



## MMTA/MTNA OPPORTUNITIES

### Opportunities for Students

1. **MMTA State Piano Contest** - MMTA hosts an annual State Piano Contest, with Contest Preliminaries in late-January/early February, and Contest Finals in early March. Students who win in the preliminary round participate in the final round. Winners in the final round are assigned a piano ensemble part and perform in an Honors Concert in June.
2. **Vocal/Instrumental Contest** – MMTA hosts an annual vocal/instrumental contest, with Contest Preliminaries in late-January, and Contest Finals in March. Students who win in the Preliminaries participate in the Contest Finals, as well as perform in a Performance Recital directly following the contest.
3. **Young Artist Contest** – To encourage high performance standards, MMTA sponsors a Young Artist Contest in March. Competition categories include, piano, organ, strings, voice and woodwinds.
4. **MMTA Composition Contest** – This contest encourages students to learn about and experience the art of music composition. Winners perform at the MMTA Convention in June.
5. **Comprehensive Piano Exams** encompass ten levels of study and are offered throughout the school year. These exams include performing repertoire of different styles. Keyboard Skills and Sightplaying may be tested on an earlier testing date on the same day as the repertoire.
6. **Comprehensive Piano Exam, Level 11** is the culmination of the MTMA piano syllabus Program. Repertoire, Keyboard Skills and Sightplaying are the three areas tested. The exam is offered once every spring.
7. **Keyboard Skills Exams and Sightplaying Exams** are offered throughout the school year. These may be taken as separate exams, or as part of the Comprehensive Piano Exams.
8. **Keyboard Theory Exams** are offered throughout the school year. Skills tested are analysis, ear training and application of theoretical concepts at the keyboard.
9. **Flute, Guitar, Strings, and Voice syllabus exams** are offered throughout the school year. Repertoire, technique and theory are some of the areas tested.
10. **Ensemble Festivals** are held in the fall of each year and open to all ages.
11. **Music Bridges** is a critiqued activity designed to encourage all abilities and interest in music and the relationship between music and other arts.

12. **MTNA Performance Competitions** – held in the fall for all instruments and open to special age groups. Winners go on to West Central Division and may play in the annual an honors concert. Information for this is found in the *American Music Teacher* magazine.
13. **MTNA Student Composition Competition** This is open to all students from elementary through college age. Information is found in the *American Music Teacher* magazine.

### **Opportunities for Members**

1. **Local Associations** – Seventeen locations throughout the state offer professional connections, educational opportunities, master classes, workshops and outreach programs to communities.
2. The **MMTA Convention** is held in June of each year. It includes workshops, lectures, demonstrations, master classes and performances from guest artists and MMTA members.
3. **Piano Contest Materials Workshops** offer teaching tips and performance of the State Piano Contest music. These are held in different locations throughout the state during the early fall. Refer to the MMTA website for dates and locations.
4. **Judges' Workshops for syllabus and contest judging** – These are for both judges and those interested in the judging process. Refer to MMTA newsletters for event information.
5. **Teachers Original Duet Composition Contest** – Each fall, teachers are invited to compose a Primary or Junior A level piano ensemble piece. The winning composition(s) are performed at the MMTA Honors Concert in the spring.
6. **MusicLink** is a program that links independent music teachers with potentially talented music students who might need financial assistance. Visit the web site at: [musiclinkfoundation.org](http://musiclinkfoundation.org) or call our MMTA chair, Susan Wege at 651-458-0143.
7. **Certification (Membership)** - Members of MMTA are strongly encouraged to apply for state or national certification. Nationally certified members have the designation 'NCTM' (Nationally Certified Teacher of Music) after their name. Certification encourages continuing education, volunteerism and overall professional development.
8. **European Study Tour** –a guided tour of Europe designed for the music teacher. This is usually offered every other year. Check the newsletter for information on this.
9. **The MTNA National Convention** is held in March or April each year at various locations throughout the country. Refer to the MTNA website for more information.

## Resources

**MMTA website:** [www.mnmusicteachers.com](http://www.mnmusicteachers.com). The MMTA website outlines program information and has printable registration forms available. Online registration is now available for theory exams, as well as for the MMTA Convention. MMTA materials may be ordered online; however, payment must be phoned in or mailed to the MMTA Office. Also, MMTA members may list their contact information in the “Find a Teacher” page by requesting it through the email provided on that page.

**MTNA website:** [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). The MTNA website provides membership information and services; materials for national certification; and much more.

**MMTA Handbook** – This gives detailed information on programs and registration blanks for entries in MMTA programs. This is sent to all members before the beginning of each academic year.

**Syllabi and other teaching resources for MMTA programs** are available through the MMTA Office. Use these valuable resources to guide your teaching and lesson planning. An order form is at the back of the MMTA Handbook. Orders may also be made in-person, over the phone or on the MMTA website.

**MMTA Membership Directory** – The directory lists all MMTA members for the current academic year. A new directory is mailed to every member each year in mid-fall.

**MMTA Newsletter** – The MMTA newsletter is published six times per year: September, October, November, January, March, and May. Newsletters provide information on MMTA programs and events, plus inspirational articles.

The **American Music Teacher** magazine is published by MTNA and is a wonderful resource for teaching ideas. MTNA members receive the magazine free of charge. It provides valuable information on MTNA competitions and the annual MTNA national convention in March/April.