



MINNESOTA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



MMTA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, & DECEMBER 2019

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MMTA President's Letter



Greetings, dear colleagues and friends, and welcome to a new year of teaching! Welcome to all returning MMTA members, and especially welcome to our new MMTA members – joining our ranks are some really wonderful musicians and educators of the highest caliber, including a former MMTA Young Artist Winner and musicians of the Grammy award-winning Minnesota Orchestra. We are delighted to have each and every member as part of our organization, and I personally invite you to be actively involved in our organization! You can read more of my “Welcome to the Year” letter in the full version of the MMTA handbook, available at the link here: <https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/handbook>

My term as President began July 1, and I would like to give most sincere thanks to Immediate Past President Marcia Vahl for all of her leadership over the past two years. One can't begin to imagine the myriad and varied tasks and responsibilities of the presidency until one is actually in it, so I have even greater appreciation and gratitude for all those who have served MMTA in leadership capacities, both on the Board of Directors and especially as President before me.

Around the time I began my term, I received a phone call from a member who asked me to lead with transparency. Dear members, I promise to do my best to lead not only with transparency but also with honesty, integrity, and absolute commitment to the long-term health and well-being of MMTA, an organization that has been both personally and professionally significant for me. In that spirit, my very first newsletter as President is going to just jump right in to the deep end. I thank you in advance for hanging in there with me, as there is some light at the end of the newsletter (and the metaphorical tunnel).

Currently MMTA is having a fairly significant financial crisis. If you haven't read the most recent annual report of our VP of Finance, Jake Fitzpatrick, NCTM, I encourage you to do so now (it's brief): <https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/blog/2018-2019-mmta-annual-reports>. This report is really just a snapshot of our finances, and it's important to realize that there have always been ups and downs with our fiscal situation over the decades. But it is even more critically important to realize that since the report was written four months ago, our finances over the summer have been even more tumultuous and frankly, rather worrying, to say the least.

“Why?” you may find yourself asking. MMTA is currently facing two big challenges – steeply declining membership and declining volunteerism. We're not special in this way; this is a national trend with every other state affiliate of MTNA. What does that mean? In a snapshot, declining membership means fewer teachers entering fewer students in events, resulting in an ever-smaller amount of income. At the same time, declining

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volunteerism means that more tasks previously delegated to and accomplished by volunteers are now shifted to our paid office workers, which raises our expenses by a not insignificant amount.

As I write this letter, I am literally returning home to West Central Minnesota from the MTNA Leadership Summit, held annually in Cincinnati. At this meeting, Presidents from all of the states as well as Division Directors meet to discuss issues facing us – the future of the music teaching profession, what programs we have that are successful, what's working in each state, what's not, and much, much more. I learned so much in discussions with other state Presidents, and have some ideas to bring to the MMTA Board of Directors, for how to set us on a course for operating in a more financially stable way, setting us on track for a future of solvency.

"What can I do?" you might be asking. You don't have to donate a lot of money to help us weather the crisis (although if this is something you feel called to do, we would gladly welcome it!). First and foremost, use MMTA's programs – enter your students. We have SO MANY options! This is another thing I have learned at the MTNA summit – we far surpass most other states by the sheer variety and amount of programs and events we offer our students. Contest, Theory Exam, Popular Styles, Voice and Instrumental Contests and events, Music Bridges – there is literally something for every student out there. Personally, I am having each of my private students work toward the Challenge Award this year, a program I haven't used before – I'm trying something new and putting my money where my mouth is.

Secondly, if you are reading this and haven't renewed your membership, please renew! Today! Right now! And related to this, if you have colleagues who aren't members of MMTA (... or who haven't yet renewed), please encourage them to join, get involved, and enter students in our programs. Welcome them in with open arms. I learned (again, at the MTNA summit) that there are likely 10-15 times the number of independent music teachers as are current, active members of MTNA – so I know there are several colleagues out there in our state who could join and benefit from our membership and programs.

Lastly, MMTA has over 20 open positions for volunteers (some of which receive a small stipend), in a wide variety of roles. Please consider serving! Your involvement in MMTA is a huge part of what helps to make us successful. Or put another way, MMTA is only successful because of active members like you. One of the very best ways to help MMTA thrive is to become a very active member, not only in having students participate in programs, but also in you yourself serving, whether that be as a volunteer on a testing day, as Site Admin, on a committee, as a Program Director, or in another capacity. And if you know people who would be good at these jobs, or who would like to be involved in some way in our organization, please encourage them to do so!

Thank you for reading my (somewhat long) first newsletter article. My hope is that it serves as a rallying cry – we are stronger when we work together. We all have the same end goals, which is to bring music and artistry to our students, nurturing and educating the next generation of music players and music lovers. Let's proceed forward into the future, working together for a strong MMTA.

Dr. Ann DuHamel, NCTM

Dr. Ann DuHamel, NCTM
MMTA President

2020 MMTA Piano Contest Materials List – Updates

Please take note of the following updates to the current year's Materials List. Teachers are responsible for making sure these updates are communicated to the student.

Intermediate A

- Beethoven – Bagatelle in F should say **Take 1st and 2nd endings.**

Intermediate B

- Capers – Title of book should also say **Volume 1 – Early Intermediate**

Senior B

- Beach – the piece listed is **ONLY** available online.

Local Associations**Kay Hawkins, NCTM, Chair**

MMTA members and non-members are welcome to attend any of the events listed below:

Central Minnesota Music Teachers Association

- Friday, Oct. 4, 9:00-11:30 a.m. - "Listen Up! Teaching Aural Skills to Piano Students" and update on Theory Exams with presenter Rebekah Richards. Home of Heidi Hansen, 16950 77th ST, Becker, MN.
- Friday, Nov. 1, 9:00-11:30 a.m. - Duet Day, led by Katie Johnson. Home of Judy Feneis, 615 N. 7th ST, Sartell, MN.
- Friday, Dec. 6, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. - Christmas Pot Luck. Home of Ginny Shimota, 16 N. 5th Ave, Waite Park, MN.

Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum

- Tuesday, Oct. 1, 9:30 a.m. Registration & Refreshments, 9:45 a.m. Education/MMTA Contest Class for Junior A, Primary and Pre-Primary. Presenters: Jean Krinke and Camille Buddecke. Schmitt Music-Southdale Square.
- Tuesday, Nov. 5, 10:00 a.m. (Refreshments beforehand) - Mini Topic: "Summer Teaching at Interlochen Center for the Arts" with presenter Maria Grant. Main Topic: Debussy and Stravinsky Recital with performers Ed Turley and Amy Grinsteiner, duo pianists. Schmitt Music-Southdale Square.
- Tuesday, Dec. 10 (start time TBD) – Holiday Luncheon. Topic: "Guzheng Artistry" with presenter Jarrelle Barton. Minnesota Valley Country Club.

Minnesota River Valley Music Teachers Association

- Tuesday, Nov. 12, 10:30-noon (Business Meeting 9:30) – "Educating Parents to be Effective Home Teachers" with presenter Suzanne Greer. Discovery United Methodist Church, 275 East Lake Drive, Chanhassen.
- Tuesday, Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m. – Holiday Party – "Sharing of Our Gifts" (Member Performance). Home of Patricia Langer, 7101 Antrim Court, Edina.

Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Association

- Friday, Oct. 11, 9:30-11:00 a.m. (Business Meeting 9:00) – "Telling a Story with Music: Composition for Everyone" with presenter Dr. Sarah Miller. Twin River Council for the Arts, 523 S. 2nd St., Mankato.
- Friday, Nov. 8, 9:30-11:00 a.m. – "Recitals, Parties, and Music for the Holiday Season". Twin River Council for the Arts, 523 S. 2nd St., Mankato.
- Friday, Dec. 13, Holiday Brunch. Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato.

Rochester Area Music Teachers Association

- Thursday, Oct. 10, 9:00 a.m. – "Stopping the Quitters, Celebrating the Finishers!" with presenter Marilyn Henry. Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Rochester.
- Thursday, Nov. 14, 9:00 a.m. – "A Musical Journey" with presenter Peggy Reich. Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Rochester.

St. Paul Piano Teachers Association

- Tuesday, Oct. 8, 10:00 a.m. – "Collaborative Piano 101" with presenter Sarah Lockwood. Hastings Art Center, 216 4th St. E., Hastings.
- Tuesday, Nov. 12, 10:00 a.m. – "Audiation: Creating Aural Awareness" with presenter Laura Harding. Cadenza Music, 149 Snelling Ave N, St. Paul (Parking on street, behind store.)
- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 10:00 a.m. - Holiday Tea with Guest Artist Asako Hirabayashi. Home of Marilyn Henry, 3029 W. Owasso Blvd., Roseville.

South Suburban Music Teachers Association

- Tuesday, Oct. 1, 10:00-noon – "Teaching Lessons Over Skype" with presenter Erin Winchell. Grace Lutheran Church, 7800 West County Rd 42, Apple Valley.
- Tuesday, Nov. 5, 10:00-noon – Book Club Part 1 – Discuss through p.31 of "Play it Again, Sam...What, Why and When to Repeat" with presenter Marianne Uszler.. Grace Lutheran Church, Apple Valley.
- Tuesday, Dec. 3, 10:00-noon – Holiday Brunch. Suzie's Kitchen, 15023 Crestone Ave W, Rosemount.

