



MINNESOTA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



MMTA NEWSLETTER

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2020

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MMTA President's Letter

Dear MMTA Friends and Colleagues,



You may have heard the phrase, **“May you live in interesting times.”** Though it’s likely apocryphal, these words have been on my mind—A LOT— this spring! Who knew, when I sat down to write the previous newsletter at the beginning of December, how our lives would be so very different now, just a few months later. And though you have likely been a part of the many transitions MMTA has undertaken during this time, I wanted to recap a few of these changes here, both reflecting back on the last few weeks, as well as looking forward into the future.

Adaptation and Resilience: Literally the day before the 2020 State Piano Contest and the State Voice / Instrumental Contests were to occur in March, the Board of Directors, Program Directors, Judge Certification Committee, and the MMTA Office Staff all worked together to make sure these events could happen, albeit in a different and unusual format, for our students. Going online—quite successfully for our first time, I might add!— was a first for us with these kinds of events, and we have continued to work in virtual realms for Theory Exams, Piano Syllabus Exams, Music Bridges, and more.

Challenges and Disappointments: I believe I can speak for all of us when I say just how disappointing it is to cancel the 2020 Honors Concert. This was not an easy decision for the Board of Directors to make. In fact, it was rather heartbreaking for every single one of us. And we know just how much students and teachers alike look forward to our yearly celebration. My fervent hope is that we can all gather safely in the spring of 2021, and when we return it will be more festive and celebratory than ever!

Opportunities and Inspiration: Of course, it’s also disappointing not to meet our colleagues in person for the MTNA national conference or the annual MMTA convention. But again, necessity is the mother of invention, and what a display of creativity and an assortment of rich pedagogical sessions we have in our online options! If you haven’t yet been able to check out the MTNA virtual conference, please take some time to learn and enjoy from their varied offerings. And, you have the opportunity to see your MMTA friends on-line while you recharge your professional life during our real-time, online convention in early June. The Convention Committee has put together a wonderful program. I hope to see you there!

Beyond MMTA/MTNA, there are numerous other resources, including the excellent webinars and publications from the Frances Clark Center and The Piano Magazine/Clavier Companion. These are definitely worth checking out.

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Syllabus: A dedicated, hard-working group of people have met monthly for years to bring you the new 2020 edition of the Piano Syllabus. We are delighted and proud to unveil the new syllabus in our online convention!

Renewing your membership: The pandemic has affected us all, in a multitude of ways. MMTA has worked hard to be consistent with our offerings during the uncertainty of the lockdown, and we have also worked hard to be flexible in order to accommodate as many students and teachers as we can. And as a state affiliate of MTNA, your membership is able to participate in the “Economy of Scale” benefits that such a partnership affords—for instance, we recently received some great legal advice from MTNA about re-opening our studios and various ramifications thereof. Please renew when you can—your dues go toward these benefits, and also—very importantly!— help us, in part, to keep our office staffed throughout the entire year.

And last but not least, Gratitude: All of these changes would not have been possible or even imagined without a number of people. Thanks to the entire Board of Directors, who have sat through more Zoom meetings than they probably ever thought possible. Thanks to all of the Program Directors and Site Administrators who have so graciously adapted to the changes and who have generously given of their time to make sure programs and events work. Thanks to the judges who were open and willing to try our new way forward. Thank you to everyone who serves on a committee that met to discuss how to imagine our programs in a new light. Thanks to the volunteers who have been available for assistance. And last, but most certainly not least, many thanks to our office staff, Sonja Gustafson and Riley Pritchett, who have been so flexible and helpful, especially with organization and design as we move programs online. Thank you to everyone who has made our 2020 changes not only possible, but successful!

There are surely updates I have forgotten about, but I hope that this gives you, my dear MMTA friends and colleagues, a snapshot of our busy spring. As we move forward during these uncertain times, please remember to take some time for your own self-care. I hope your summer is full of sunshine, rest, and music. And for our way forward—courage!

Wishing you, your families, and your students the best of health,

Dr. Ann DuHamel, NCTM

Dr. Ann DuHamel, NCTM
MMTA President

Congratulations to MMTA members who have been members for 50 Years!

- Patricia Kreuziger; Edina, Minnesota
- Patricia K. Langer; Edina, Minnesota
- Carol Prescher, NCTM; Wabasha, Minnesota

MTNA and MMTA are proud to honor those dedicated individuals who have been members for 50 consecutive years.

Be watching in an upcoming newsletter member spotlights on each of these members!

