Publishing Company. It is titled "Happy Birthday Mozart". What a great piece of music highlighting some of Mozart's most well known melodies interspersed with the melody of Happy Birthday. Bravo Juliana!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We had a great time celebrating Juliana's accomplishment and just having some coffee and chatting at the Steinway Gallery in early February. Thank you to Diane Moore for hosting and bringing us together. We all had a great time catching up. If you were unable to attend, have no fear; Diane plans on having another one in the near future.

Hats off and a huge YAHOOOOO goes out to this year's Duet Ribbon Festival Committee and Volunteers. We were small, but mighty!!! Everyone had a fun time earning their ribbons by playing Duets, Scales, Games and going through Flashcards. Great job, teachers and students!

Our Mountain View Boys and Girls Club Project is getting ready to start their 4<sup>th</sup> session of piano lessons. I personally love this project and have been blessed to be a part of it from the start. I hope to continue the project into the future. We are touching the lives of young boys and girls who otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience music lessons. If you would like to help with this project, please read further in this newsletter to see how you can. Any little amount helps.

It is also that time of the year when our organization must seek help from you members. If you feel that you can offer support and help, please consider being on next year's board. Several current board members are continuing and are looking for some fresh ideas and energy. Elections will take place in April.

Please mark your calendars for April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. We will be hosting a members end of the year party at the Steinway Gallery. Please come down and join us for an evening of laughter and friendship and celebration of another year. There will be food, beverages and music to entertain you. More information will be sent your way.

Until then stay safe and musical.

Gretchen Thomas  
Interim President

## Students Helping Students

SHS is an ongoing fund-raising effort by Anchorage Keyboard Teachers Association to support a program that provides free music instruction to low-income students at the Mountain View Boys and Girls Club.

There are two ways to become involved.

1. AKTA Play-a-thon\*\* at Borders Books on Dimond Blvd. **Saturday, April 17th**. Have your students play for donations.
2. Make a donation directly to AKTA (501c3 organization) to benefit SHS. Check payable to: AKTA.

\*\* Play-a-thon pieces must be "performance ready," but can be solos or duets, memorized or not, and are not limited as to number of pieces or performance time. Performers will be playing on an 88-key Clavinova.

Contact Gretchen Thomas at 563-4063 or [nrhythms@alaska.com](mailto:nrhythms@alaska.com) by **April 3rd** if you are interested.

## Piano Concert

The Russian Alaskan Academy of Music presents  
**A Concert Celebrating the 200th Birthday of  
Frederic Chopin**

**Svetlana Velichko, Piano**

**Chopin: Nocturnes, Preludes, Waltzes,  
Mazurkas, and Polonaises**

**Friday, April 16th at 8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 18th at 4:00 p.m.**

**Steinway Piano Gallery of Alaska  
637 A Street**

Across from the Anchorage Museum

Tickets: \$25 Adults, \$20 Students and Seniors  
For reservations call 344-3247

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door



## Alaska Music Teachers Association

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.*

### AMTA Spring Adjudications

Dear Anchorage Area AMTA members:

This correspondence is an announcement of the AMTA Adjudications to be held April 22, 23, 24, and April 26-27 at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Anchorage. Our adjudicator is Jamila Hla Shwe who is on the faculty at UAF and a member of AMTA and IAKT. Jamila is a terrific person: energetic, kind, and a great musician. Although she teaches at the college level, she is also experienced with younger students and is excited to come to Anchorage to hear our students perform.

You may either email me at [epperson@gci.net](mailto:epperson@gci.net) or call (346-4565) to request your registration packet. Due to the slightly earlier dates for our adjudications, the deadline for submission of forms and checks is Friday, **March 26th**. Schedules and other information will be **emailed** Monday, **April 5th**, and ribbons will be given to the teacher 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

### News from Sitka

Hi! Just need to remind every one that they should be getting their airfare secured for the state conference, and their hotel secured as I only reserved 25 rooms at the Totem Square Inn.

We hope to have the registration completed by the April Newsletter! We are working on a sight-seeing cruise on one of the local tour boats, and light dinner for Friday...  
So we will keep you all posted!

Jammie Wileman, SMTA President

#### Secretary's Note:

When making your hotel or B&B reservations for Sitka, ask if they will waive the 12% tax. When I made my reservation, I was told that since AMTA is a non-profit organization, I am not required to pay the tax.

*The AKTA board wishes to express their condolences to the Downey family for the recent death of Richard Downey. Mr. Downey was the husband of the late Marguerite Downey, an active and supportive member of AKTA from the time she and Richard arrive in Anchorage in 1972. After her death in 1980, the Marguerite Downey Memorial Competition, now the Alaska Piano Competition, was established to commemorate her work in the Anchorage music community. Mr. Downey was also very active in several arts and community organizations, including Anchorage Opera, Boys & Girls Club and the YMCA. He is survived by four children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to the Downey family at 6841 Cherokee Way, Anchorage, AK 99504.*

**Anchorage Keyboard  
Teachers Association**  
Freya Wardlaw-Bailey  
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