



MINNESOTA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



MMTA NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2020

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MMTA President's Letter



Happy New Year, Friends and Colleagues!

At the time of this writing in early December, I haven't yet penned my New Year's Resolutions, but when this newsletter arrives, it will already be 2020. 2020! The future is here! What are your musical resolutions—teaching and otherwise—for 2020? The new year is a wonderful time to reflect and reevaluate what is working in our studios, what changes we would like to make for more effectiveness in our teaching, and perhaps even how we ourselves can play more music. I can say this—I will be playing more Beethoven this year, as it is the 250th anniversary of his birth. I also have a project with my collegiate students in which everyone in my studio will study and play a work of Beethoven. How blessed the world is to have his musical legacy!

This morning I've been reflecting on the theme of **connections** – specifically, the connections that MMTA provides. Recently I had the pleasure of serving as a timekeeper for our state MTNA competition. I heard many wonderful young artists, and was able to meet both them and their parents on an exciting day in their young lives. Beyond that, I had the opportunity to connect with several colleagues, and this connection led not only to interesting conversations about important professional topics, but also to future collaborations. Exciting! There have been so many connections in my life and career due to MMTA and MTNA; I count myself as fortunate to have so many lifelong friendships with people who have a similar love of music and keen desire to share that love with students.

Where are these connections fostered? The two events that spring immediately to mind are conventions and student event days such as theory exams and contest. First, conventions and conferences: they definitely provide the opportunity for networking I've alluded to above. I've met many friends and colleagues from other states, and I've gotten to know other friends and colleagues from MN better as well. The upcoming MTNA conference in Chicago in March will be a fabulous occasion to meet other dedicated, enthusiastic pedagogues from around the country (and world!). I've attended, so far in my career, seven national conferences, and I learn new and exciting things at each one, plus I hear incredible performances from students and the featured artists. Moreover, attending conferences provides professional development, and allows me to connect with my own lifelong love of learning as an eternal student. I hope to see you at the conference in Chicago, especially as we honor this year's foundation fellow, Melody Bober!

In this issue: page

- Call for Nominations2
- Piano Contest news2
- Doorkeepers Needed2
- Local Associations3
- Dates & Deadlines5
- MusicLink Playathon7
- Logowear Winner7
- Foundation Fellow8
- Teacher Duet Contest8
- Volunteer of the Year9
- VIP News10
- Challenge Award FAQ11
- In Memoriam12
- 2020 Piano Syllabus13
- Capstone Exam Project13
- MTNA Competitions14
- Board Mtg. Highlights15
- 2020 MMTA Convention16

Continued on pg. 2

Continued from pg. 1

Secondly, I remember the first year I joined MMTA, volunteering to work at a theory registration desk on an exam day for the Central site. I knew firsthand, through my own experience as a student who participated in several MMTA programs, that MMTA fostered a comprehensive musical education, and I knew I wanted my students to participate in contest for the motivation it provided. Beyond that, as new member, I was learning how to fit in to the organization. Several seasoned members welcomed me warmly, giving me lots of great advice (I recall, fondly, Ellen Deane Schwieger saying, “The best way to get to know MMTA is to have your students work on the programs and take the exams!”). Volunteering and adjudicating at several events over the years have also provided the gift of connection, with MMTA colleagues and with the participating students.

In this futuristic age in which we have arrived, music study is more important than ever for students. Yes, it’s good for their brains, it helps them to grow, and yes, it gives them skills beyond digital interfaces. Perhaps more importantly, music gives students a chance to make connections—ways to communicate with their audiences, ways to connect with their inner selves.

Here’s to a great 2020, filled with lots of musical connections for you and your students!

Warmly,

Dr. Ann DuHamel, NCTM

Dr. Ann DuHamel, NCTM
MMTA President

Call for Nominations — Deadline: March 1

Offices to be filled by election in 2020 (two-year terms):

- VP Piano Contests
- VP Finance
- VP Membership
- Recording Secretary

Please tell us about your nominee. Include information such as: name, address and email; position for which they are being nominated; former MMTA positions held; participation in MMTA programs; and why you think this person would be a good candidate for the position. *Please include this information for each nomination submitted.* Use one of the following options:

- [Submit online](#)
- **Mail to:** MMTA ▪ 10800 Lyndale Ave. S, Ste. 120 ▪ Bloomington, MN 55420
- **Email to:** mmta@mnmusicteachers.com

MMTA Piano Contest Doorkeepers

Do you have students 12 or older? Ask them to consider becoming a Doorkeeper for Piano Contest Preliminaries or Finals. Want more information? See the Piano Contest section in the MMTA Handbook.