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STEINWAY & SONS

Steinway Teacher & Educational Partner Program



For over 165 years Steinway & Sons has been an avid supporter of Music Education.

This is evident from the beginning of Steinway's history when Doretta Steinway gave piano lessons to prospective clients - to today's support through the Steinway Teacher & Educational Partner Program (STEP).

Just a few of the many benefits you'll receive when you join:

- Prestige of being associated with Steinway & Sons
- A Steinway Teacher & Educational Partner Plaque
- Teacher & Educational Partner Scholarship programs
- Continuing education opportunities for teachers
- Complimentary teacher and student tools
- Early access and selection at special events and promotions
- New student referrals
- Preferred access to Steinway master classes
- Attractive leasing and financing options on the world's best pianos



Contact a Schmitt Music Piano Specialist

Edina 612-238-9941 • Brooklyn Center 763-398-5050

schmittmusic.com/steinway • steinway@schmittmusic.com



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West Suburban Music Teachers Association

- Friday, Oct. 4, 10:00-11:30 (9:30 Coffee) – “Music and the Brain Benefits: Music Advocacy” with presenter Elizabeth Everitt. St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, 15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth.
- Friday, Dec. 6, 10:00 a.m. – “Educating Parents to be Effective Home Teachers” with presenter Suzanne Greer. Holiday luncheon to follow. Home of Jan Friedrich, 5518 Lakeland Rd, Minnetonka.

Willmar Music Teachers Association

- Saturday, Oct. 12, 10:00 a.m. – Peter Mack’s “The Art of the Phrase” MTNA Webinar. Lunch follows. Home of Kristen Castligione, 1678 48th Ave. NE, Willmar.

NEW for 2020: Solo Festivals

MMTA is proud to announce two new opportunities for students in the form of the Solo Festival! The Festival format offers a great opportunity for students of all ages to enjoy making music while learning more about themselves as a musician in the process. Details for participation are below. Register online, or request a registration form from the MMTA Office.

Voice & Instrumental Solo Festival

When: Saturday, March 14, 2020

Where: University of Minnesota, Ferguson Hall

What: Prepare a solo for your instrument. May be accompanied (by piano) or unaccompanied. No theory requirement, no memorization requirement, no age requirement, any genre.

Who: Anyone! Older beginner (including adults!), reluctant theory student, special needs, reluctant memorizer...

Why: Receive a written critique from another expert teacher; earn Challenge Award points!

Piano Solo Festival

To encourage performance for all ages and abilities, MMTA sponsors a new event - an annual Piano Solo Festival. Students who do not wish to compete in Piano Contest may perform for written comments from a judge by performing a selected repertoire from the Piano Contest annual materials list. Festival participants are not eligible for Finals, or the Honors Concert.

Location/Date: All Piano Contest Preliminaries locations

Deadline: Same as Piano Contest (Sunday, December 1, 2019)

Fee: Same as contest: \$23.00 per student, non-member \$50 per teacher (in addition to student registration fees).

Procedures: Same as Piano Contest, but there is no theory requirement.

Category: No age or category requirement or restriction.

Repertoire: Must be chosen from the current year’s Piano Contest Materials List.

Music must be memorized. Legal copies of the music selection is to be provided for the judge.

A student may not enter either the Piano Contest or Young Artist Contest if entering in the Solo Festival.

MMTA Challenge Award: 100 points.



Piano Contest Registration Deadline: Saturday, December 1st!

Here are a few hints to keep the registration process efficient for both teachers and administrators:

1. Limit **time requests** and keep time request notes short.
2. **Carpool requests** need only student name(s) and level(s) in the Carpools box.
3. **Special Needs** box is for students with learning challenges or disabilities a Site Administrator needs to be aware of.
4. Contact a Site Administrator to ask what **volunteer opportunities** are available.
5. **Double-check** information with students/parents before submitting registrations, especially theory requirements.

Members are encouraged to register online; but paper forms are available if needed. Check on the contest event pages on the MMTA website; or contact the [MMTA Office](#).

MMTA Convention: Call for Proposals

Doug Rohde, VP Convention

MMTA Convention June 7-9, 2020: Call for Presentations

MMTA is a lot of things to a lot of people but for me the annual convention is a huge highlight. I'm happy to be on the planning team for the fourth year in a row, and beginning this year, also serving on the MMTA board as VP-Convention.

For 2020, we are very excited to have Dr. Randall Faber as our keynote speaker and guest artist. I met him at an MTNA national conference a few years ago and on first impression, he was both sharp and personable. A good combination of qualities!



Our next convention will also feature the usual incredible array of member and guest sessions. These can come in the form of lectures, roundtables, and workshops. I will never take the high quality or wide variety of these wisdom-sharing sessions for granted, and I can always count on more than a full measure of energy and enthusiasm from the generous teaching artists standing at the front of the room. It is a gift to all of us that we have such great talent here in Minnesota, and the willingness to share it.

The application form is up and running on the MMTA website: mnmusicteachers.com/2020-mmta-convention (scroll down to “**Convention Sessions**”). Your proposal will include contact information, an idea of what you would like to present, and your tech needs. **Submissions are due by December 15, 2019.**

Sessions are generally 50 minutes in length, including intro, wrap-up, and Q&A. Past topics have included technique, artistry, musical eras, improvisation, composition, business, technology, special needs students, and MMTA programs.

Proposals are qualified, and presenters chosen from among them, in January. Then we ask for more detail over the next few months.

A word about sessions that may have a commercial or sales focus: we welcome them! But if you wish to promote a product or curriculum, we ask that you purchase a “showcase”. You can get in touch with me to get that process started.

What would you like to see? In addition to asking for proposals, we'd also love to see your ideas for convention sessions. How to build a website? How to use Dropbox? How to start a studio? New ways to network with other teachers? How to make MMTA inclusive of all musical styles, cultures, teaching and learning styles? Address the future of MMTA as an organization? Again, please get in touch with me if you have ideas.

In the meantime, enjoy your teaching, your students, and your music making.

Doug Rohde

612-234-5395 ■ drohde@bitstream.net

Have you considered
being a judge?

One of the reasons MMTA programs are so beneficial for students is because of the supportive and motivating evaluations received from top quality MMTA judges.

If you love teaching and would like to be an MMTA judge this year, please contact Jill Kilzer, Judge Education Chair, at jill.kilzer@me.com for more information. Judges are especially needed in the Northwest Detroit Lakes, Southwest Marshall, West Alexandria districts - both for Piano Contest and for exams.

The VIP Section

Siri Caltvedt, NCTM, MMTA Vice President Voice & Instrumental Programs

The VIP Section

MMTA is not just for Piano! We have a bevy of programs for students of voice and other instruments, including a new one for literally ANY student. Read over these brief descriptions and find the right program for your anything-but-piano student!

NEW for 2020: Voice/Instrumental Solo Festival

When: Saturday, March 14, 2020

Where: University of Minnesota, Ferguson Hall

What: Prepare a solo for your instrument. May be accompanied (by piano) or unaccompanied. No theory requirement, no memorization requirement, no age requirement, any genre.

Who: Anyone! Older beginner (including adults!), reluctant theory student, special needs, reluctant memorizer...

Why: Receive a written critique from another expert teacher; earn Challenge Award points!

Ensemble Festival

When & Where: Various dates throughout the state

What: Prepare a piece with another student or several students.

Who: Students of MMTA member

Why: Learn to collaborate with other musicians, receive a written critique from an expert teacher, earn Challenge Award points

(See Handbook for program details.)

State Voice & Instrumental Contest

When: Saturday, March 14, 2020

Where: University of Minnesota, Ferguson Hall

What: Prepare a solo with piano accompaniment; must be memorized

Who: Students of MMTA members, studied longer than 3 months, have passed the theory requirement for their age group

Why: Receive written critique from another expert teacher, perform in Festival Ensemble, winners perform solo in Festival Concert, earn Challenge Award points!

(See Handbook for program details.)

Voice & Instrumental Junior and Senior Young Artist Competition

When: Saturday, March 14, 2020

Where: University of Minnesota, Ferguson Hall

What: Prepare a program as specified in Handbook; must be memorized

Who: Students of MMTA members, studied longer than 3 months, have passed the theory requirement for their age group

Why: Receive written critique from another expert teacher, may perform in Festival Ensemble, winners perform solo in Festival Concert, cash prizes, earn Challenge Award points!

(See Handbook for program details.)