Now is our membership renewal period for 2020-2021. MMTA/MTNA membership is a great value for the student programming offered, educational opportunities for teachers, and the network of colleagues that you gain. Renewing online can be done by going to the MTNA website.

MMTA Convention

Doug Rohde, VP Convention

The MMTA Board of Directors has voted to hold the annual convention as a live, online event on the original dates of June 7-9. The convention will NOT be an in-person event. The Convention Committee is in the process of adapting the convention into a great online experience.

Please note the MMTA Annual Meeting is open to ALL members, regardless of whether you register for and attend the rest of the online convention. Members will vote on the election of the following board positions:

VP Piano Contest — Inese Krievans, NCTM

VP Finance — Dr. Jacob Fitzpatrick, NCTM

VP Membership — TBD

Secretary — TBD



Please visit <https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/convention> for more details and future updates.



Coming Soon!

2020 Piano Syllabus, Resource Book, & Preparation Book

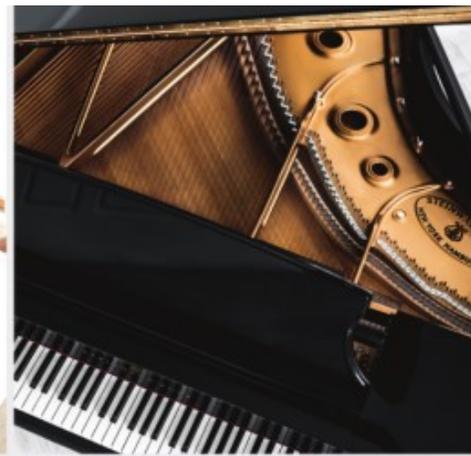
New for
2020!

Resources available
online and in
paper format.

Used for exams
beginning Fall 2020.

Available now for pre-order
on the MMTA online store.

[https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/
products](https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/products)



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The VIP Section

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

Here are our Winners for 2020 Voice & Instrumental Contests:

Strings

- Elementary 2: 1st place to Isabelle Stiles (student of Karen Stiles); 2nd place to Qianyi Li (student of Jackie Lo); Honorable Mention to Eric Yu and Adam Leng (both students of Jackie Lo)
- Junior A: 1st place to Fiana Han; 2nd place to Max Yu (both students of Jackie Lo)
- Junior B: 1st place to Edward Shi (student of Jackie Lo)
- Senior A: 1st place to David Wang (student of Jackie Lo)
- Senior B: 1st place to Matthew Zhang (student of Jackie Lo)
- JYA: 1st place to Sernera (Serena?) Zhu (student of Jackie Lo)
- SYA: 1st place to Stephen Ma; 2nd place to Joey Wu; Honorable Mention to Joyce Zhu (all students of Jackie Lo)

Voice

- Contest Div I: no winner
- Contest Div II: 1st place Anna Ulmer (student of Diane Jordan); 2nd place to Kate Walbourn (student of Siri Caltvedt)
- JYA: no winner
- SYA: 1st place to Gretta Schulberg; 2nd place to Mary Ulmer (both students of Diane Jordan)

Congratulations to the Winners but also a hearty thanks to all the students who submitted videos!

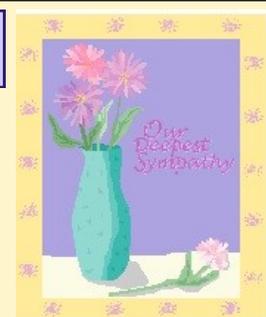
In Memoriam

Carolyn Zarling

Carolyn J. Weberg Zarling passed away on Saturday, February 1st 2020. Carolyn graduated from Concordia College (Moorhead) with a BA in Music Education, earned her MA from the University of Minnesota, and completed graduate studies in Music Theory & Organ Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Carolyn was a piano teacher, organist, and member of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association and American Guild of Organists. She played organ for Shepherd of the Hills, Advent, Faith, and Zion Lutheran Churches. She also served as a member of the MMTA Theory Committee for many years. Memorial gifts can be sent to PanCan.org in her honor.

Star Tribune - February 5, 2020





MARANATHA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Watertown, WI

HIGH SCHOOL PIANO

Scholarship Competition

Details

JANUARY 28, 2021
For students grades 9-12
Register by Jan 12, 2021

- Receive Detailed Feedback
- Network with other Musicians
- Win Scholarships and Awards
- Limited Openings!

