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## AHEA Newsletter: January 2026

1 message

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**American Hungarian Educators Association** <aheanews@123673990.mailchimp.com> Fri, Jan 30, 2026 at 2:29 PM  
Reply-To: aheanews@gmail.com  
To: voros@eecs.berkeley.edu

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# January 2026 Newsletter

## Editor's Corner

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Winter is running its course! That means preparations for our annual conference are entering their final stages. The window for Early Bird registration has opened. I've included digested information about fees as well as hotel options in a segment below. (Although you are always encouraged to visit our [central conference page](#).)

It also means that it's awards application season here at AHEA. We have three funding opportunities available once again. The one that pertains directly to the upcoming conference, the Research Presentation Award, has an imminent deadline of **February 15**. If you are a student or junior scholar in need of further money to help offset your travel expenses, consider submitting your application right away!

### **Research Presentation Award**

**Deadline:** !!! February 15 !!!

**Amount and purpose:** \$500 to provide partial support for graduate students and junior scholars to attend the annual in-person conference.

**Link:** <https://ahea.net/members/research-presentation-awards>

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### **Helena History Press Scholarship**

**Deadline:** March 17

**Amount and purpose:** \$2,500 to advance the research of a scholar in any field of humanities who specializes in work related to or about Central and Eastern Europe

**Link:** <https://ahea.net/members/ahea-awards/helena-history-press-scholarship>

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### **Steven Béla Várdy and Ágnes Huszár Várdy Legacy Scholarship**

**Deadline:** March 17

**Amount and purpose:** \$2,500 to advance the research of a scholar in the fields of history or literature

**Link:** <https://ahea.net/members/steven-bela-vardy-legacy-scholarship>

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Finally, is there someone in AHEA whose years of service and selfless labor have deeply impressed you? Do you wish there were some way to give them the recognition they deserve? The nominate them for the **Péter Basa Award!** Given only every two years, this award is the ultimate symbol of commitment to our organization. Nominations are open until **March 31**.

Until next month, be well and stay warm,  
Andrew Behrendt  
Newsletter Editor and AHEA Vice President

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## **AHEA 2026: Conference and Hotel Registration are Open!**

### **REGISTRATION**

Registration for the 50th Annual AHEA Conference at Cleveland State University is open! [Follow this link to the registration page.](#)

The basic "early bird" fee is \$85 or \$35 for students, if purchased before April 1. After that, the amount will increase by \$20. The price includes on-site lunches, coffee breaks, and program materials. Tickets to the Saturday banquet (also onsite), featuring a special performance by the folk ensemble [Harmonia](#), are an additional \$50. There will also be an optional Sunday excursion, also \$50. Details forthcoming.

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### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

AHEA has reserved blocks of rooms at a discounted rate at two nearby hotels: Comfort Inn at 1800 Euclid Ave and Crowne Plaza Cleveland at Playhouse Square. [For prices and reservation links, go to our Conference page.](#) The group rate offers expire on March 19 for the Crowne Plaza and March 22 for the Comfort Inn.

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## **Member Spotlight**

AHEA is a scholarly organization connecting a diverse set of educators, researchers, professionals, independent scholars and academics who come from many walks of life. Each month we highlight the academic and professional career of a different AHEA member.



This month's featured member is **Alexa Dorottya Stier**,

pianist and doctoral candidate at the Yale School of Music

*Alexa was a 2025 Research Presentation Award winner and received the first Best Student Paper Award in 2025*

**AHEA members are a talented group, but you're probably the first to have won awards as both a pianist and an academic and to have founded a music festival. Please tell us a little bit about your unique career arc. In particular, how did you come to combine being a practicing musician with musical scholarship? How have these dual paths complemented each other?**

I grew up as part of the Hungarian diaspora of Szatmárnémeti (Satu Mare), Romania. When I was fifteen years old, I won the Silvestri Scholarship, awarded to a highschooler from Romania possessing outstanding musical talents. The scholarship offered the opportunity to study at the prestigious Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh, while taking piano lessons at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. I was able to graduate from high school early and start my Bachelor of Music studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. I moved to the United States for my Master of Music studies at the Yale School of Music in 2019. I am currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at Yale. The six-year degree combines expectations for high-level musical excellence and rigorous academic training. I wrote my thesis on the piano works of György Kurtág. His music is very close to my heart: I resonate with our shared musical heritage and the rich cultural tapestry permeating his compositional language. I believe that engaging with musical scholarship feeds my own performance practice. By basing my research on music that I often perform, I celebrate my own artistic identity and discover the works inside and out.

