

---

## General Description

The **Achievement in Music Program**, also known as **AIM**, is an exciting and motivating program for students developed by dedicated members of the **Illinois State Music Teachers Association (ISMTA)**. AIM is designed to develop strong performance and technical skills as well as a thorough understanding of musical theory. There are twelve levels in the program, with Level 1 divided into three parts, Levels 1A, 1B, and 1C. Each level has **theory**, **performance**, and **technical** requirements that follow a logical progression from early elementary through advanced. A brochure with information on the AIM program may be downloaded from [www.ismta.org](http://www.ismta.org) and shared with new teachers and prospective students.

Students generally prepare one level each year and demonstrate their competency at annual exams, which are conducted by experienced judges in a comfortable setting. Students are not in competition with other students, but are evaluated individually on their accomplishments. Students are recognized with a pin for passing the theory exam and a certificate for passing both the theory and performance exam. Upper level students receive a plaque and subsequent bars.

## Getting Started

Contact your local chapter's AIM Chair to learn more about AIM exams in your location. If your chapter does not participate in AIM, contact the state AIM chair, whose contact information may be found on the ISMTA web site.

## Theory

Theory and keyboard skills include:

- Sightreading
- Rhythm
- Harmonization
- Aural skills
- Written skills
- Transposition
- Score analysis

## Performance

Technique skills progress from five-finger patterns to scales, chords and arpeggios. Students perform repertoire from various musical style periods as they progress from early to advanced levels. See the Syllabus for requirements at each level.



## Resources

The resources below may be purchased from the Illinois State Music Teachers Association's website at [www.ismta.org](http://www.ismta.org). (Non-members pay a higher rate.)

## AIM Syllabus

Teachers must refer to the 2014 AIM Syllabus for specific requirements in theory, technique and repertoire at each level. The AIM Syllabus is a manual with over 350 pages. It is revised once every ten years or so. The Forward in the beginning of the Syllabus explains the program thoroughly and answers most questions. A partial reprint of this information is available on the AIM page of the ISMTA website, [www.ismta.org](http://www.ismta.org).

## AIM Workbooks

The teacher only needs the 2014 AIM Syllabus to prepare students, but additional materials may prove useful. Supplementary student workbooks are available for levels 2 through 12 to help prepare students for AIM exams. Students need a new workbook for each level. Do not copy the workbooks. It is a violation of fair use and undermines the activities of our organization.

## ISMTA Local AIM Contacts 2016-2017

### Champaign-Urbana

Sarah Schwartz  
sarahjschwartz@sbcglobal.net

### Chicago Area

Margaret Hoover, NCTM  
mhpiano1935@msn.com  
camta.org

### Crystal Lake-Fox Hills

Beverly Taylor, NCTM  
Inscribe.Music@gmail.com  
foxhillsmta.org

### Decatur Area

Dr. Chung-Ha Kim  
chkim@mail.millikin.edu  
damta.net

### Egyptian Chapter

Jill Skinner  
skinnerstudioscobden@gmail.com  
ecmusicteachers.org

### Gateway Arch East

Amy Jo Sawyer  
AmyJo@APCI.net  
http://gatewaymusicteachers.org

### Greater Rockford

Patricia Jeske  
pjeske@rockford.edu  
greaterrockfordmtna.org

### Joliet

Mark Epling  
mark.epling@sbcglobal.net

### Kankakee Valley

Charlotte Gilliam  
cgilliam48@sbcglobal.net

### Naperville

Dr. Nancy Liley  
nancyliley@sbcglobal.net  
napervilleismta.org

### North Shore

Jennifer Cohen, NCTM  
Jicohen1@aol.com  
nsmta.org

### Northwest Suburban

Vonnie Mrozinski, NCTM  
lmrozinski@sbcglobal.net  
nwsmta.org

### Peoria Area

Pam Eyerly  
rhapsody32@eyerly.us  
pamta.org

### Quincy

Mary Shelor  
shelor4@comcast.net

### Salt Creek

Katie Greene, NCTM  
drmpiano@gmail.com  
saltcreekmusicteachers.org

### South Suburban

Jane Bolkema  
jboldkema@hotmail.com  
ssmta.org

### Waubensee Valley

Muriel Mosher  
mrlmosher@gmail.com  
wvmta.com

### West Suburban

Diane Jankiewicz  
djankiewicz@hotmail.com  
wsismta.org



---

ILLINOIS  
STATE  
MUSIC  
TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION

---

Achievement In Music

**AIM**

— PIANO —

---