[Sign up online](#) or contact [Doorkeeper Chair, Nancy Van Kampen](#).

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:

Alexandria Area Music Teachers Association

- Sunday, Jan. 12, 1:00-4:00 p.m. – Master Class. Meeting follows at 4:30. Calvary Lutheran Church, Alexandria.

Central Minnesota Music Teachers Association

- Friday, Jan. 3, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (8:45 Coffee and Business Meeting) - We Care/We Share: Panel on Brian Chung's workshop at convention. Home of Mary Kovell, 1916 Linda Ln, St. Cloud.
- Friday, Feb. 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (8:45 Coffee and Business Meeting) – “Robert Schumann and His Music” with presenter Christopher Mechell. Home of Gayle Gunnerson, 1003 Marcella Ct., Sauk Rapids.

Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum

- Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10:00am—“Play, Practice, Perform” with presenter Birgit Matzerath. Schmitt Music, Edina.

Minnesota River Valley Music Teachers Association

- Tuesday, Jan. 14, 10:30-noon (Business Meeting 9:30) – A presentation by Dr. Paul Wirth. Schmitt Music Center, 2906 West 66th St., Edina.
- Tuesday, Mar. 10, 9:30 a.m. – “Tenacity in Teaching” with presenter Dr. Mary Tollefson. Discovery United Methodist Church, 275 East Lake Drive, Chanhassen.

Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Association

- Friday, Feb. 14, 9:30-11:00 a.m. (Business Meeting 9:00) – “Wellness for Musicians: Introducing Injury Prevention to Young Students” with presenter Rie Tanaka. Emy Frenz Arts Guild, 523 S. 2nd St., Mankato.
- Friday, Mar. 13, 9:30-11:00 a.m. – Group book discussion on “The Practice Revolution: Getting Great Results from the Six Days Between Lessons” by Philip Johnston. Emy Frenz Arts Guild, 523 S. 2nd St., Mankato.

Rochester Area Music Teachers Association

- Thursday, Jan. 9, 9:00 a.m. – “Time Robbery: Making Sense of Rubato” with presenter Dr. David Shaffer-Gottschalk. Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Rochester.
- Thursday, Feb. 13, 9:00 a.m. – “Style, Adaptation & Compromise in the Piano Lesson” with presenter Brian Dunbar. Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Rochester.
- Thursday, Mar. 12, 9:00 a.m. – “The Dancing Corpse: Breathing Life into Classical Music” with presenter Roderick Phipps Kettlewell.

St. Paul Piano Teachers Association

- Tuesday, Jan. 14, 10:00 a.m. – “Mindful Practice” with presenter Dr. Stella Sick. Cadenza Music, 149 Snelling Ave N, St. Paul (Parking on street, behind the store.)
- Tuesday, Feb. 11, 10:00 a.m. – “Tips and Tricks for Teaching Rhythm”. Cadenza Music, St. Paul.
- Tuesday, Mar. 10, 10:00 a.m. – “The Improvising Mindset” with presenter Dr. Spencer Miller. Cadenza Music, St. Paul.

South Suburban Music Teachers Association

- Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10:00-noon – Book Club Part 2 – Discuss p.32 to the end of “Play it Again, Sam...What, Why and When to Repeat” with presenter Marianne Uszler. Grace Lutheran Church, Apple Valley.
- Tuesday, Mar. 3, 10:00-noon – “Pupil Savers - Share Music and Ideas That Your Students Love”. Grace Lutheran Church, 7800 West County Rd 42, Apple Valley.

West Suburban Music Teachers Association

- Friday, Jan. 10, 10:00-11:30 (9:30 Coffee) – “Piano Method Mining: Gems from Past and Present” with presenter Joy Morin (via digital feed). St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, 15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth.
- Friday, Mar. 6, 10:00 a.m. – “Staying on Time: Efficiency for Judges” with presenters Sharon Kaplan & Cora Barr (JEC). St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Plymouth.