Voice/String/Guitar/Organ/Flute Exams

When & Where: Various dates throughout the state

What: Prepare solos, theory, and technique topics as specified for the level in the relevant syllabus

Who: Any student of MMTA member

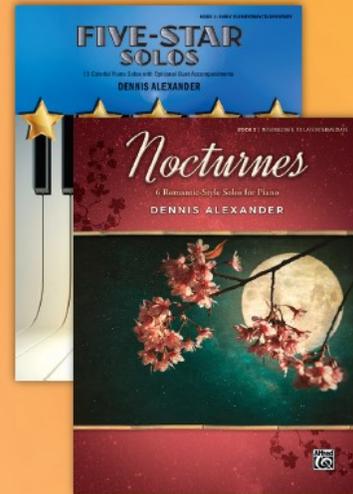
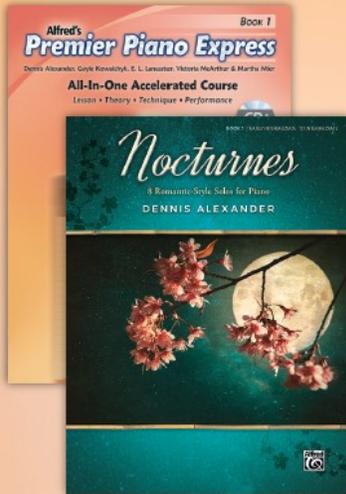
Why: Receive written critique from another expert teacher, qualify for State Contest or Young Artist Competition, cash prizes for upper levels, earn Challenge Award points!

(See Handbook and relevant syllabus for details.)



Dennis Alexander Piano Festival and Competition

Sponsored by the CSB/SJU Music Department



Saturday, November 9, 2019

Location:

**Saint John's University
Stephen B. Humphrey Theater
Collegeville, MN 56321**

Contact:

**Dr. Amy Grinsteiner
(320) 363-3375
agrinsteiner@csbsju.edu
or
Dr. Ed Turley
(320) 363-5797
eturley@csbsju.edu**

Activities will include:

- **Piano Competition**
- **Repertoire Workshop**
- **Dennis Alexander Creative Workshop**
- **Intro to Jazz and Improvisation Workshop**

Registration is \$25 per student.

Visit <http://www.csbsju.edu/music/dennis-alexander>
for more information.

*This activity is made possible, in part, by
The Steve Noack Program in Popular Music & Jazz.*



MusicLink News

Sue Wege, State Chair

The MusicLink Foundation was created to help low income children get the opportunity to have music lessons. Qualified teachers are asked to reduce their normal lesson fee by at least 50% to make the lessons more affordable for the family.

Although the Foundation does not have the level of funding to reimburse the tuition donation, it can support the teacher and student in many other ways. These could include free & discounted music and teaching materials, assistance with practice instruments, summer music camp scholarships and teacher reimbursement for non-tuition expenses.

Do you have a family struggling to pay monthly tuition? Are you in danger of losing a student because of financial need? Do you just want to reach out to a student to give them a chance they might never otherwise have? Please consider becoming a MusicLink teacher. We can help!

Visit: www.musiclinkfoundation to register or contact state coordinator, Sue Wege for more information. swege71@comcast.net 651-458-0143

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—The annual MusicLink Playathon at the Mall of America will be on the weekend of February 8-9, 2020. Let this be the year *your* students perform at this exciting venue!

Minnesota Music
Teachers Association



MMTA Foundation News

Awards 2018-19

Professional Development Grants:

Sue Ruby \$300.00
Siri Caltvedt \$500.00

Student of theYear:

- Kaden Hearne student of Sue Wege \$1000.00

Local Association Grants: \$200.00 each

- Alexandria Local
- Rochester Local
- New Ulm Local
- West Suburban Local
- Willmar Local

Convention Fundraiser Raffle Winners

50/50 Winner: Judy Sherman \$585.00
MN Orchestra Tickets: Sarah Mensen \$100.00
Schubert Club Tickets: \$90.00
Chopin Society Tickets: Kirsten Levorson \$70.00
Guthrie Tickets: Marcia Benson \$170.00
Twins Tickets: Adam Davis \$150.00
Twins Bat and Ball: Linda Seime
OfficeMax gift certificate: Laura Springer \$20.00
Target gift certificate; Danna Lieu \$15.00
Target gift certificate: Ann DuHamel \$10.00

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Music Bridges

When & Where: Various dates throughout the state

What: Prepare two solos on primary instrument, prepare three other projects somehow related to music, presentation open to friends & family

Who: Any student of MMTA member

Why: Student can explore related areas of interest, receive written critique from another expert teacher, develop public speaking skills, earn Challenge Award points!

Theory Exams

When & Where: Various dates throughout the state

What: Test of theory knowledge and aural skills (Keyboard portion optional for non-keyboard students)

Who: Any student of MMTA member

Why: Develop theory knowledge, eventually pass AP Music Theory test, cash prizes for upper levels, earn Challenge Award points!

2019-2020 Handbook Updates

(Note: Because there is a Mini Handbook and a Full Handbook, page numbers will no longer be included in this Update publication.)

Piano Solo Festival

- A new Solo Festival program has been added. Please read information about this before entering students.

Young Artist Piano Contest

- Disqualification – delete the following: Not meeting the minimum performance time for their category.

Voice & Instrumental Exams

- Voice Exams, November 9 – location is St. Edward the Confessor Church, Wayzata
- Voice Exams – date for Spring exams has been changed to 3/29/20, deadline is 2/21/20
- String Exams – date for Spring exams has been changed to 3/29/20, deadline is 2/21/20
- Woodwind (Flute) Exams – add exam on 4/25/20 at Calvary Lutheran Church, Golden Valley. Deadline is 3/20/20

Ensemble Festival

- Deadline for SE should be **9/28/2019**.
- TCLL date should be **11/16/2019**.

Music Bridges

- Add dates for Central District:
 - **November 16** (deadline October 11)
 - **March 28** (deadline February 21)
- Add date for Twin Cities-Minneapolis at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church:
 - **April 25** (deadline March 20)

Membership Committee

- Central District – Beth Benjamin's **new email address** is listed in the Member Directory.

Piano Contest Site Administrators

- Twin Cities Saturday/Sunday – Jleigh Wohlgemuth's **new address** is listed in the Member Directory.

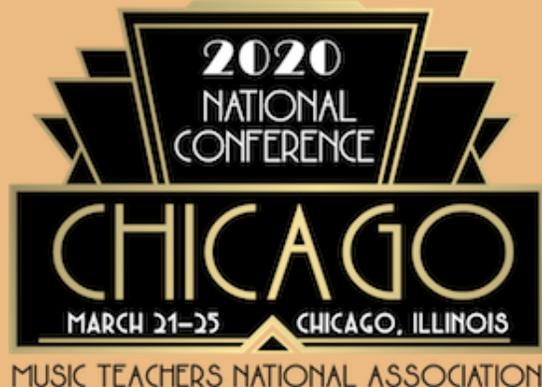
Exam Site Administrators

- Central District, Theory – Jean Bostrom's **new phone #** is listed in the Member Directory.
- Twin Cities-Plymouth, Theory – Jleigh Wohlgemuth's **new address** is listed in the Member Directory.
- Twin Cities-Bethel, Theory – Site Administrator for November 16th exams will be **Lara Dietrich**. Her contact information is listed in the Member Directory.

2020 National Conference

MTNA is returning to the Windy City, Chicago, Illinois, for the 2020 MTNA National Conference, March 21–25. Internationally acclaimed pianist Anton Nel and the first-prize winner of the National Chopin Piano Competition will highlight the evening recitals. Noa Kageyama, performance psychologist and Julliard faculty member, will provide the keynote address.

Pedagogy Saturday boasts four tracks: Teaching Artistry, Musician Wellness, Recreational Music Making and Young Professionals. And, all the annual favorites like the Exhibit Hall, showcases and the MTNA Competitions will be back! More plans are being finalized, so check back often for additional details.



(from www.mtna.org)

Job Security, Community Wellness, and Music Advocacy

Mindy Peterson, NCTM, Arts Advocacy Chair

Our best job security as music teachers involves music advocacy. When communities are educated about and aware of the value music brings to our shared human journey, they will be motivated to invest in lessons and musical education. As music educators, it is easy to assume that everyone understands the benefits of music and a music education when, in reality, they don't. Once we know something, we tend to make assumptions based on the false notion that everyone shares our knowledge. Chip and Dan Heath call this the "curse of knowledge" in their book "Made to Stick."

How can we nurture our profession – and our community's well-being with the power of music?

1. Become aware of moments of assumption (assuming those around me understand the value and benefits of music as I do).
2. Look for ways to share the innumerable wonders of music! ("Did you know that it is much easier to remember facts that you can sing?! You learned your ABCs using a song; search YouTube for a song about the periodic table and see if that helps you remember the elements!")

MMTA Arts Advocacy Chair Mindy Peterson hosts a weekly music advocacy and education podcast called, "Enhance Life with Music: The lay-person's guide to enjoying music's benefits." Each 30-minute episode presents information on augmenting our lives with the inspiration and enrichment of music through the lens of science, medicine, sports, education, entertainment, business, service, and history. Encourage your students/families to listen, especially to a recent episode that is especially helpful this time of year featuring the author of the book, "How to Get Your Child to Practice... Without Resorting to Violence!" Listening to each weekly episode can be a great goal for students to include when participating in the MTNA Achievement Award Program. Visit <https://mpetersonmusic.com/podcast/> for more information.

MMTA Online Registration Tips

How do I get started?

- The 2019-2020 Handbook contains a section that's about the MMTA website and online registration.
- Go to the Events section on the MMTA website. Find the event(s) you wish to register students for, then add the number of registrations needed to your shopping cart. Also, click the link to sign up to volunteer. MMTA Events can only happen because of volunteers!