Visit MBU.EDU/PIANOCOMPETITION
for more details and registration



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Results from the Young Artist Finals, 3/1/2020

Junior Young Artist Winners

- 1st place: Daniel Ma, student of Tania Spector
- 2nd place: Tanush Dhingra, student of Tania Spector
- 3rd place: Graham Hennig, student of Philip Low
- Honorable Mention: Kevin Song, student of Jessica Hong

Senior Young Artist Winners

- 1st place: Ryan Holt, student of Christopher Weldon
- 2nd place: Myra Han, student of June Chang
- 3rd place: Sarah Zhang, student of Jessica Hong
- Honorable Mention: Grace Gong, student of Eleonora Fishman

MMTA Bravo Advertisements

Looking for a way to honor your student(s) that participated in the 2020 Piano Contest? The MMTA Foundation is here to help with Bravo Ads! Parents, teachers and friends of Honors Concert participants are encouraged to congratulate your student with a Bravo Ad!

Bravo Ads include a photo of the performer and a brief congratulatory message which will be compiled into a video slideshow and published on Facebook for family and friends to admire.

To learn more, visit <https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/mmta-foundation>

Job Opportunity: Director of String Instruction – Itasca Strings Program, Grand Rapids, MN

A full-time year-round position. Our nonprofit organization is located in the Reif Performing Arts Center in Grand Rapids Minnesota. We work with three school districts to provide lessons during the school day. Four student orchestra groups meet weekly after school. The qualified candidate should have experience teaching individuals and groups. They should have proficiency on string instruments and be comfortable leading part-time staff and communicating with students, parents, teachers and administration.

Application available online: <https://bit.ly/2UC3jRB>

Contact Information

Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program

Tammy@itascaorchestra.org

218-327-5781

**MusicLink News**

Sue Wege, State Chair

The 2020 MusicLink Playathon took place in Macys Court at the Mall of America on the weekend of February 8th & 9th and was another great success. Even though our numbers were a bit lower with 180 performances this year, over \$10,000 was raised to help children in need get the opportunity to have affordable lessons.

Despite another Sunday morning snowstorm this year, we had virtually no absences and the show went on as planned. Many thanks to all of my wonderful volunteers who worked the desk and emceed including MMTA teachers Sara Diedrich, Kathryn Karg, Kim Nichols and Rachel Weyandt. Guest emcees included singer/songwriter, Michelle Rose, Miss Minnesota's Outstanding Teen, Rachel Luchsinger, singer/songwriter, Hailey James and Miss St. Croix Valley's Outstanding Teen, Lillie Imm.

The 3 top fundraising studios were Kathryn Karg (\$2,540), Kim Nichols (\$1,255) and Sara Diedrich (\$715). Top individual fundraisers were Debbie Jorgans (\$325), Rory Thompson (\$300) and Jennifer Meles (\$300). 14 performers were gift card winners with donations if \$250 or more.

Many thanks to all of our wonderful performers, their teachers and our many donors!

If you would like more information about the MusicLink program and how you can get involved, contact Sue Wege 651-458-0143 swege71@comcast.net



MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—January 2020

- Review of social media policies
- Increase amount of highest exam awards
- Approved registration rates for 2020 MMTA Convention
- Plan to reach out to collegiate members for feedback

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—February 2020

- Recording Secretary position open for 2020/2021
- Motion to order ribbons for Piano Contest and Piano Solo Festival
- Initiated the creation of an MMTA Instagram account that can be found under the name “mnmusicteachers”
- Discussion of online resources for the 2020 syllabus
- Discussion of future website development
- Increased compensation to site admins with rescheduled sites

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—March 2020

- Preliminary budget for 2020/2021 discussion
- Discussion of new online process for Piano Contest Finals
- Decision to limit excessive paper mailing for MMTA Convention
- Discussion of possible Twin Cities Voice Teacher Association

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—April 2020

- Motion to move the MMTA Convention online
- Considered options for sharing 2020 Piano Exam Resource File
- Motion to allow usage of the 2010 Syllabus through the end of December 2020
- Set price for new MMTA Syllabus and attendant materials
- Adjust registration cost of Piano Contest to \$24 and Ensemble Festival to \$22 for 2021 & 2022
- Motion to cancel MMTA Honors Concert
- Formation of online Theory Committee explored

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—May 2020

- Discussion on online Music Bridges
- Passed 2020/2021 MMTA Budget
- Discussed forgivable PPP loan obtained to pay for rent and office staff payroll
- Further discussion of online Convention
- Discussion of moving Theory exams online into the fall

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