2020 STEINWAY

Junior Piano Competition

APRIL 17 & 18 | SCHMITT MUSIC BROOKLYN CENTER

A showcase piano competition for ages 18 and under sponsored by STEINWAY & SONS, makers of the finest pianos in the world.

- UP TO \$1,000 IN PRIZE MONEY
- PROFESSIONAL ADJUDICATORS
- NATIONAL RECOGNITION



REGISTER BY APRIL 1, 2020*

Visit steinway.com/competition, call 763-398-5050, or email steinway@schmittmusic.com for details.

**Audition slots are limited; please register early to ensure participation.*

2020 Event Deadlines

Deadline	Date	District	Site	Event
1/24/2020	2/29/2020	SE	Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Rochester	Music Bridges
1/25/2020	3/14/2020 & 3/15/2020	All	Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis (NW)	Piano Contest Finals
1/27/2020	2/8/2020 & 2/9/2020	All	Mall of America, Bloomington (postmark deadline)	MusicLink Playathon
1/29/2020	2/8/2020 & 2/9/2020	All	Mall of America, Bloomington (online deadline)	MusicLink Playathon
2/1/2020	3/14/2020	All	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (C, TC)	Piano Contest Finals
	3/14/2020	All	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis	Voice & Inst. Solo Festival
	3/14/2020	All	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis	Voice & Inst. Young Artist Contest
	3/14/2020	All	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis	Voice & Instrumental Contest
	3/15/2020	All	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (C, TC)	Piano Contest Finals
2/7/2020	3/7/2020	TC	Hastings Arts Center, Hastings	Music Bridges
2/8/2020	3/14/2020 & 3/15/2020	All	Univ. of MN, Minneapolis (All Other Districts)	Piano Contest Finals
2/14/2020	3/22/2020	TCKS	K & S Studios, Woodbury	Theory, Flute, Guitar Exams
2/21/2020	3/28/2020	C	College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud	Theory, Guitar Exams, Mus Bridges
	3/28/2020	TCKS	K & S Studios, Woodbury	Voice, String Exams
2/28/2020	4/4/2020	TCCU	Concordia University, St. Paul	Piano and Popular Styles Exams
3/1/2020	3/1/2020	All	N/A	Student Composition Contest
3/13/2020	4/18/2020	NWB	Bemidji State University, Bemidji	Exams and Music Bridges
	4/18/2020	SE	Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester	Piano and Theory Exams
	4/18/2020	SWNU	Martin Luther College, New Ulm	Piano, Theory, Popular Sty. Bridges
	4/18/2020	TCNC	Univ. of Northwestern-St. Paul	Theory Exams
3/20/2020	4/25/2020	C	College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud	Piano Exams
	4/25/2020	NE	College of St. Scholastica, Duluth	Exams and Music Bridges
	4/25/2020	NWDL	First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes	Exams and Music Bridges
	4/25/2020	SCW	Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar	Exams and Music Bridges
	4/25/2020	TC	Calvary Lutheran Church, Golden Valley	Flute Exams
	4/25/2020	TCP	Messiah United Methodist Church, Plymouth	Theory Exams
	4/25/2020	TCM	Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Minneapolis	Music Bridges
	4/26/2020	TCKS	K & S Studios, Woodbury	Piano and Popular Styles Exams
	4/26/2020	WA	Shalom Lutheran Church, Alexandria	Piano, Theory, Popular Sty, Bridges
	5/23/2020	All	Gustavus Adolphus Coll., St. Peter (Rep Approval)	Piano Exam Level 11
3/26/2020	5/2/2020	All	Schmitt Music-Brooklyn Center	Honors Concert Rehearsal #1
3/27/2020	5/2/2020	NWBR	Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd	Music Bridges
	5/2/2020	NWBR	Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd	Piano and Theory Exams
	5/2/2020	SWM	TBD	Piano, Theory Exams, Mus Bridges
	5/2/2020	TC	St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ	Music Bridges
	5/3/2019	TC	TU Dance Center	Music Bridges
	5/23/2020	All	Gustavus Adolphus Coll., St. Peter (Registration)	Piano Exam Level 11



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www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/music/

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- Auditions to be held Feb. 21 & 22, 2020, other dates available upon request
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Dr. Stephen Carlson,
Prof. of Music and Coordinator of Piano Studies
stephen.carlson@bemidjistate.edu