What information goes where?

- **Time requests:** Select AM, PM or Anytime for each student.
- **Time request notes:** If a student needs a late morning, early afternoon, or other such time, this is the box for that kind of information. No explanation is needed and typing space is limited, so the request can just be 2-5 words.
- **Carpools:** Do you have siblings or other students who will be sharing a ride? Type in their names and levels here.
- **Other Exam:** This is for a student who is involved in multiple MMTA events on the same day. All that's needed is the name of the event and the level (if applicable.) For example: "Honors Concert rehearsal" or "Theory Level 2".
- **Student has special needs:** Does the student that is being registered have a learning difference or physical challenge the site administrator and/or judge would need to know about? Use this box to give a brief explanation.

Can I...?

- **...register online even if I'm not available to volunteer on a certain date?** While MMTA exists because of our volunteers, it is also understood that not everyone registering students will be available for every single event.
- **...register a few students now and then come back later to register the rest?** Yes! Enter student registrations and Check Out/pay. Start a new registration session the next time you're ready to register students.

The MMTA Office Staff is happy to provide assistance with logging in, passwords, registration procedures and any other needs during regular office hours (Monday - Friday, 10am-2pm.) Need additional and/or general computer assistance? Contact a fellow member in your area who is computer-savvy; contact your local library or school; or schedule an appointment to meet at the MMTA Office with a staff member.

50 Years of Membership

Compiled by Megan Gilles-VP Membership

This year, MMTA celebrates 50 years of Membership in our Association for Ruth Anderson, Zoe Ann Abrahamson, and Carol Mattison. Maybe you were a student of one of these teachers, maybe you know them because they are in your local association, or maybe you might have interacted with them through their MMTA participation. MMTA is grateful for their 50 years of membership and leadership in our association. They were asked to reflect on their memories of teaching.

1. How have things changed in MMTA in your 50 years of participation?
2. How has teaching changed in the time you have been teaching?
3. Why do you continue with membership in MMTA?
4. What is your favorite MMTA program?
5. Favorite MMTA memory?



Ruth Anderson

1. Membership has increased in numbers, also with more teachers in fields other than piano. More programs have been added appealing to various musical interests, such as jazz, collaboration, inclusion of broader spectrum of arts and experiences. The biggest change is the use of technology – computers, cell phones, e-mail, keyboards – the list goes on endlessly and will only increase.

2. Well, I began teaching officially in 1950. Method books were primarily John Thompson and Schaum. One of the first compilations of teaching literature for intermediate piano students was done by a colleague at the Univ. of Iowa as a doctoral thesis. As a student I was required to make arrangements and orchestrations, all written out by hand in score and parts laboriously copied by hand. Now my daughter sits at her keyboard, pushes a few keys and buttons, and the arrangement and parts come out all printed miraculously. Technology

certainly gives teachers an unlimited library of aids; yet we still have the same goals – to nurture and advance the musical experience for our students and ourselves.

3. I want to try to keep somewhat in touch with what is going on and who is doing it.
4. My students participated in all the programs, some more than others, and I was deeply involved in contest for years, but my favorite program was the Piano Syllabus. Paul Freed personally trained me as a judge at its inception, and my students continued until I retired.
5. This is like asking me to name my favorite Schells beer. I am grateful for the camaraderie and the opportunities for professional growth, but primarily for the many programs available for guiding and enhancing the development of my students.



Carol Mattison

I drove by myself from Lamberton to attend my first MMTA meeting. I was seated at lunch with complete strangers. The lady to my left asked where I was from and when she had never heard of Lamberton said, “You must move to the Minneapolis area if you are going to teach piano.” I assured her that wasn’t possible as I was a farmer’s wife. We have made efforts to make new people attending our meetings and conventions feel welcome and include teachers from around the state in visioning meetings each year.

Word spread about a new teacher in the Southwest District. In 1971, I was asked to be the chairman for the contest and theory testing. With 400 registrations for the day, we used every piano at SWSU. Later, the contest sites were split between Marshall and New Ulm. I have continued to be the theory site administrator in Marshall through the years.

Contest registration in Marshall in 2019 was 45 students and theory testing has about 30 for the year. A big change in numbers.

Louise Guhl, MMTA president, was a judge at Marshall in 1971. She asked if I would be the Minnesota chairman for the newly organized Independent Music Teachers Forum. I represented Minnesota, and later the West Central Division, for several years at the MTNA conventions. This group had programs assisting teachers to operate their music studios as a professional business. The MMTA convention continues to have programs that are helpful for independent music teachers each year. The first year I had students in the Honors Concert, there were only a few hundred people attended and only the lower part of Northrup Auditorium was open for seating. The attendance continued to grow until the entire auditorium was filled to capacity. Now the venue has moved to the Minneapolis Convention Center, which is at easier for parents to find. Several years ago, I35W had been temporarily closed, and the parents of my student got lost getting to Northrup, for the final rehearsal. Her family parked their car and took a taxi. The taxi driver took them to Orchestra Hall instead of Northrup Auditorium. She was disqualified for playing in the evening concert due to arriving in the middle of the rehearsal for her group. The disqualification policy was modified after this incident, but GPS in cars has helped solve this problem for people not familiar with Twin City road closures.

The Piano Exam program and Bridges have been good challenges for our students. My students also like the awards system that was developed for program participation. I continue as a member of MMTA to give my students access to these programs. I have been fortunate to meet many wonderful teachers from around the state, who continue to enrich my life.



Zoe Ann Abrahamson NCTM

I am grateful to have been a member of the Music Teachers National Association for the past 50 years. Studio teaching has brought me much joy. The opportunity to work with amazing students and their parents has deeply enriched my life. Students have so many more activities competing for their time, than I experienced with the students of 50 years ago. Schools offer limited music instruction. I encounter students who have never learned to use their singing voices, so I include singing and ear training for my beginning piano students.

I was awarded national certification in 1970. My husband and I moved to Red Wing, MN in 1993, where I opened my studio, joined Minnesota Music Teachers Association, and I taught part time in two school districts. In 2004 we moved to Rochester, MN, where I taught in my home until 2018. Currently, I teach in our senior living apartment. My students participate in the MMTA piano exams, ensemble festivals, and compete successfully in the yearly contests and honors concerts.

My students and I gain a great deal from my participation in the Minnesota Music Teachers/National Music Teachers programs. Students grow as musicians by preparing comprehensive piano exams: memorizing repertoire, sight playing, and learning keyboard skills. I hope to see the repertoire lists on line and updated frequently, and I look forward to the 2020 new repertoire edition.

Another highlight in my teaching career has been the opportunity to attend many Iowa, Minnesota, and MTNA Conferences, most recently in Spokane, WA.



What will your legacy be?

MMTA currently has many opportunities for members to help shape the future of the organization. Tackle a job alone, or split the duties between yourself and a fellow member. Where do your interests lie?

- Sightplaying Exams Program Director
- Sightplaying Development Committee
- Studio Patron Membership Chair
- Voice & Inst. Contest Program Director
- Voice Exam Chair
- Technology Chair
- Logowear Chair
- Early Childhood Music Chair
- Historian
- Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair
- Nominating Committee

For more information, or to volunteer, contact the MMTA Office at 952-345-0629 or mmta@mnmusicteachers.com.

In Memoriam***Joyce Wood***

Joyce Wood, piano teacher and a long time member of Central MN Music Teachers died January 31, 2018. She taught piano for 72 consecutive years. Joyce graduated from the University of Iowa and received a masters degree from the University of South Dakota. "She made the world more beautiful one note, one lesson, one student at a time." (*Doug Wood*)

***Jeanette Dahl***

Jeanette (Jan) Dahl, piano teacher and a long time member of Central MN Music Teachers and Performing Music Group died August 2, 2019. A graduate of St. Olaf she taught music in MN, Wisconsin and South Dakota. She was an occupational therapist in army hospitals during World War II and entertained service members as part of the USO, accompanying singers including Bing Crosby. Jan also sang in the MN Center Chorale and Bethlehem Lutheran choir.

Joan Hardy

Joan Hardy was born in Red Wing, Minnesota in 1934 and she passed away August 26, 2019. She received a B.A. from the University of St. Catherine with a major in music and a minor in English. She completed post graduate classes at the University of Minnesota and studied 12 years with Professor Bernard Weiser. She was a member of MMTA since 1956 and was a member of the West Suburban Music Teachers Association and 20 years in Thursday Musical. She performed in private homes in Minneapolis and suburban areas. She maintained a studio in her home since 1957. Joan also received her 50 year award by MTNA.

Fr. Jarome Coller, O.S.B.

Father Jerome was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1929, and passed away in Collegeville at St. John's Abbey on June 22, 2019. He was a consummate concert pianist and composer. His creative compositional musical talents culminated in liturgical pieces to be performed by the Saint John's Abbey monastic community. Some of these were simple and uplifting, and others were richly complex in rhythm and harmony and therefore not always so easy to perform. In 1988, Father Jerome presented a "first" in the musical history of the abbey: an "Experimental Computer Music Office" that was met with mixed reviews.

