

WSMTA NEWSLETTER



November 2025

Upcoming Events & Dates

Sunday, Oct. 26
ISMTA North Competition
North Park University

Thursday, Nov. 6, 9:00am
Meeting & Program
"Supporting Students with Dyslexia in the Music Classroom"
Tara Chapman
Windsor Park Auditorium

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 7-8
ISMTA State Conference
Blackburn College, Carlinville

Sunday, Nov. 9, 1:30pm
Student Recital
(Entry deadline November 1)
Coordinator: TBD
Windsor Park Auditorium

Thursday, Nov. 13, 10:40am
Teachers' Roundtable
Wheaton College
Conservatory, Armerding
Seminar Room 252

Thursday, Nov. 20, 9:30am
Teacher Performance Group
Home of Mark & Karin
Edwards

Thursday, December 11, 9:00am
Meeting & Program
"Harmony & Health: Practical Wellness Tips to Stay Energized Through the Season,"
Moyra Gorski
Windsor Park Auditorium

Thursday, January 8, 9:00am
Meeting & Program
"Evolutionary Entrepreneurialism: Grow Your Studio One 'Yes' At a Time,"
Amy Chaplin
Online Meeting

From the President...



This Saturday, October 18 was our WSMTA AIM Theory Exam Day. You and your students have worked hard towards this goal and deserve our congratulations. To be proficient in all the theory skills is so important for all of us, whether we become professional musicians or not. It leads to a greater musical understanding and appreciation, which can lead to a deeper emotional and spiritual experience. It also develops the brain in ways that are relevant for many aspects of life.

November is a full month for all of us. Below are specific dates for WSMTA events.

- November 6 - **Tara Chapman**: *"Supporting Students with Dyslexia in the Music Classroom."* We have all had or will have students with dyslexia, from mild to severe. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about helping students develop tools for reading.
- November 7-8 - **ISMTA state conference** at Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL. "Maps" says travel time is 3.5 hours from my house. You may want to consider carpooling. A large number of our own members are presenting sessions on Friday: Lynette Zelis, Anne Marie Kuhny, Kathy Sbarbaro, and Janna Williamson. Come hear them and support them! **Early registration fee** of \$100 ends **October 26**. See <https://ismta.org/conference/> for details, registration form, and hotel information. The last day to **reserve rooms** at the group rate is **Monday, October 20, 2025**.
- November 9 - **Student Recital** - entry is free for your students!
- November 13 - **Teachers Roundtable, 10:40-11:20 am** - for new and experienced teachers - Ideas & Refreshments! Topic: *"Q&A and conversation with a future teacher."* Students will have questions for experienced teachers. A great opportunity to interact with new and future teachers. Location - Wheaton College Conservatory Armerding 252 Seminar Room.
- November 20 - **Teacher Performance Group. 9:30 am** at Mark & Karin Edwards' home, 616 E Evergreen, Wheaton. Performers and observers are welcome! *You may want to start planning now to have a new work or a work in progress ready to play.* Please let me know if you will be attending and if and what you will be performing. (Text me at 630 946 4620 or email me at karin.edwards@wheaton.edu)

- February 26 - **WSMTA Joint Chapters Workshop – Dr. Alex McDonald**

Topic: *"Helping our Students Go From intermediate to Advanced Level"* Wheaton College Conservatory Armerding Recital Hall. (9:30-12:30 plus Q&A 12:30-1:00 pm; plus Friday 4-5:15 pm, free performance). Dr. Alex McDonald comes to us with a passion for and an extensive background in teaching young students. He and his family run the McDonald Music Studio for pre-college students in Texas. The Texas Music Teachers Association awarded him the 2017 Outstanding Achievement Award in teaching. He is also a marvelous performer and there will be opportunity to hear him perform, briefly on Thursday and in recital on Friday.

- March 21-25 – **MTNA National Conference in Chicago!** This is your chance to attend a national conference without having to pay expensive airline and hotel fees. Registration is now open, with reduced rates before December 15. The website has ideas as to how to generate funds to help you pay the registration fee.

November Meeting & Program – November 6, 9:00am, Windsor Park Auditorium

Tara Chapman, "Supporting Students with Dyslexia in the Music Classroom"

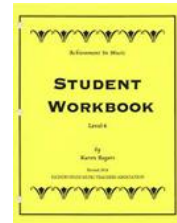


Music educators will learn the essential knowledge to support students with dyslexia. They will gain a basic understanding of what dyslexia is and how it can uniquely affect a student's ability to learn to read music, follow rhythm, and remember musical instructions. The presentation will examine how dyslexia impacts auditory processing, coordination, and sequential memory — all crucial skills for learning to play an instrument. Strategies for supporting instruction will be shared, along with the importance of recognizing the often-overlooked creative strengths of individuals with dyslexia who excel in the arts.

Tara Chapman brings a wealth of experience as a dyslexia therapist, instructor, and educational leader. She is the Executive Director and co-founder of The Written Word: Center for Dyslexia and Learning, an IMSLEC-accredited center in Wheaton, Illinois. With over 35 years of experience in education and advanced training in structured literacy, she is a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) and a Qualified Instructor (QI) through the Academic Language Therapy Association. Using Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia (Take Flight), Tara helps students with dyslexia develop essential reading, writing, and spelling skills. She also trains educators to provide evidence-based instruction through acclaimed structured literacy programs such as Take Flight, BUILD: A K-1 Early Reading Intervention, JET: A Fast-Paced Reading Intervention, and Rite Flight, a comprehension and fluency program designed for classroom teachers and parents. Tara is involved in professional service, having co-founded the ALTA Illinois Chapter and serving on national ALTA committees. She also serves on the board of Everyone Reading Illinois and is a member of the Wheaton and Winfield Chamber of Commerce.