Dr. Eric Olson,
Adjunct Prof. of Music and Coordinator of String Studies
eric.olson.2@bemidjistate.edu



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inspire 2020

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Camp tracks include band, cinema, musical/drama, piano, stage crew, and strings

Register by April 10 for discounted pricing

visit mbu.edu/camps

MARANATHA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN

2020 MTNA National Conference



MTNA is returning to the Windy City, Chicago, Illinois, for the 2020 MTNA National Conference, March 21–25. The official conference hotel is the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, where all events are also being held. 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 Juilliard 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)



MusicLink News

Sue Wege, State Chair

With the holidays behind us, it won't be long before the MusicLink Playathon is here. Now is the time to make plans to have your students participate in this exciting event. Every dollar raised will help more low-income children get the opportunity to have lessons, receive an instrument or participate in a Summer Music Camp experience. Here is a recap of the dates, deadlines etc.:

Dates: February 8th and 9th

Venue: Macy's Court, Mall of America

Hours: All day both days—you can choose your day.

Popular Styles Hour—Saturday—TBD, probably 7:00 p.m.

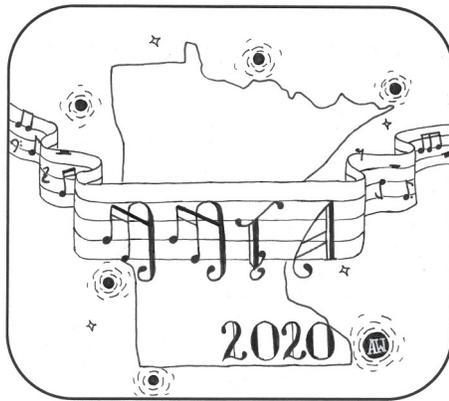
Deadlines: Postmark—Jan. 27th Online—Jan. 29th Popular Styles—January 17th



NOTE: For those students who wish to perform with live musicians during the Popular Styles Hour, you may choose repertoire NOT on the MMTA Popular Styles List if you wish. Anyone wishing to perform with the band will need to register by January 17th, so that the musicians have time to prepare.

More detailed information about the Playathon is on page 9 of the MMTA Mini Handbook or send me an e-mail swege71@comcast.net Online registration is available [HERE](#). You do not need to log in to register.

2020 MMTA Logowear Design Contest



Congratulations to Alisha Wong, student of Jill Kilzer, creator of this year's winning logo design! Alisha's design will be featured on t-shirts and tote bags available for sale at MMTA Piano Contest sites, as well as at the Voice & Instrumental Contest.

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.

2020 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee - Melody Bober 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 once again 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 Sheryl Kjelland, on behalf of UVMTA in North Dakota, where Melody has contributed much to the musical lives of students and teachers alike:

"Melody Bober is such a wonderful teacher of students, teacher of teachers, and composer of music for the rest of us teachers to use with our own students. Melody's workshops are so worthwhile, so educational, and so much fun to be a part of! She has a caring heart about piano students everywhere and it shows in her music. Melody Bober has positively influenced my piano students in so many ways. They love to play her music and they learn so much by playing it. They love to attend her workshops and learn so much from attending them.

"As President of Upper Valley Music Teachers Association, I can state that UVMTA definitely agrees with and supports the nomination of Melody Bober as Minnesota's Foundation Fellow! We love to have Melody come and work with our students. It is so inspirational!"

Sheryl Kjelland
President
Upper Valley Music Teachers Association

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.

Teacher Original Duet Composition Contest Winners Cora Barr, Program Director

Congratulations to all who submitted their compositions for the 2019 Original Duet Composition Competition!

There were many beautiful duets for Primary and Junior A levels to choose from for the 2020 Honors Concert.

The winning duet for the Primary level is 'Baby Dinosaur with an Attitude' by Sharon Kaplan. The winning duet for Junior A level is 'A Day in Spain' by Kathryn Schindel. Congratulations to them both. I want to acknowledge the strong entries from Mitch Grussing, Sarah Miller, Fern Davidson, Sondra Howe, and Kathryn Karg. It was delightful to see and hear the remarkable musical ideas of our member composers.

This year's committee members were Beth Anderson, Corey Sevitt, Lillia Filler-Schloner, and Elizabeth Erickson.