He won several awards during his musical career. Among them were first place in the Schubert Club Scholarship competition in 1949 (Saint Paul), the Alpha Phi Omega Composition Award in 1950, and the Otto Stahl Piano Award from his alma mater at Cornell University in 1971.

Dr. James Dennihan

James Dennihan was born in 1956, and passed away on September 12, 2019. As a professional pianist and teacher of piano, Jim completed advanced degrees at UMKC, State University of New York and Manhattan School of Music. He had been on the faculty at several music schools in New York, Minnesota and Kansas City. His deep knowledge and appreciation of music and his wit and positive attitude will be missed.



MMTA Program Spotlight: Popular Styles Exams

Doug Rohde, Popular Styles Program Director

Testimonials

"The Popular Styles exam is very helpful because it helps the player see chords in a different way, making it easier to tell what chord it is and recognize it in different positions. Also, the exam helped me keep tempo when I had to play with a recorded bass-and-drums backing track. I gained a steadier sense of rhythm."

- Tanishka Mhaskar, grade 11 in Wayzata Senior High. Tanishka has passed Popular Styles 2, Theory 4, and Piano 6

"Young students quickly connect with the LH Shuffle Patterns (P5 to M6), adding the RH pentatonic and blues patterns, set in the supplemental 12-Bar Etudes, [found on the website](#). They soon catch on to the patterns, and are excited to recognize the archetypal "rock sound" of these.

- Cheri Sykes, Popular Styles program development team

"As a classically trained pianist, I've found the Popular Styles materials to be really helpful in bringing this genre to my students in a way that's understandable to them AND to me. I always found this type of music intimidating to teach, but these materials have helped to guide me in what steps to take and in what order to take them.

"One of my students who took all 4 levels said that having taken the Popular Styles exams really helped prepare him when he took his senior year at the St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists. He was thrown into jazz classes where he had to improvise and read lead sheets and, as a result of taking those exams, had some experience along those lines to help him."

- Sue Wege, MMTA member

FAQ

From teachers:

What does the term "popular styles" mean?

The word "popular" can, of course, have lots of meanings, but in the world of music, at the risk of generalizing, there are two main branches in the family tree: classical and popular. Just as there are different styles in classical music—Baroque, "Classical", Romantic, Impressionist, Expressionist—there are also styles in popular music: rock, jazz, blues, country, folk, reggae, worldbeat, some (but not all) musical theater, and, yes, "pop"... in other words, "pop" music is just one of many "popular styles".

Actually, the MMTA Popular Styles exam program doesn't strive so much to teach (and write exam questions on), for example, the difference between a rock beat and a jazz beat; the goal is more to teach a contemporary approach to keyboard skills, theory, sight playing, and interpretation; and of course to include improvisation.

Finally, the program uses play-along "rhythm section" (bass and drum) recordings in order to simulate the kind of ensemble and rhythmic mindset required in popular music.

What's the best way to get familiar with the Popular Styles program?

Log into the [MMTA website](#). Open the dropdown tab, and choose Popular Styles. Open and read all the files on this page. Print out the level 1 exam workbook. Walk yourself through it, and then teach it to a student. Talk to teachers who are familiar with the program. You can also invite a member of the Popular Styles development team to demo the program at a meeting of your local association.

How often are the exams given?

Exams are scheduled about once a month. Beginning in 2019-2020, the Piano Education team and exam site managers have committed to including Popular Styles at all exam sites statewide.

What are the parts of the exam?

The Popular Styles exam has four parts: 1) melodic patterns; 2) harmonic patterns; 3) listening and singing; and 4) performance. Parts 1 and 2 are keyboard skills oriented. Part 3 is aural. Part 4 is sightplaying, transposing, repertoire, lead sheets, and improvisation (depending on level).

Continued on p. 14

Continued from p. 13

What are some approaches to teaching improvisation?

See page 20 of the [level 3 exam workbook](#) for starters. Also see the [Popular Styles Resources](#) doc on the MMTA website. (Both of these docs are available on the page of the MMTA website.)

But first and foremost, approach improvisation with a spirit of curiosity and wonder... trial and error... lack of judgement... and let your ears lead the way. Maybe don't even use the "I-word". **Spend at least as much time trying to plink out familiar melodies on the piano in lots of different keys, and harmonizing them**, as you do actually improvising. Don't give up when you guess wrong.

Improvisation is a great group activity. Call some colleagues and get together and try some things out. Conduct an "improvisation studio class." When your students improvise during lessons, be sure to play along with them, either piano duet style or on another instrument such as a hand drum, guitar, ukulele, bass, or whatever you feel comfortable playing. Above all, start slowly and simply, using easy music.

Where do we get the lead sheets?

See the [Lead Sheets](#) doc (available on the Popular Styles page of the MMTA website). This repertoire list is broken down of course by levels, and is electronic and interactive. Each title comes with three links: 1) to go online and purchase the lead sheet; 2) to listen to a well-known recording of the song; 3) to read background information about the song or tune's origins.

Each title also comes with performance notes to guide beginner lead-sheet players through some of the more "interesting" parts of each song, and how to make their performance match what's on the backing track.

How do the levels of Popular Styles fit with other MMTA programs? Is Level 1 Popular Styles the equivalent of Level 1 Piano Exam or Theory Level 1?

Popular Styles was designed as a stand-alone program, not necessarily meant to be integrated with other MMTA programs. So there is some overlap in the keyboard and aural skills areas. But as far as leveling is concerned, Popular Styles level 1 is roughly at about Piano/Theory level 2, or perhaps a commercial method 2B level.

Currently Popular Styles has levels 1-4. Levels 5-8 are in the planning stages. However, it's possible we will add a level at the bottom end, call it level 1, rename the current levels 1-4 as 2-5, and just add levels 6-8 at the upper end. This is planned for 2024.

How do I fit this program into what I'm already used to teaching?

Some teachers have used the program primarily with students who might not resonate with the classical exam or contest programs, but rather, have popular music as the main focus of their lessons. Other teachers use the keyboard, aural, and theory concepts in the Popular Styles program instead of, or alternating with, classical versions of the same. Some teachers make sure every student is always working on both classical AND popular music (and, playing by ear and improvising) in their lessons.

The bottom line is that if you have an intermediate student who is already maxing out a 45-minute lesson, something probably has to give, in order to make room for popular music, contemporary theory, lead sheets, playing by ear, and improvising. Change can be difficult but it can also be very rewarding. Popular music doesn't have to be a side dish -- it can be a main course!

How do teachers combine Popular Styles with piano and theory exams?

The same way they combine piano exams with theory exams. Some teachers sign their students up for more than one exam on the same day or in the same season. Some teachers alternate different exams in different seasons or years. A GREAT many teachers use the Popular Styles exam workbooks (AND the theory and sightplaying workbooks and exam/contest repertoire) strictly as teaching and learning aids, and forego the exam/contest world altogether. Again, it's all a matter of prioritization and making the lesson experience as student-centric as possible.

From parents

What will my student learn from this event?

Primarily, the Popular Styles program opens students up to the world of playing by ear, "knowing their chords", playing from lead sheets, improvising, and including more variety in their lesson experience. It should also be said that one of the most overlooked aspects of popular music is the time feel. It's maybe a bit of an oversimplification to say that when you play classical music, beats 1 and 3 are the strong beats, and when you play popular music, it's 2 and 4; but this is certainly a good example of how the rhythmic aspect of a performance can singlehandedly define the difference between one style and another.

Do they really have to do all those listening reports?

Listening is crucially important in ALL music, of course; but in popular music, it's the primary way the music is actually learned. This is true when learning by ear of course, but also when learning from a lead sheet or even when learning from a fully notated arrangement. It's not just allowed but encouraged, even expected, for popular tunes to be altered and personalized by the performer. Listening to what you are going to perform, or to music in the style of what you want to perform, and listening critically, is the beginning of being able to learn music by ear and to be able to interpret popular tunes authentically.

How do we download the play-along recordings (backing tracks) so we can practice the lead sheets for the exam

Play-along recordings (backing tracks) can be found by following this link: <http://tinyurl.com/mmta-trax>. Complete instructions are in this doc: [Using and Creating Backing Tracks](#) (available on the **Materials/Popular Styles Exams** page of the MMTA website). Teachers can use this doc to guide their students through the process, and even to create their own custom backing tracks.

From students

Can I really use the book during the exam?

Yes, the Popular Styles exam is open-book, for two reasons: 1) it covers a LOT of material in a short amount of time; and 2) Sitting for an exam using written-out music and cues, but being very familiar with them, is a pretty effective simulation of the way real-world rock, pop, and jazz musicians do their jobs. You're kind of half reading and half playing by ear. You don't have to have the whole thing memorized -- you just need a nudge to get you started and the rest you know.

Why are the songs so old?

Not all "popular music" is "pop". "The Crawdad Song", for example, is a 500+ year old melody. "La Bamba" is 300+ years old. Popular music is not just current hits -- it's a tradition worthy of serious inquiry. But if you have some suggestions for songs that would be great additions to the program, we would love to bring them in!

GOT AWARDS?

Deadline for ordering trophies for students who have earned them is: **November 15th.**

- Go to www.mnmusicteachers.com/products.
- Locate the correct trophy, then complete the [Customization Form](#).
- Add the trophy/trophies to the cart.
- Complete the check-out process. The MMTA Office will notify you when trophies come in.

