

MMTA NEWSLETTER

APRIL, MAY, JUNE NEWSLETTER 2023

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MMTA President's Letter

It's spring! I can almost see grass in my front yard. Almost. I am leaving for Reno NV tomorrow for the MTNA national convention and am reminded of the time many years ago that my husband and I left for a spring break trip (left the kids with Grandma!) with snow blanketing the ground, and came home to not only crocuses in my garden but tulips too! I am hopeful this also happens over the next week while I am in Reno.



I'm excited to be headed to the national convention. The list of available presentations, possible opportunities for net-working and amazing food are only a couple of the reasons I'm thrilled to be going. To learn, study and engage with others who do what we do will be energizing and motivating. While you may not be going to Reno, we have our own version of the convention fun happening in June! The classes are planned, speakers engaged, food is being discussed and MANY fun activities scheduled.

I appreciate the work the convention committee has put in to make things look a little different this year...I'm not going to give anything away other than we are welcoming back Peter Mack and have Dr. Leah Claiborne coming to share much with us. Registration is now open!!

I wish you the best this growing spring and may your studio flourish and grow just enough to keep you challenged!

Best,

Camille Buddecke, NCTM

Camille Buddecke, NCTM
MMTA President

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Volunteers are the life-blood of MMTA! Our organization does have a small staff; but the majority of the programs and events are run by volunteers. Specific volunteer jobs and job descriptions are available online for many events.

Sign up here: [CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

NEW Theory Requirement for SRA 2024 Contest

The Contest Committee approved a new theory requirement starting next school year. To be eligible for Piano Contest, all piano students in levels *Senior A and higher must pass Theory Exam Level 3 prior to December 1st, 2023. This is in addition to the Level 2 requirement for Intermediate A already in place.*



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Scholarship Competition

Details

JANUARY 25, 2024
For students grades 9-12
Register by Jan 12, 2024

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Visit MBU.EDU/PIANOCOMPETITION
for more details and registration

finearts@mbu.edu 920.206.4047 mbu.edu

2023-2024 Membership Renewal

The membership renewal period for 2023-2024 is now open. 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](#).



The MMTA Office will be closed on the following dates:

- ⇒ **June 12 - June 16, 2023** for the MMTA Convention.
- ⇒ **June 26 - July 7, 2023** for 2022-2023 wrap-up, and preparation for the 2023-2024 year.

Calls and emails will be responded to and orders will be processed the week following each closure period.

Unless otherwise announced, the office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays throughout the summer.

Local Associations**Kay Hawkins, NCTM, Chair****Central Minnesota Music Teachers Association**

- Friday, Apr. 14, 8:45 a.m. social time, 9:00 business meeting, 9:30-11:00 program. Organ Recital and presentation with Fr. Robert Koopmann. Abbey Church at St. John's University.
- Friday, May 5, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Luncheon. Location TBA.

Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum

- (MMTF and SPPTA are combining their monthly meetings. See information under St. Paul Piano Teachers Association.)

Minnesota River Valley Music Teachers Association

- Tuesday, May 9, 9:30 a.m. business meeting, 10:30 Member Performances, 11:30 Spring Luncheon. Location TBA

Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Association

- Friday, Apr. 14, 9:00 a.m. business meeting, 9:30-11:00 Open Forum. Bring your teaching questions and topics. New location: Hilltop United Methodist Church, 108 S. Manitou Dr., Mankato 56001.

Rochester Area Music Teachers Association

- Thursday, Apr. 13, 9:00 a.m. – Spring Brunch & Musicale: Light-Hearted Ensembles of Members and Friends. Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

St. Paul Piano Teachers Association

- Tuesday, Apr. 4, 10:15 a.m. – noon. Hybrid meeting hosted by MMTF. "Classical Music of India" with presenter Nirmala Rajasekar. Bloomington Schmitt Music Auditorium, 7800 Harmony Dr., Bloomington 55439. Also Zoom.
- Tuesday, May 2, 10:15 a.m. – noon. Hybrid meeting hosted by MMTF. Performances representing the Mozart Piano Concerto Competition. Bloomington Schmitt Music Auditorium, 7800 Harmony Dr., Bloomington 55439. Also Zoom.

South Suburban Music Teachers Association

- Tuesday, Apr. 4 – End of the Year Social. Suzie's Kitchen, Rosemount.

West Suburban Music Teachers Association

- Friday, May. 5, 9:30 a.m. social time, 10:00 business meeting, 10:30-11:30 program - "The Family and Birth Order" with presenter Eugene Beniek. St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, 15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth.