Now Accepting Your Nominations for MMTA *Volunteer of the Year*



The MMTA Volunteer of the Year could be that person who has cheerfully and generously served on countless committees or boards, or served as chairperson with dedication. It could be that person who provides support and encouragement to individual members and is dedicated to providing students with the very best musical experiences possible. Your candidate could be an enthusiastic person who is very active in his/her local organization who helps to develop opportunities for professional growth for Local Associations and MMTA members.

Complete the [online form](#) by **April 1**, or send the form below by mail or email to the MMTA Office. The Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented at the 2020 Convention.

Thank you for taking the time to consider who would be deserving of the award. Volunteerism is the life-blood of our organization; it makes important contributions both economically and socially, and keeps MMTA running.

Nomination(s) for Volunteer of the Year

I nominate _____ as the **2020 Volunteer of the Year** for the following reason(s):
(Please be specific and detailed.)

Signed: _____
(Deadline is April 1, 2020)

Return by mail or email to: MMTA ▪ 10800 Lyndale Ave. S, Ste. 120 ▪ Bloomington, MN 55420
mmta@mnmusicteachers.com

7th PianoFun Minnesota

Let the world see your talent in this fun and exciting opportunity for young musicians! Receive evaluations from some of the most prestigious musicians in Minnesota while performing in a distinguished, historic venue. Performers get to vote for their favorite performance, and the new Freestyle category brings even more fun!

Artistic Director: Dr. Soojung Hong

Groups

Beginner: Up to 3 minutes; **Up to 8 years old**
Intermediate: Up to 5 minutes
Advanced: Up to 8 minutes
Freestyle: Up to 5 minutes; **Non-competitive!**

When

April 18, 2020: Beginner & Intermediate
April 19, 2020: Advanced & Freestyle

Where

Landmark Center
75 5th St.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Repertoire

Your choice of music within the group time limit.
The freestyle group may pick pieces from any genre!

Application is downloadable from the website: www.pianofunmn.com
Check us out on Facebook! www.facebook.com/PianoFunMN
Contact e-mail: pianofunmn@gmail.com

Supported By:  



MMTA Teachers! Now is a great time to think about when and where and how you can be a help to our organization by volunteering to fill some need in the execution of the many MMTA programs and events. We need many willing members to maintain and staff the variety of MMTA events so please do your part. **Volunteers are especially needed for:** Piano Contest Prelims and Finals, Piano Solo Festival, Young Artist Piano Contest, and large exams at the end of the school year. Thank you in advance!



FOR SALE: Boston GP 178 II Grand Piano, 5'10", black ebony satin, \$17,655. Great clarity and sustain. Excellent condition. Hardly used. Very clean and recently refreshed. Comes with Damp Chaser humidity control, bench, and caster cups. Located in Minneapolis. 612-360-8283



The VIP Section

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

Voice/Instrumental Young Artist Competition—registrations are due **Wednesday, January 15, 2020**. See the 2019-2020 Handbook for details. Repertoire lists must be submitted in advance to Siri Caltvedt (sirihawatha@gmail.com) for voice and Jackie Lo (jackielomusic@gmail.com) for strings. The event takes place Saturday, March 14, 2020 at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities in Ferguson Hall (2nd Floor).

Voice/Instrumental State Contest and Solo Festival—registration has been extended to **Saturday, February 1, 2020**. See the 2019-2020 Handbook for details on each event. Solo Festival is new—non-competitive, no prerequisites, no age groupings, perform pretty much anything! The event takes place Saturday, March 14, 2020 at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities in Ferguson Hall (2nd Floor).

Festival Ensemble Repertoire—At the MMTA State Voice/Instrumental Contest etc. Performance Festival, voice and string students join forces respectively and each ensemble performs two selections at the conclusion of the concert. Voice participants are asked to prepare:

- Hine Ma Tov, arr. Jame DesJardins, 2-pt, Boosey & Hawkes (HL 48024467) <https://www.halleonard.com/product/48024467/hine-ma-tov?subsiteid=5>
- Lift Every Voice and Sing, arr. Rollo Dillworth, 2-pt, HL 00291719 <https://www.halleonard.com/product/291719/lift-every-voice-and-sing?subsiteid=5>

String teachers should contact Jackie Lo (jackielomusic@gmail.com) to obtain parts for the string ensemble pieces.