See 2018-2019 Handbook p. 31 for more information. The next trophy order deadline is March 20th.

ALL OTHER CHALLENGE AWARDS MAY BE ORDERED AT ANY TIME.

Presenting
MMTA Challenge Award

300 points

2500 points

Participate in MMTA programs
and earn awards for doing what you love!

MMTA Program Spotlight: Ensemble Festival

Mary Beth Millner, NCTM, Program Director

"I have been enjoying performing in the Ensemble Festival since I started playing piano with my teacher Mary Beth Millner. Initially, playing simpler duets with my father was a great bonding experience. Later, I began playing with other students from the Millner Studio. As the piano duets increase in difficulty, I am spending more time practicing with my duet partners and very much enjoy building musical friendships."

-Zdenek Kratky

Purpose

To provide students with the opportunity to make music as part of an ensemble. Ensembles consist of at least two musicians on a keyboard, voice or instrument. While we may spend many hours practicing and mastering our own instrument, the best memories of making music are always of making music with others, as in ensemble playing. The best way to be engaged in any activity is to share it with others. By joining an ensemble, you are joining a community of musicians.

Structure

The ensembles perform in a recital with other groups and receive written feedback from a judge. The judge is not there to rank the students or create a competition, but rather to provide encouraging and constructive feedback. To further encourage students to participate, students receive 100 points toward the MMTA Challenge Award per ensemble performance. However, we hope that the greatest reward is the joy of sharing music with your partner and the audience.

Testimonials**From teachers**

The MMTA Ensemble Festival gives students the opportunity to collaborate with others. Students in my studio attend 8 different school districts. The Ensemble Festival is one of the times we can be with our "piano friends". We have practices together where they laugh and enjoy getting to know one another or rekindle a friendship. Some duet/trio partners play together for 5 or more years and this is one of the highlights of their year. This program is non-competitive but offers encouraging comments provided by a qualified judge.

Students learn to count, need to have their part prepared to play with their partner(s), and learn how to collaborate with another musician. A few years back, a senior in high school played the teacher part with several first-year students. Those younger students adored their time playing with the older student. The Ensemble Festival is a favorite MMTA program for many students in my studio!

From students

I see Ensemble Festival as an opportunity for me to strengthen my ability to collaborate in rehearsals and perform with my duet partner. This requires many skills such as communication, consonance, balance, and sometimes even compromise.

FAQs:

How much does it cost to participate in the MMTA Ensemble Festival?

The fee is \$21 per ensemble.

When/where are the Festivals?

There are thirteen different venues this year with dates ranging from October 26 until November 24. Of the thirteen venues, five are in the Twin Cities Metro Area.

Do the Ensembles have to be memorized?

Although some students choose to memorize, memorization is not required.

What instruments are included in the Ensemble Festivals?

Although most ensembles are for piano, all instruments are welcome. Actually, including other instruments gives the Festivals interesting variety! Some venues have more than one piano. However, please confirm this with the site administrator before planning repertoire that requires two pianos. Quartets are really fun!

Can parents play with their children?

Yes! I actually encourage this as a special family experience, including parents, siblings and other family members – as well as friends. At least one member of each ensemble must be registered with an MMTA member.

Judge Assignments for MMTA Events

Jill Kilzer, NCTM, Judge Education Committee Chair

MMTA uses Endorsed Judges, trained by the Judge Education Committee (JEC), to give you and your students the beneficial experiences expected. MMTA's Endorsed Judges attend continuing education seminars every few years to stay up to date with judging procedures. Endorsed Judges are experienced teacher members who serve as knowledgeable and supportive judges for our events.

How are MMTA judges assigned?

1. Endorsed Judges receive a judge signup webform link from the JEC for fall, winter and spring.
2. The judge uses the signup web form to indicate which events/dates/ locations they are available and interested in judging. A judge may indicate more than one event/location on the same date. Judges are asked to "save the date" on their own calendars.
3. The JEC and the Event Site Administrator work together selecting possible judges from among those completing the judge signup. An estimate for number of needed judges is made.
 - a. Preference is given to those judges who regularly attend judge education seminars.
 - b. JEC tries to provide judges from various parts of the state to events state wide.
 - c. Selection process distributes opportunity to all available qualified judges.
 - d. A few site administrators choose to procure judges several months in advance and prior to JEC seasonal signup via webform.
4. The JEC contacts possible judges to double check availability for assignment roughly 4-6 weeks before event date. Various circumstances may make the confirmation of availability contact earlier or later.
5. Contacted Endorsed Judges confirm their availability.
6. Endorsed Judges receive notice from the Event Site Administrator as to the assigned room/level and start and end times. A notice of assignment details will be sent roughly 2-4 weeks before an event. Those judges contacted by JEC/Event Site Administrators with specific date and details are "Assigned Judges".

What are "Stand-by Judges"?

Stand-by judges are selected and informed of their "stand-by" status 4-5 weeks prior to an event. Stand-by judges are asked to "save the date" for a specific event in case there is a need. Stand-by judges may become "Assigned Judges" if there are more registrations than anticipated or if there is a judge cancellation due to illness or emergency.

Questions?

If you have further questions about judging assignments contact Jill Kilzer, NCTM, JEC Chair at jill.kilzer@me.com or 612-709-5703. For more information about becoming a MMTA Endorsed Judge, see the [Judging Information](#) page on the MMTA website. *(Log in first to view the page.)*

2018-2019 Annual Reports

Annual reports are a summary of all events and happenings within the organization over the past year. Reports for 2018-2019 are available on the MMTA website in the News section. Please take a few moments to read the reports in order to be amazed at all of the great accomplishments by members and students!

Piano Exam Awards

2018-2019

Level 4

Andrev, Ilana	Volkov, Yulia
Bachmeier, Lauren	Fitzpatrick, Jacob
Chai, Samantha	Qiu, Lin
Chen, Claire	Thaler, Natalie
Chow, Evie	Langer, Patricia
Frazier, Kaia	Howe, Sondra
Greenberg, Brooke	Graffunder, Ann-Marie
Gu, Peter	Grimes, Sonja
Hagfors, Elias	Murray, Elisabeth
Hahn, Kylin	Turpening, Linda
Jang, Heder	Nuguid, Rosanna
Jasmine, Garry	Kramer, Elena
Knott, Chloe	Larson, Monica
Lal, Annika	Fishman, Eleonora
Li, Cassan	Kilzer, Jill
Li, Cory	Nuguid, Rosanna
Li, Jane	Langer, Patricia
Mathisen, Nyla	Gilles, Megan
Miles, Keona	Lange, Kim
Norton, Sam	Lange, Sylvia
Privratsky, Makenna	Feneis, Judy
Rotz, Marissa	Rotz, Maria
Smith, So-Yeon	Nuguid, Rosanna
Taylor, Jeremy	Bryan, Marianne
Tu, Amaris	Qiu, Lin
Vo, Henry	Henry, Marilyn
Wang, Julia	Nuguid, Rosanna
Wanger, Edward	Davidson, Fern
Whitney, Graham	Roderick, Sean
Wiedenman, Gus	Nuguid, Rosanna
Wright, Hazel	Krinke, Jean
Xiao, Jason	Qiu, Lin
Xiong, Cami	Low, Philip
Yang, Vicky	Lange, Sylvia
Zhang, David	Nuguid, Rosanna
Zhao, Audrey	Qiu, Lin
Zhou, Grace	Fishman, Eleonora
Zhou, Joy	Thaler, Natalie

Level 5

Acharya, Raveena	Lungwitz, Lisa
Anandarao, Pramod	Brinkworth, SherrieBelle
Ananthanarayanan, Vaikunth	Fishman, Eleonora
Arnold, Deanna	Abrahamson, Zoe
Baum, Sarah	Nuguid, Rosanna

Level 5, cont'd.

Calcamuggio, Amanda	Hawkins, Kay
Cao, Isabel	Lo, Jackie
Chen, Colin	Madsen, Bev
Dehm, Emma	Janisch, Bethel
Du, Darian	Abrahamson, Zoe
Hearne, Alaina	Wege, Sue
Hernandez, Isabelle	Wege, Sue
Hicks, Catherine	Millner, Mary Beth
Joos, Ava	Sather, Candace
Li, Alexander	Horntvedt, Kathryn
Lin, Catherine	Kontorovich, Marina
Lu, Emma	Low, Philip
Marquardt, Brooke	Lungwitz, Lisa
McBroom, Olivia	VanderZanden, Basia
Molla, Anastasiya	Frayman, Lyudmila
Nelson, Leah	Rasmussen, Julie
Nguyen, Cecilia	Stiles, Karen
Peng, Golden	Nuguid, Rosanna
Schucker, Josephine	Richards, Rebekah
Severtson, Julia	Severtson, David
Stockinger, Evelyn	Millner, Mary Beth
Stowe, Bridget	Stenzel, Sandra
Sun, James	Henry, Marilyn
Thayil, Lisa	Fishman, Eleonora
Vadrevu, Anirudh	Grantier, Charlotte
Vasudevan, Sahaana	Kopitske, Grace
Vo, Henry	Henry, Marilyn
Walexon, Andreas	Fishman, Eleonora
Wan, Ella	Low, Philip
Ward, Nathan	Janisch, Bethel
Wong, Sylvia	Fishman, Eleonora
Yang, George	Lange, Sylvia
Yang, Nicole	Nuguid, Rosanna
Young, Jaclyn	Thompson, Barb
Yu, Mandy	Nuguid, Rosanna
Zastrow, Timothy	Plourde, Helen-Marie
Zhang, Amy	Filler-Schloner, Lillia
Zhao, Darrel	Mishler, Ann
Zhao, Kevin	Lungwitz, Lisa
Zheng, Harry	Langer, Patricia
Zhou, Grace	Fishman, Eleonora

Level 6

Coleman, Gabriel	Fitzpatrick, Jacob
Dunne, Clara	Richards, Rebekah
Guo, Sam	Fishman, Eleonora
Hicks, James	Millner, Mary Beth
Judd, Erin	Mishler, Ann
Liang, Aiden	Yao, Ying

Level 6, cont'd.