AIM Theory Exams 2025

Thank you to everyone that participated in the AIM Theory Exam at Wheaton College on October 18. We are grateful to the Wheaton Conservatory for allowing us use of their studios and rooms. We will include more details regarding the AIM Theory Exam in the December newsletter.



All makeup AIM Theory Exams need to be completed by Saturday, November 1st. Specific guidelines and instructions regarding makeup exams were included in all teacher AIM packets. Please refer to this handout if your student needs a makeup exam or if you are judging a makeup exam.

If you have further questions, please contact the AIM Theory Coordinators:

Janel Greaves and Diane Jankiewicz

WSMTA Student Recital

Now is the chance to sign up for the WSMTA Student Recital on Sunday, November 9th! The recital is at Covenant Living at Windsor Park from 1:30 - 2:45 pm.



Students of any instrument, age and level are encouraged to play.

There is no fee for WSMTA members. Members of other groups may participate. The fee for non-members is \$15 per participant.

To enter a student, please fill out the online form by the deadline of 11:59 pm on November 1. Here is is link to the form which is also available on the website. <https://forms.gle/AXkYaQ9DwKiV953Y7>

If you have questions, please consult the WSMTA Handbook or contact:

Carol Ishman, Recital Coordinator

Membership News

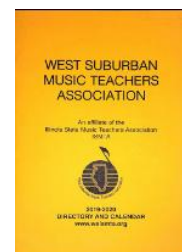
Please add these members to your 2025-26 directory.

Annalee Abrahamsen
27W288 Manchester Rd
Winfield IL 60190-1437

1daughteroftheking@abrahamsen.us

Catherine Hartrim-Lowe
421 N Chase St CPO 1308
Wheaton IL 60187

catherine.hartrimlowe@my.wheaton.edu



Janna Williamson, VP for Membership

*MUSIC
IN THE
AFTERNOON*



Barbara Farley, violin

Carol Beilke, piano

Janet Schultze, piano

Sunday, November 2, 2025, 3 p.m.

St. Andrew United Methodist Church

250 N. Gary Ave., Carol Stream, IL

**West Suburban Music Teachers Association
Oct. 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes**



Opening:

- Call to order – 9:02, Dr. Karin Edwards
- Music Spot – Carol Ishman: Announce/reminder that we need people to play
- Membership – Janna Williamson: No official new members; 3 members not here last month: Sandra Anderson, Gwen Downey, John Hoheisel. Reminder MTNA in Chgo. Young member incentive.
- Minutes of September 4, 2025 meeting – Mary McGinty: Correction to Sept.; funds from Silent Film event go to families in Bloomingdale. Fun fundraising, no pressure, organizing it is now down to a science.
- *MOTION to ACCEPT: Adrian Rose 2nd: Carol Ishman APPROVED*
- Financial Report – Katrina Cline - \$9550.07 balance. Bd members needing reimbursement please see Katrina.
- Idea Spotlight – Debbie Gillette: Very familiar with AIM, offering “11th Hour AIM Lifeline”. Transfer students or those less gifted – Theory help – interval recognition ideas & work with melody recognition (frequent drills on this).

Upcoming Events and Reminders:

- **ISMTA state conference:** Janna Williamson - November 7 - 8, Blackburn College, Carlinville. 4.5 hour drive with stops; 3.5 hour drive with no stops. Two scholarships for people who have never attended the ISMTA state conference..
- **MTNA national convention – in Chicago March 21-25!** Start planning now! Our chance to attend a national conference without having to pay expensive airline and hotel fees. Registration now open; reduced rates before Dec. 15. Website has ideas to find funds to help you.
- **Tara Chapman:** November 6 - “Supporting Students with Dyslexia in the Music Classroom”
- **Student Recital:** November 9 - entry is free for your students!
- **Teachers Roundtable:** November 13 - for new and experienced teachers – ideas & refreshments! First one – probably Wheaton College, 10:30.
- **Teacher Performance Group:** November 20 - Performers and observers are welcome. *Start planning now to have a new work or a work in progress ready to play.* At Mark & Karin Edwards’ home.
- **ISMTA Joint Workshop:** Feb 26 - Alex McDonald, Wheaton College Recital Hall (9:30-12:30 plus Q&A; plus Friday 4 pm performance); Topic: “Helping our Students Go From intermediate to Advanced Levels”.
 - Alex McDonald and his family members are the teachers at their McDonald Music Studio for pre-college students in Texas. The Texas Music Teachers Association awarded him the 2017 Outstanding Achievement Award in teaching. Alex comes to us with an extensive background in teaching young students. He is also a marvelous performer and there will be opportunity to hear him perform.

New business: Janna Williamson introduced new members Dr. Frank Kuhny, & Deborah Backus.

Adjourn: 9:32 *MOTION to ADJOURN: Janel Greaves 2nd: Karol-Sue Reddington* APPROVED

Program: - AIM Theory Judging Session with Janel Greaves & Diane Jankiewicz

Mary McGinty, Secretary

Quote of the Month

“Music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed heart opens.”

- Maria von Trapp



From the Editor



The WSMTA Newsletter is published monthly September through May, with one summer issue in July. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. For example: the September newsletter deadline is August 15 and is published by Aug. 20. Articles must be 'print-ready' when submitted.

This newsletter is sent via the WS Google Group, wsmta@googlegroups.com. You must subscribe to the group in order to receive it and other important communication from our group. Past issues of the WSMTA Newsletter are available on the WSMTA website, www.wsismta.org

Kathlyn Sbarboro, WSMTA Newsletter Editor

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