Voice/Instrumental Teacher Survey—If you have an instrument other than piano listed on your MTNA/MMTA membership, you should be receiving a survey soon to help us serve you better. Please take the time to fill it out thoughtfully. Your responses will be used to shape the future of MMTA's Voice/Instrumental Programs.

Shirley Holzer Gift—Long-time MMTA voice teacher Dr. Shirley Holzer of St. Cloud left MMTA a generous bequest to benefit the Voice Young Artist Competition. A committee (Ann DuHamel, Jake Fitzpatrick, Siri Caltvedt, and Diane Jordan) met to discuss how we would like to use the money. Though in the future we plan to only use the interest generated by the gift, for this first year we would like to offer two benefits:

- Waive the entry fee for participants
- Offer travel stipend to students with need who must travel from outside the 7-County Metro Area. The teacher would apply on behalf of the family and reimbursement would be at the standard MMTA mileage reimbursement rate based on the distance from their home to the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities (specifically the 21st Ave. Ramp)

We have also scheduled a session at MMTA Convention in June to discuss ideas with membership and by then we should also have a better idea what the income might be.

Voice/Instrumental Leadership Positions—Your professional organization needs YOU! Please consider taking on one of these positions:

- Organ Program Director
- Voice Exam Director
- Voice/Instrumental State Contest etc. Site Administrator (pays a bit)
- Convention Committee Voice Liaison

For more information, contact Siri Caltvedt (sirihawatha@gmail.com).

MMTA Challenge Award: Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do students earn the awards?

Students earn points for every activity that they participate in through MMTA. A list of eligible events is available on the [Challenge Award page](#) on the MMTA website.

2. Which activities earn points? What are the point levels for each award?

A complete list of points earned per event and point levels for each award is available in the 2019-2020 MMTA Handbook, and online on the [Challenge Award page](#).

3. How many years do students have to earn the awards?

The awards accrue over the lifetime of the student. There is no limit to the amount of time a student may take to earn any award.

4. What if a student changes teachers?

The points earned will follow the student. Be sure to document each activity and pass that documentation on to the next teacher. Parents may also submit their own documentation (i.e. exam certificates, ensemble programs, etc.) to the new teacher.

5. Will the teacher have to pay an extra fee to cover the cost of the awards?

The cost of the awards is built into the fees for each event. The teacher is responsible for only the cost of shipping. Awards may also be picked up at the MMTA Office.

6. Can teachers order the awards throughout the year?

The ribbons and pins will be available throughout the year and at the MMTA Convention. The trophies are custom engraved. Deadlines for ordering trophies are November 15th, March 20th and May 20th each year.

7. Can students combine points earned by participating in two different instruments or voice?

Yes. Students can combine points earned from two different teaching studios.

8. How do teachers order awards?

Awards are available through the [online store](#), by calling the MMTA Office at (952) 345-0629, or by mailing an order to the office. Awards can be ordered anytime throughout the year.

9. Do studio recitals or local association recitals earn points?

No, Local Association recitals and studio recitals do not count toward the awards.

10. How are points awarded if a student takes the sightplaying or keyboard skills exams separate from the piano comprehensive exam?

Students will earn 100 points for taking the sight playing exam and 100 points for taking the keyboard skills exam. If at a later time they complete the comprehensive exam, they will be awarded the final 100 points. The entire exam is worth 300 points, no matter how it is taken.

11. Will a student earn the 300 points for the comprehensive exam if the theory component is not taken?

Yes, students will earn the full points regardless of their theory status.

12. Will a student be awarded points if they do not pass an exam?

Students will be awarded points regardless of the scores they receive on an exam.

13. How are points recorded?

Teachers must keep written record for each of their students who participate in MMTA programs. This documentation does not need to be submitted with the award order, but should be available if requested by the office. A [documentation form](#) is available on the MMTA website, or as a paper copy by request.

In Memoriam

Adelle Phillips



Adelle E. Phillips, longtime resident of Prior Lake, passed away at the age of 82. A visitation was held Monday, October 14, 2019 in Prior Lake.

Adelle attended school at the Northwest School of Agriculture where she was valedictorian. She continued her education at Concordia and Northwestern where she graduated summa cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Throughout life, Adelle instilled the value of education in those around her. She was an accomplished pianist and instructed many students over the years.