Lundeen, Anika	Peterson, Mindy
Park, Joanna	Hankey, Tanya
Pesch, Sylvia	Wesbrook, Sharon
Roloff, Drew	Henry, Marilyn
Ruskell, Brittin	VanderZanden, Basia
Schleusener, Malia	Henry, Marilyn
Severtson, Julia	Severtson, David
Ward, Nathan	Janisch, Bethel
Zhu, Serena	Lo, Jackie

Level 7

Arnold, Kajsa	Abrahamson, Zoe
Chamberlain, Lucianne	Hawkins, Kay
Chiang, Aiden	Lange, Kim
Coleman, Gabriel	Fitzpatrick, Jacob
Cui, Dennis	Spector, Tania
Dama, Kruthica	Thaler, Natalie
Ding, Jiansong	Nuguid, Rosanna
Ferris, Hamilton	Harding, Laura
Gao, Eric	Parker, Jennifer
Horton, Yulia	Mishler, Ann
Hsu, Sasha	Harding, Laura
Lin, ShiChen	Qiu, Lin
Ling, Kate	Misner, Sara
Lou, James	Lungwitz, Lisa
Love, Alethea	Blauw, Jody
Lowe, Lydia	Nuguid, Rosanna
Lu, Emma	Low, Philip
Lu, Felix	Xie, Tianyao
Naik, Rishab	Fishman, Eleonora
Parker, Zoe	Vahl, Marcia
Pido, Kyle	Nuguid, Horacio
Pinkerton, Tim	Larson, Monica
Presley, Erin	Levorson, Kirsten
Rock, Sari	Van Dorn, Frances
Salmon, Elliot	Millner, Mary Beth
Sassan, Caroline	Janisch, Bethel
Song, Nicholas	Spector, Tania
Wang, Chris	Qiu, Lin
Wang, Summer	Langer, Patricia
Wu, Nathan	Krinke, Jean
Zhao, Emily	Spector, Tania
Zhou, Irina	Spector, Tania

Level 8

Acharya, Rashmi	Lungwitz, Lisa
Akhtar, Zoya	Hedman, Mark
Bai, Alyssa	Krinke, Jean
Banerjea, Arul	Chang, Chun-Chi
Cerar, Maliya	Hawkins, Kay

Level 8, cont'd.

Chen, Kai	Yao, Ying
Deneen, Sam	Mishler, Ann
Edman, Soren	Kreuziger, Pat
Ernst, Nathaniel	Grantier, Charlotte
Goetz, Michaela	Boecher, Nancy
Kirkpatrick, Betsy	Davidson, Fern
Kratky, Zdenek	Millner, Mary Beth
Krietlow, Katelyn	Sather, Candace
Li, Andrea	Hong, Jessica
Liang, Angel	Yao, Ying
Liao, Elaine	Filler-Schloner, Lillia
Liu, Sharai	Abrahamson, Zoe
Luo, Leon	Lange, Kim
Menk, Arya	Baumgartner, Helen
Qian, Rick	Lange, Kim
Rajasekaran, Abirami	Grantier, Charlotte
Rotz, Rachel	Rotz, Maria
Sypnieski, Sarah	AbuAyed, Tami
Vo, Lili	Lange, Kim
Wang, Selina	Krinke, Jean
Williams, Luke	Grantier, Charlotte
Wong, Jessica	Fishman, Eleonora
Zhao, Annie	Fishman, Eleonora
Zheng, Brittany	Yao, Ying
Zheng, Tiffany	Yao, Ying
Zheng, Venus	Yao, Ying

Level 9

Cai, Tony	Frayman, Lyudmila
Esping, Lillian	Sather, Candace
Feng, Sarah	Krinke, Jean
Huang, Michael	Madsen, Beverly
Juaire, Michaela	Thompson, Barbara
Larsen, Kjersten	Vahl, Marcia
Li, Isabel	Low, Philip
Lin, Brian	Frayman, Lyudmila
Liu, Andrew	Williamson, Kathryn
Ma, Daniel	Spector, Tania
Moore, Alexander	Cader, Ann
Nguyen, Vivianne	Langford, Bea
O'Donnell, Tasha	Thaler, Natalie
Peterson, Adrienne	Peterson, Melinda
Pope, Finn	Henry, Marilyn
Rasinski, Amber	Mishler, Ann
Seow, Stephanie	Fishman, Eleonora
Shatzer, Olivia	Howe, Sondra
Wong, Jasmine	Fishman, Eleonora
Yuan, Maggie	Krinke, Jean
Zheng, Henry	Fishman, Eleonora
Zhong, William	Krinke, Jean

Level 10

Berran, Jake	Buddecke, Camille
Brannon, Joie	Duncan, Mary
Dong, Cynthia	Park, Tina
Jiang, Ryan	Park, Tina
Lai, Chelsea	Lungwitz, Lisa
Li, Isabel	Low, Philip
Peng, Andrew	Fishman, Eleonora
Spent, Rachel	VanderZanden, Basia
Ta, Michelle	DeGia, Char
Taylor, Joshua	Bryan, Marianne
Teh, Zedekyah	Sather, Candace
Yang, Audrey	Kontorovich, Marina
Yu, Ivy	Chang, Chun-Chi (June)
Zeng, Cynthia	Simanenkova, Larissa

Level 11

Berran, Jake	Buddecke, Camille
Li, Helen	Nuguid, Horacio
Li, Rebecca	Low, Philip
Marmet, Zach	Thaler, Natalie
Tan, Elijah	Nuguid, Horacio
Zhou, Martin	Fishman, Eleonora

**Elaine Kingsley Award
Highest Score Level 11**

Gong, Grace	Fishman, Eleonora
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Theory Exam Awards

2018-2019

Level 5

Akhtar, Zoya	Hedman, Mark
Bagdade, Madeline	Fitzpatrick, Jake
Bai, Alyssa	Krinke, Jean
Bancos, Andrei	VanderZanden, Basia
Cerar, Maliya	Hawkins, Kay
Chen, Eric	Park, Tina
Chen, Kai	Yao, Ying
Chu, Emily	Lange, Richard
Coleman, Gabriel	Fitzpatrick, Jake
Cushing, Mason	Nuguid, Horacio
Dama, Kruthica	Thaler, Natalie
Das, Urmeem	Sather, Candace
Dhingra, Tanush	Spector, Tania
Dorholt, Lyndsey	Spichke, Suzette
Edman, Soren	Kreuziger, Pat
Ernst, Nathaniel	Grantier, Charlotte
Eugene, Malia	Brustad, Jill
Gannon, Will	Lange, Kim
Girdeen, McKenna	Lee, David
Gullingsrud, Phoebe	Langer, Pat
Guo, Sam	Fishman, Eleonora

Theory Level 5 cont'd.

Hagen, Lexi	Friesen, Marie
Halstensen, Jorgen	Simenankova, Larissa
Harrington, Nehemiah	Mattison, Carol
Harris, Kara	Harris, Jennifer
Jansa, Kevin	Grina, Gail
Johnson, Braden	Sather, Candace
Kirkpatrick, Betsy	Davidson, Fern
Klein, Sarah	VanderZanden, Basia
Kruc, Katie	Krievans, Inese
Li, Andrea	Koehnen, Kay
Li, Grace	Filler-Schloner, Lillia
Liang, Angel	Yao, Ying
Lin, Andrew	Fishman, Eleonora
Liu, Gloria	Park, Tina
Matteson, Dean	Bunday, Grace
McCloud, Molly	Fishman, Eleonora
McPhail, Adam	Shaffer-Gottschalk, David
Menk, Arya	Baumgartner, Helen
Meyer, Jacob	Hanson, Georgia
Montgomery, Matt	Grina, Gail
Muller, Abigail	Larson, Lynee
Murley, Sarah	Perbix, Sarah
Peck, Andre	Spector, Tania
Pesch, Sylvia	Wesbrook, Sharon
Peterson, Erik	Peterson, Mindy
Phillips, Samuel	Wolf, Chris
Przybilla, Rachel	Flesner, Anna Jeanne
Robin, Fredrick	Heisler, Paul
Rohrbach, Evelyn	Olszewski, Gail
Rotz, Rachel	Rotz, Maria
Santrizos, John	Greer, Suzanne
Scheible, Henry	Kaplan, Sharon
Severude, Christine	Ruby, Sue
Trowbidge, Isaac	McSherry, Victoria
Vadrevu, Sravanti	Grantier, Charlotte
Veng, Elika	Fitzpatrick, Jake
Venkatesh, Gautam	Bunday, Grace
von Dohlen, Christina	Hawkins, Kay
von Dohlen, Lili	Lange, Kim
von Dohlen, Gabriella	Hawkins, Kay
Vudthivichai, Neen	Millner, Mary Beth
Wang, Andrew	Frayman, Lyudmila
Wang, Jason	Volodarsky, Slava
Wang, Summer	Langer, Pat
Whiting, Megan	Lange, Richard
Whiting, Tyler	Lange, Richard
Williams, Luke	Grantier, Charlotte
Wu, Joey	Lo, Jackie
Wu, Jonathan	Wang, Zhiyu

Theory Level 5, cont'd.