I am a laureate of the Messiaen, Orléans, and Enescu International Piano Competitions, and I played in prestigious venues, such as Merkin Hall and Lincoln Center. As a travelling pianist, it is easy to feel isolated from one's audience. One of the ways I can connect with the concertgoers is by contextualizing the repertoire I play. Sharing some of my research on the works' socio-historical context enables listeners to grasp onto the music in a more meaningful way. Connection lies at the core of my work as a performer, scholar, and as an artistic leader in my community. I founded the ContemporArt Festival in Satu Mare county, which aims to de-mystify the traditional classical music concert experience, and introduce contemporary music to local audiences. Since 2023, ContemporArt is synonymous with a week-long hub of chamber music connecting regional audience members, music students, and professional musicians to an international roster of successful young artists. Each August, the admission-free festival brings chamber music concerts to the residents of Satu Mare county and offers free chamber music education to the music students of the region. In a nutshell: ContemporArt is my avenue through which I turn my artistic beliefs into action.

## How did you find out about AHEA, and what brought you to join?

During my residency at the Yale School of Music, one of my advisors encouraged me to check out the important work that AHEA does. A year later I was living in New Jersey. By complete luck, I saw that the 48th Annual Conference was taking place at Rutgers University that weekend, only fifteen minutes from where I used to live! Of course I attended, and immediately felt at home: scholars from all over the world were sharing their research on fascinating topics of Hungarian culture. I instantly decided to apply to the following conference. I was very lucky to have my proposal accepted and share some of my work on my thesis in Pécs in the summer of 2025.

## What impact has your involvement with AHEA made on your career and/or your work?

I was one of the participants and presenters at the 49th Conference of AHEA organized in Pécs, Hungary. Connecting with scholars and musicians who dedicated their lives to researching Hungarian music has been very inspiring. Without the help of the Research Presentation Award, I would have not been able to attend the event. I had the chance to hear thought-provoking presentations, and network with scholars representing institutions from all over the world. Most importantly, I had the opportunity to present my research in a supportive environment and receive critical feedback from experts in the field of musical scholarship.

## Tell us, please, what you are working on right now.

I am very grateful for having received the AHEA Best Student Paper Award. It has encouraged me to dig deeper into my research. Currently I am working on crafting my presentation into an article, which I am planning on submitting for review to *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. I have many concerts coming up: I'll be performing in Washington D.C. next with my dear friend and fantastic violinist Ariel Horowitz. Currently I work as adjunct collaborative pianist at Lipscomb University, and I teach at the Lipscomb Academy in Nashville, Tennessee. I am also in the process of curating the next season of the ContemporArt Festival. Meanwhile, my doctorate is wrapping up: I am preparing for my final oral examination and recital next fall. For more information about my season and my accomplishments, feel free to check out my website: [alexastier.com](http://alexastier.com).

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## Call for Submissions: *Hungarian Cultural Studies*

[\*Hungarian Cultural Studies\*](#)—the peer-reviewed, open-access scholarly journal published each summer by the American Hungarian Educators Association—is inviting submissions for our 2026 issue.

Our mission is to publish scholarly, cutting-edge content dedicated to Hungarian studies across the humanities and social science disciplines—including original articles, book reviews, and review articles.

We particularly welcome thematic clusters comprising three or more articles on a unifying theme.

Furthermore, we are thrilled to announce that AHEA and the National Széchényi Library (OSZK) signed an Agreement of Cooperation to digitally archive *HCS* in the Electronic Periodicals Archive & Database (EPA). The complete archive of *HCS* is available at <https://epa.oszk.hu/04600/04696>

**February 1 is the deadline** for manuscript submissions, although acceptance is rolling and some flexibility may be possible. Please direct questions to our editor in

chief, Anna Fenyvesi, at [fenyvesi@lit.u-szeged.hu](mailto:fenyvesi@lit.u-szeged.hu).

To find out more about the submission process, check our [website](#).

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## Renew Your Membership for 2026!

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We invite you to renew your membership or become a member of the American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA). To become a member or to renew for 2026, [click here](#) to access the link. Please note that we now offer a discounted 3-year, and life membership.

Renewing today will allow you to maximize your membership benefits by maintaining access to the organization's member benefits and resources. Your membership enables you to:

- Present at AHEA Conferences and have the privilege to chair sessions
- Participate in the Committee work of AHEA
- Be eligible for awards
- Become a voting member

We are grateful for your support, and please let us know how we can continue to provide value for our members.

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## Have a New or Upcoming Publication?

We would love to help share news of the impressive and diverse work that AHEA members are doing! If you have a recent book, article, or other scholarly/artistic work you would like your fellow members to know about, send a brief description/promotional blurb and a link to further information to [aheanews@gmail.com](mailto:aheanews@gmail.com). Requests will appear in the order in which they were received and may be edited for space.

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