Along with [husband] William, Adelle was a founding member of the Berean Baptist Church. For over 50 years, Adelle served as the church pianist.



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
- Logowear Chair
- Early Childhood Music Chair
- 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.

GOT AWARDS?

Deadline for ordering trophies for students who have earned them is: **March 20th.**

- 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 the 2019-2020 Handbook for more information. The next trophy order deadline is May 20th.

ALL OTHER CHALLENGE AWARDS MAY BE ORDERED AT ANY TIME.

Presenting MMTA Challenge Award



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

Celebrating 50 Year of Piano Syllabus

Kirsten Levorson, Piano Exam Development Committee Chair

Did you know that 2020 marks the fiftieth year since MMTA first produced its own Piano Syllabus? Since the first edition, developed by Paul Freed in 1970, dozens of MMTA members have contributed to subsequent editions, and hundreds of teachers and thousands of students have benefited from its guided, sequential curriculum.

This spring, a new edition will be published and put into use for fall examinations. The 2020 Piano Syllabus will be unveiled at our MMTA Convention in June, and several sessions will highlight new procedural changes, as well as updated repertoire and resources.

Many aspects of the syllabus have changed over the years, with each new edition adapting to the feedback received from teachers and students. For instance, the first edition required all repertoire to be memorized, and subsequent editions have made memory optional. Early editions included an essay requirement which has been replaced with oral questions.

One exciting feature of the new edition is that at Level 11, students will have new options. Students taking Level 11 may choose, as at previous levels, take the exam for the Comprehensive Certificate or the Performance Certificate. Students will also have the option of enrolling in Level 11: Capstone, showcasing their comprehensive musicianship in a recital format. For more details, plan to attend the convention in June.

Many thanks to core committee members who have been working on the new edition for the past six years: JoEllen Kloehn, Grace Kopitske, Ann Mishler, Gina Skule, Marcia Vahl.

MMTA Foundation News

Gina Skule, Foundation President

With heartfelt thanks and gratitude, the MMTA Foundation announces a generous gift from longtime member Ruth Anderson. **The Ruth Anderson Award** will be given to the student earning the highest score in the Level 11: Capstone, a new opportunity offered in the 2020 Piano Exam Syllabus.

Ruth Anderson, NCTM, earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees in piano performance from the University of Iowa and continued additional study at the University of Minnesota. She taught piano at Martin Luther College and High School, and maintained an independent piano studio in New Ulm. She has been a member of MMTA since 1969, holding offices of President in 1987-89, Vice President for Conventions, and Secretary. She was a member of numerous MMTA committees, including Piano Examination Development, Contest Materials, and the Judge Education and Certification; served as District contest Chairman, and adjudicator for examinations and contests. She was appointed to MTNA committees at the Division and National levels. Extensive research in Music on the Western Historical Emigrant Trails led to presentations at MTNA and MMTA conventions, national historical conventions, and several publications. In 2009, she was MMTA Volunteer of the Year and received the MTNA Foundation Fellow Award in 2012.

“When I joined MMTA over 50 years ago, the Piano Syllabus program was being developed under the leadership of Ethel Hascall and Paul Freed, who personally trained me as a judge. The combination of piano literature, technical facility and theory makes it a complete course of study for students and provides invaluable guides and resources for teachers. The challenges, goals and awards helped my students flourish. It informed my teaching and enriched my professional life through judging and committee work.

The Level 11: Capstone exam project represents a comprehensive level of achievement. It is my hope that this award will give students the recognition and encouragement they have earned.”

Ruth Anderson

Please join the Foundation in rejoicing Ruth’s benevolence to students in the MMTA Piano Exam Program. Her generous gift will continue to support the Foundation’s mission and reward those piano students who have reached a high level of musical achievement for years to come.

2019-2020 MTNA Competitions - Performance and Composition

Nancy Van Kampen, Program Director

Congratulations to Minnesota student winners and representatives at the MTNA competitions!

