



Illinois State Music Teacher's Association

West Suburban Chapter

May 2018

Bonnie Brewster, Newsletter Editor

*Thurs., May 3, 2018.....***9:30 am: Monthly meeting and program** at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wheaton: **Frank Caruso: Simplifying the Art of Improvisation.** Followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. See program information on p. 2 inside.

*Thurs., May 10, 2018.....***9:30 am: West Suburban Board Meeting** at the home of Carol Ishman. Please email your annual report to Carol by May 7 and bring a copy to read at the meeting. See the President's Note inside for other information.

*Thurs., May 24, 2018.....***10:00 am: Joint West Suburban Board Meeting** at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wheaton. Any interested member may attend with the Presidents of the 4 local associations, Joint Treasurer, and Workshop Chair.

DEADLINES

*Fri., June 15, 2018.....***Deadline** for Summer 2018 newsletter. Please send articles and information to Bonnie Brewster via email: bonniebrewster1954@gmail.com

Membership Renewal Reminder: Renew online at mtna.org or with the renewal form that came in the mail.

Monthly Meeting May 3 with Frank Caruso: Simplifying the Art of Improvisation

Confronting the often difficult transfer of fundamentals in pianism to the jazz idiom

Frank Caruso teaches jazz studies at Elmhurst and North Central College in Naperville. Caruso has played piano professionally since he was 12. He studied at DePaul University and served in the U.S. Navy Band in Washington D.C. While still in the service, he was a featured performer at the White House Birthday Party for Duke Ellington, and has played for President Nixon, President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and Senator John McCain.

He has performed for thousands of private and public events and appeared with famous artists. Caruso performed with Luciano Pavarotti in concert at the United Center and has appeared with legends such as Henry Mancini, Louie Bellson, Herbie Hancock, Billy Joel, Maynard Ferguson, Dave Douglas and the Count Basie Orchestra. He also has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia for jazz and pops concerts.

In addition to his artistry on keyboard instruments, Frank Caruso has served as music contractor and/or conductor for many recordings and live shows. Caruso composed music for many radio and TV commercials and also composed music for his solo album, *Freefall*.

Caruso recorded with Randy Brecker for River North Records. His other jazz quintet albums include: *Mango Tango* and *Heart of the City*—both in collaboration with saxophonist Mark Colby (a Conn-Selmer clinician) and *Songs From The Kingdom Of Jazz* with saxophonist Jim Massoth. His recent book *Piano Improvisation: A Powerful, Practical System* explains his system for improvisation.

President's Comments

I hope that all officers and any other people interested will join me at my home on **Thursday, May 10 at 9:30 for the West Suburban Board Meeting.**

- If you have a board position, please take the time to review the procedures that are in our handbook and update them if necessary. Our last handbook update was 2012 so it's time.
- In addition, by Monday, May 7, please send me a copy of your report outlining the current year's events so that copies can be made available for everyone at the board meeting.
- Please take the time to go to our website www.wsismta.org. Your opinions are important!
- We will discuss ways to make the teacher registry available. We need to make it easier for teachers to find students and for prospective students to find teachers in our group. Right now the thought is to refer prospective students to the state website. What do you think? Great idea or too many clicks? Please check out other websites such as the Naperville www.napervilleismta.org and Salt Creek www.saltcreekmusicteachers.org and Waubonsee www.wvmta.com websites and compare.
- Many local associations currently have their directories on line ONLY. Do you like the current printed format? Would you prefer a printed directory or would you like to limit the paper in your house and use only an online directory? Feel free to let me know if you have opinions on this before the board meeting.

All interested members are invited to the **Joint Board Meeting** which will be held at **Trinity on May 24 at 10 AM.** The Joint Board is comprised of the presidents of Naperville, Salt Creek, Waubonsee and West Suburban Local Associations, the Joint Board Treasurer, the Workshop Chair, and the Berkley Pendell Competition Chair. We gather twice a year to assess the current year's activities and plan for the coming year. We also discuss ways in which we can streamline activities that take place in our individual groups by comparing procedures and methods among our groups. It's really just a small group of teachers trying to make things better in every group. Feel free to come and see what it's all about. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks to everyone for your ideas, imagination, flexibility and support this year. You are all essential to the group and to me. Congratulations to all who were involved the

AIM Exams, the Berkley Pendell Competition, the AIM Honors Recital, the Joint Workshop, Student Recitals, TIE meetings or any activity that adds to our education and growth as teachers and students. You are a fantastic and dedicated group and I am proud to be among you.

Sincerely,

Carol Ishman

AIM Honors Recital



The AIM honors recital was held on Sunday April 15 at Windsor Park. There was a very large crowd of both residents and families who came to hear 25 students from the studios of 16 teachers from our group. They were nominated by their judges for their outstanding performances at Level 5 and above Performance exams. Congratulations to all!