Xing, Hua	Krinke, Jean
Zeglen, Lily	Lund, Jolene
Zhang, Matthew	Lo, Jackie
Zheng, Brittany	Yao, Ying
Zheng, Venus	Yao, Ying

Level 6

Alm, Isobel	Richards, Rebekah
Arnold, Kajsa	Abrahmson, Zoe
Brannon, Joie	Duncan, Mary
Calcamuggio, Emma	Hawkins, Kay
Carl, Megan	Parker, Jennifer
Chen, Zoey	Madsen, Bev
Dai, Rita	Madsen, Bev
Dong, Cynthia	Park, Tina
Fobbe, Eliot	Plourde, Helen-Marie
Harrington, Nehemiah	Mattison, Carol
Huang, Michael	Madsen, Bev
Li, Helen	Nuguid, Horacio

Theory Level 6, cont'd.

Li, Isabel	Low, Philip
Liu, Crystal	Lungwitz, Lisa
McMillan, Clara	Spichke, Suzette
Munger, Gabriella	AbuByed, Tami
Nathan, Jared	Huguid, Horacio
Pfeifer, Jacob	Hitzeman, Mary
Steinmetz, Quin	Lange, Kim
Wu, Joey	Lo, Jackie
Yang, Steven	Nuguid, Horacio
Yiu, Crystal	Ellis, Ann
Young, Bernice	Mezeritzski, Alex
Zheng, Brittany	Yao, Ying
Zhu, Serena	Lo, Jackie

Level 7

John, Roshan	Miller, Sarah
Ogunmodede, Dayo	LeBel, Char
Sun, David	Lee, Evelyn
Taylor, Jonathan	Bryan, Marianne

Theory Level 7, cont'd.

Yang, Lucy	DeGia, Char
Zhang, Shihang	Stone, Merrily
Zheng, Aunika	Krinke, Jean
Zhu, Joyce	Lo, Jackie

Level 8

Bachmeier, Erin	Fitzpatrick, Jacob
Berran, Jake	Buddecke, Camille
Ma, Stephen	Lo, Jackie
Ogunmodede, Dayo	LeBel, Char
Zhu, Joyce	Lo, Jackie

Jeanette Benson Award
Highest Score Level 7

Zhang, Shihang	Stone, Merrily
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Gladys Markley Award
Highest Score Level 8

Berran, Jake	Buddecke, Camille
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2020 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee Announced!**Sue Freeman Dopp Haugen**

The Music Teachers National Association Foundation Fellow program offers a meaningful method for honoring deserving individuals while supporting the efforts of the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND through a donation to the FOUNDATION FUND in an individual's name.

Each year new MTNA Fellows are recognized at the MTNA National Conference. Fellows receive a complimentary ticket to the Gala, an attractive MTNA Fellow certificate and pin. Also, new Fellows are prominently recognized on the FOUNDATION FUND website and their names will appear on a plaque located at the MTNA National Headquarters. A press release will be sent to media outlets selected by the Fellow.

I am happy to announce that this year's Minnesota nominee is our own **Melody Bober**. She has been nominated by the Lakes Area Independent Music Teachers Association.

Here are some heartfelt words about Melody Bober from Sharon Wesbrook, on behalf of LAIMTA:



"LAIMTA is proud to nominate Melody Bober for the MTNA Foundation Fellow Award. Melody has made her largest contribution to MTNA as a composer. Her compositions are known and loved by piano students all over the United States. Her melodies, rhythms and sounds are so exciting for both the student to learn and the teacher to teach.

Though her workshops she has helped teachers become better teachers by patiently answering their questions, by explaining different techniques, by demonstrating in performance and by always being available in person, by email or phone or via U.S. Postal service.

Her love of teaching students is demonstrated in her own studio and in the many "day workshops" she has given for other teachers and their students.

LAIMTA feels Melody's music will live on with some of the other great contemporary composers of our time like William Gillock and Lynn Freeman Olson. Her music and her life represent dedication and beauty to all who encounter her."

Please make your donations in Melody's name either by check (Make out to MTNA Foundation Fund and send to MTNA, 1 West 4th St. Suite 1550, Cincinnati, OH 45202), or on the MTNA website (<http://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute>) **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU CLEARLY STATE THAT YOUR DONATION IS FOR THE MELODY BOBER MTNA FOUNDATION FELLOW AWARD.**

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—June 2019

- New equipment will be purchased in the Fall for the aural portion of the Theory Exams. Equipment will be tested for feasibility during the August exams.
- A “no refund” policy for Honors Concert tickets was approved, effective for 2020 and beyond.
- Approval was granted for the MMTA Piano Exam Development Committee to use repertoire from the 2020 Piano Syllabus with their students for 2019-2020 to test accuracy of levels.

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—July 2019

- Current MMTA finances are tight. A decision was made to cut staff hours by closing the office on Fridays during August. Hours for staff and office will return to normal in September.

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—September 2019

- CD players used for the Theory aural exam are beginning to fail. Basic tablets and bluetooth speakers will be purchased over the next several months to replace the aging equipment.
- A \$75,000 gift from former member Dr. Shirley Holzer was willed to MMTA for use for the Voice & Instrumental Young Artist Contest. Siri Caltvedt—VP Voice & Instrumental Programs—and the Finance Committee will determine how best to use the gift over the coming years.
- Dr. Marianne Bryan is beginning a National Certification mentoring group. Members who complete their national certification may apply for a one-time \$100 rebate from MMTA.
- Membership numbers are rapidly declining. The Membership Committee encourages all to renew dues by June 30th annually. The committee is contacting all non-renewals to remind them to renew and/or listen to concerns about membership issues.
- A new Piano Solo Festival will be offered in 2020. This will be similar to the new Voice & Instrumental Solo Festival outlined in the 2019-2020 MMTA Handbook. Information about both festivals will appear in upcoming Weekly Updates and newsletters.
- Dates, deadlines, and locations for voice, strings, and flute exams have been added/modified. Changes will be posted on the webpage with the MMTA 2019-2020 Handbook.
- Marketing for 2019-2020 will concentrate on Program Spotlights. Student testimonies, teacher reflections, and program FAQ will be shared in Weekly Updates and newsletters throughout the year.
- MMTA personnel will work with website company August Ash to determine the feasibility of offering Theory Exams through the MMTA website. MMTA will apply for grants to fund any work that is to be done.
- The 2020 Piano Exam Syllabus will offer two options for Level 11: the traditional Level 11 exam and Level 11: Capstone Project. Capstone will be both exam and recital.

THE MMTA NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the
Minnesota Music Teachers Association
affiliated with the
Music Teachers National Association.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association is to advance the profession of music teaching through education, certification, networking and advocacy.

MMTA Purpose

The purpose of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association is to enhance the professional status of its members, to sponsor and participate in programs for the enrichment of music education, and to encourage music performance and creativity. All members are committed to the highest standards of music teaching and are dedicated to upholding and improving the standards of all music education in Minnesota.

Statement of Function

The function of the MMTA Newsletter is to reflect the Purpose of MMTA, to serve as a vehicle of communication to the membership, to inform the membership of events and ideas; to report musical activity in the state and to stimulate and encourage active interest, participation and support for the MMTA as it maintains a role of leadership in the State of Minnesota.

MMTA NEWSLETTER POLICY

Promotions of recitals, workshops or other events of interest to music teachers which have a charge or fee must be inserts as advertisements. Exceptions are MTNA and MMTA-sponsored events, and the fall education classes on contest materials (i.e., SPPTA, MMTF, St. Cloud, New Ulm, etc.).

ISSUES AND DEADLINES

Oct./Nov./Dec.	September 1st
Jan./Feb./Mar.:	December 1st
April/May/June:	March 1st

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One-fourth page	3 1/2 w x 4 3/4 h	\$80
One-eighth page	2 1/4 h x 3 1/2 w	\$45

WANT AD RATE SCHEDULE

6 Lines \$20 3 Lines \$10
(MMTA members pay half price on Want Ad rate.)

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WAIT



June 7-9, 2020

Guest Artist: Dr. Randall Faber

Developing Musical Hearts and Minds

DoubleTree by Hilton – Minneapolis Park Place