Place	Name	Instrument	Teacher(s)
<u>Minnesota Junior Performance Piano - 11 entries</u>			
Winner	Aurora Wang	Piano	Alexander Braginsky
Alternate	William Gannon	Piano	Paul Wirth
Honorable mention	Orion Kim	Piano	Joseph Zins
	Clara Wrolstad	Piano	Amber Yang
<u>Minnesota Senior Performance Piano - 10 entries</u>			
Winner	Kimberly Shen	Piano	Alexander Braginsky
Alternate	Austin Cheng	Piano	Alexander Braginsky
Honorable mention	Margaret Wang	Piano	Alexander Braginsky
	Nita Qiu	Piano	Joseph Zins
<u>Minnesota Senior Performance String - 3 entries</u>			
Winner	Catherine Carson	Violin	Sally O'Reilly
Alternate	Penelope Corbett	Violin	Aaron Janse
Honorable mention	Stephen Ma	Violin	Jackie Lo
<u>Minnesota Senior Performance Voice - 1 entry</u>			
Representative	Emma Higgins	Voice-Soprano	Melissa Holm-Johansen
<u>Minnesota Young Artist Performance Piano - 4 entries</u>			
Winner	Daniel Eras	Piano	Alexander Braginsky
Alternate	Andrew Cannestra	Piano	Christopher Atzinger
Honorable mention	Kaitlyn Clawson	Piano	Nancy Paddleford
	Ines Guanchez	Piano	Alexander Braginsky
<u>Minnesota Young Artist Performance String - 2 entries</u>			
Winner	Sofia Schutte	Violin	Sally O'Reilly
Alternate	Ethan Schlenker	Cello	David Carter
<u>Minnesota Young Artist Performance Voice - 2 entries</u>			
Representative	Lauren Zimmerman	Voice-Soprano	Tammy Hensrud
<u>Minnesota Young Artist Performance Woodwind - 2 entries</u>			
Winner	Miles Broske	Clarinet	Scott Anderson
Alternate	Jackson Brown	Clarinet	Scott Anderson

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—October 2019

- Strategies were discussed regarding the purchase of new electronic equipment (tablets and speakers) for Theory aural exams. Five sets have been authorized for now. Additional sets will be purchased as MMTA's financial status allows.
- Several large leadership positions within the organization remain unfilled. Board members are working to find volunteers for these positions.
- MMTA Membership Committee has contacted all non-renewing members. Most people contacted did not respond to phone or email messages. Those who did respond either renewed after being contacted, or gave a reason why they did not renew. Membership Committee members will use their responses to shape approach to members/membership in the future.
- Due to difficulties with Wells Fargo, the Board will be looking at other banks to see what may better-fit the organizations needs.
- Convention Committee is working on nailing down several details for the 2020 Convention. The committee is considering using a free app convention attendees can use during the 3-day event in June.

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—November 2019

- Dues for MMTA will increase to \$48 for 2020-2021.
- Judge pay for the new Solo Festival events will be the same pay as contest events. (Piano Contest = Piano Solo Festival; Voice & Inst Contest = Voice & Inst Solo Festival)
- Angie Bergquist is no longer able to serve as MMTA Treasurer. The Board will work to find a replacement for her position.
- The Convention Committee continues to work on the idea of using a free app to replace the printed convention book - considerations were discussed for allowing attendees to opt-out of a printed book at the time of registration.
- Language in the General Rules about the Cancellation Policy will be updated to make the wording more succinct.
- An updated version of Theory 4 workbook will be available in January.

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—December 2019

- 73 registrations were received for the new Piano Solo Festival.
- Registration numbers for 2019-2020 Ensemble Festival were higher than in 2018-2019.
- A new web-based guide for new members is currently being developed. A link to the guide will be given to members when they join in lieu of an informational packet sent by mail.
- MMTA has gained another Studio Patron Member. Teachers who are members of MMTA and of the studio receive a 50% discount on MMTA duets for the current academic year—rebate checks will be sent to those teachers in December or April, depending on when the Studio became a patron.
- The Duluth Local Assn has completed the Piano Contest list for 2021.

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

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

The statements of the advertisers are not necessarily those of MMTA.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Full Page	7 1/2w x 10 h	\$175
Half page	7 1/2 w x 4 3/4 h	\$115
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.)

SUBMIT ARTICLES & ADVERTISEMENTS TO:

MMTA@MNMUSICTEACHERS.COM

OR

MMTA, 10800 LYNDALE AVE. S, STE. 120
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55420

Good things come to those who

WAIT



June 7-9, 2020

Guest Artist: Dr. Randall Faber

Developing Musical Hearts and Minds

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