Nominating Committee and Board Changes

The nominating committee of Rita Brown, Debi Inch and Elinor Lee is happy to announce the nominees for the following Officers:

Treasurer: Liz Mackenzie

2nd Vice President for Publicity / Historian: Nancy Hueber

We will vote on these officers at our May meeting. Many thanks to the nominating committee and to the nominees. And a big thanks to Linda Krueger who will continue as Secretary.

In addition to the two officers we will elect in May, some other board positions will also be open next year. Among them is the position of Newsletter Editor currently held by Bonnie Brewster. Our sincere thanks to Bonnie for doing a great job as the newsletter editor for the past four years.

If you currently hold a board position it would also be helpful if you let Carol Ishman know if you plan to continue your current position next year.

Discount Tickets for Jesus Christ Superstar at Lyric Opera!

Discounted tickets are available for Lyric Opera's production of Jesus Christ Superstar!

The show runs from **April 27 - May 10, 2018**. We are eligible for a **20% discount on tickets**. This includes most seats except for box seats. When ordering tickets just enter promo code **WSMTA** to receive the discounted price.

West Suburban Illinois Music Teachers Association

April 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:31.

The minutes of the March meeting were read with no corrections.

Motion to approve: Lynette Zelis Second: Rita Brown

Treasurer: Janel Greaves reported a balance of \$8,700.68.

Membership: Debi Inch announced no visitors or new members in attendance.

AIM Performance Final update: Diane Jankiewicz reported we had 265 students and 28 teachers participate. There were fewer students at early levels and more at upper levels. She suggested there are several issues to be addressed at the next judging meeting, including judging issues, the honors recital, and outside teachers/students.

May Luncheon: It was decided we will go to a restaurant for the luncheon.

Board Member Positions

- **Newsletter editor:** A new editor is needed. Our thanks to Bonnie Brewster who will be giving up the position of newsletter editor after many years.
- **Nominating Committee:** Elinor Lee, Debi Inch and Rita Brown make up the nominating committee this year. They will present a slate of officers at our May meeting to replace the **2nd VP for Publicity/Historian** (currently Diane Lindsay) and the **Treasurer** (currently Janel Greaves). We will vote on the new officers at the May meeting.
- **Secretary:** Linda Krueger will continue as Secretary.
- Anyone who would like to be more involved or would like more information please contact a member of the nominating committee or Carol Ishman.

Member of the Year Committee: Diane Lindsay, Liz Mackenzie and Carol Beilke made up the committee to select the Member of the Year. Congratulations to Marcia Lehe, who has been chosen for Member of the Year.

Important Dates to Remember

April 8, 2018 - Berkley Pendell Competition

April 12, 2018 - Teacher performance group at the home of Diane Lindsay

April 14, 2018 - Berkley Pendell Celebratory Recital at Steinway in Naperville

April 15, 2018 - Honors Recital update – Liz Mackenzie - The honors recital will be held at 2:30 Sunday April 15 at Windsor Park. 16 studios and 26 students are represented. Teachers are asked to have students omit repeats to keep the length down. It should be wonderful.

May 3, 2018 - Next WSMTA meeting - Frank Caruso “Simplifying the Art of Improvisation”

May 10, 2018 – 9:30 AM - West Suburban Board Meeting at Carol Ishman’s home

May 24, 2018 – 10:00 AM - Joint Associations Board Meeting at Trinity Church

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53.

Motion to adjourn: Chana Bernstein Second: Liz Mackenzie

The meeting was followed by a master class by Brenda Huang.

Respectfully submitted: Linda Krueger, Secretary

2018 Berkley-Pendell Piano Competition

From Vision to Manifestation:

***ANNOUNCING INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YOUNG PIANISTS
AND TEACHERS OF OUR JOINT CHAPTERS.***

The 2018 Berkley-Pendell Piano Competition witnessed a comprehensive and startling amazing group of young pianists.

YOUR SPECIAL YOUNG PIANISTS, AND YOUR COMMITMENT AS TEACHERS ~ exhibited and created not only the local acclaim of audience and teachers, but also the unsolicited and amazingly unabashed compliments of all the Judge ~ Pianists, internationally acclaimed and of immense experience.

Your Committee of the Berkley-Pendell is immensely grateful, not only for the essential brilliance of the young pianists and their teachers, but also of all the committed and generously contributed time of all teachers.

**THIS A GIFT OF AND FOR ALL:
TEACHERS AND STUDENTS,
THE ENORMOUS PROVISION OF STEINWAY OF CHICAGO:
THE GORGEOUS MODEL D STEINWAY.**

Again.....'It takes a village....'

MOST GRATEFULLY.....KAROL SUE

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