



ST. LOUIS AREA
MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

www.slamta.org

February Meeting

Friday, February 13, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m.

The United Methodist Church of Green Trails
14237 Ladue Road, Chesterfield

Our program will feature psychologist and educator Stephen Viola in a discussion about **Sensory Integration in Children**. Sensory integration is a neurobiological activity within our bodies. It is the way the nervous system processes information from the senses. Countless bits of sensory information enter our nervous system. Sensory integration is the brain's and nervous system's ability to organize these stimuli. When sensations flow in an organized manner, the brain can use those sensations to form perceptions, behaviors, and learning. Sensory integration dysfunction occurs when the brain and nervous system are unable to integrate sensory information smoothly. When this occurs, sensory information is misinterpreted resulting in problems with perceptions, behaviors, and learning.

This session will examine sensory integration in the child and how it relates to learning and behavior. The role of music and sensory integration will also be discussed.

Stephen Viola has over twenty years' experience as a school psychologist and special educator in K-12 public school settings and as a university faculty member where he currently teaches coursework in how to apply neuroscience to the classroom setting. Dr. Viola has lectured extensively in more than fifteen countries and has established special education reform initiatives in Poland, Russia, Croatia, and Slovenia.

The program will be held in the Sanctuary at The United Methodist Church of Green Trails. We want to extend a special invitation to SLAMTA members and friends, colleagues, parents and other educators to attend this meeting.

Important Date Change!

The Jazz, Rag and Blues Festival date has been changed to Saturday, August 8. Please make note of this on your calendars. Carol Beth True will be the judge for this event and it will be held at Lacefield Music. Plan ahead for this summer opportunity for your students!

Upcoming Events

Info and entry forms on the website: www.slamta.org

- Sunday, February 15, 2:30 p.m.—Young Artist 2008 Gold Medal Winners in Recital at Christ Church Cathedral
- Sunday, February 22, 4:00 p.m.—A Festive Recital of Romantic Music
- Saturday, March 7, 3:00 p.m. – Adult Student Recital (Entry deadline is February 20)
- March 28-April 1—MTNA National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia
(see www.mtna.org for details)
- Sunday, April 5—Young Artist 2008 Gold Medal Winners on Classic 99's *From the Garden Live*
- Saturday, April 18—SLAMTA Young Artist Competition (Entry deadline is March 27)

Other SLAMTA NEWS

Cathy Benton and Sheila Ryerse are representing SLAMTA on the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Music Educators Council (MEC). The MEC is a group of music educators from throughout the St. Louis and Metro East region, and also includes St. Louis Symphony representatives. The MEC's purpose is to advise the St. Louis Symphony through its Community Partnership Advisory Board. Their goal is to support the musical learning of students throughout the St. Louis area.

The SLAMTA Young Artist Competition and the 2008 Winners will be featured in the upcoming edition of Classic 99's *The Libretto*—KFUO's quarterly newsletter/magazine. We will notify the SLAMTA Membership when this edition has been published.

Thank You to Janna O'Hara, Playathon Chairperson and Judy Malzone, Sonatina Chairperson. The Playathon was held in November at Plaza Frontenac and 19 teachers participated. In addition, SLAMTA received a thank you letter from the Marketing Director of Plaza Frontenac. The Sonatina Festival is this Saturday, February 7 and Judy reports that 28 teachers and over 200 students are participating in this event.