Call for Board of Directors Nominations**Offices to be filled by election****in 2023 (two-year terms beginning****July 1):**

- President-Elect
- VP Voice & Instrumental
- VP Piano Education
- Recording Secretary

Please include this information for each nomination submitted. 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. 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

Nominees are voted into office at the Annual Meeting during Convention. The MMTA Board meets monthly, currently by Zoom. Even if you've never held a position within MMTA before, please consider asking a fellow member to nominate you so you can have your chance to shape the future of our organization!



2023 MMTA Convention June 11-13, 2023

Join us for our 124th annual convention, June 11-13, 2023. This year's convention will be in person at the **Hilton Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport**, 3800 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN 55425.

[Book a Hotel Room](#)

We are delighted to bring you a fabulous keynote speaker, two renowned guest speakers and a variety of engaging sessions, members and student concerts, piano, vocal and choir masterclasses, and a time to connect with friends and colleagues.

Online registration is now open. OR use the form on the next page.

Early bird registration is available until May 1st.

More information about convention can be found [here](#).

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Leah Claiborne www.leahclaiborne.com



Keynote Presentation

Dr. Leah Claiborne will present on the pedagogical benefits of incorporating piano music by Black composers. This presentation will explore repertoire by Black composers at the earliest stages of musical development through the most advanced repertoire. Teachers will learn how to utilize this music within their teaching as well as exploring practical steps to create inclusive pedagogy practices to help further diversify their music studios. Teachers will gain understanding on how to implement diverse repertoire, how to broaden/diversify student demographics, and how to implement equitable practices.

Piano Master Class

Lecture Recital

Dr. Leah Claiborne will share a lecture recital on piano music by Black composers. This recital will journey through the wide array of musical styles and the historical impact that Black composers have contributed to piano literature. The program will challenge the audience to think more broadly about how we define classical piano music and how we can use piano literature as a vehicle to celebrate cultural diversity while unifying society.



Guest Speaker - Peter Mack, MTNA President
[MTNA Board of Directors Bios](#)

"The Art of the Phrase"

It's easy to teach our students to play more musically, once we understand the basic principles of phrasing. In this entertaining and illuminating talk, Peter Mack teaches us how to recognize the basic phrase types, and how best to interpret them. Everyone can sound better, once they understand the art of the phrase!

**Guest Speaker - Christine Bass**
<http://christinebass.com/>
Workshop #1 - Vocal Transformation

Endorsed by hundreds of voice instructors across the country as the most practical workshop on vocal/choral sound, Vocal Transformation provides ways to build vocal sound, strengthen individual singers and achieve better tone and artistry. The workshop uses group vocal technique methods which are easily translated to private vocal instruction. Participants will engage in problem solving many common vocal issues.

Workshop #2 - Front-Loading Rehearsal Techniques

The initial approach to a piece makes a huge difference in the final performance. Front-Loading will revolutionize your lessons and also the final results. You will develop metacognitive singers who take more initiative for their own music making process, giving your singers the tools to make musical decisions and 'own' their music. Hands on examples using specific repertoire will provide attendees first hand experience with Front-Loading. Repertoire will be provided to all those in attendance.

Vocal Pedagogy Question and Answer/Interactive Lecture

Christine Bass will discuss in greater depth the elements that contribute to successful vocal instruction. Bring your questions and your teaching challenges and take the opportunity to pick the brains of one of America's leading vocal clinicians.

Master Classes

Young students - 8th/9th grade, High schooler
College, Older (50+) students

Choral Master Class

Application of Vocal Technique and Rehearsal Technique methods to the choral ensemble.

2023 REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Teaching Field(s): _____

Package A

Includes Two-Day registration, breakfast and lunch.

On/Before May 1, 2023: \$235 \$_____

After May 1, 2023: \$250 \$_____

Package B - Includes Breakfast only

Two-day Registration: \$220 \$_____

Monday ONLY: \$110 \$_____

Tuesday ONLY: \$110 \$_____

Student* Registration: (H.S./ FT College)

Two-day Registration: \$50 \$_____

Student - Monday ONLY: \$25 \$_____

Student - Tuesday ONLY: \$25 \$_____

New Member* Registration: (2022-2023)

Two-day Registration: \$130 \$_____

Monday ONLY: \$65 \$_____

Tuesday ONLY: \$65 \$_____

Meals:

Monday Lunch Buffet: \$40 \$_____

Tuesday Lunch Buffet: \$40 \$_____

Grand Total A & B*: \$_____**Form also online at www.mnmusicteachers.com***One-day registration may be upgraded to two-day registration at convention site for the balance of two-day registration fee.***Student registration is for high school students or fulltime college students only.***New member registration is for non-student members who joined MMTA/MTNA for the first time between April 2022—May 2023.***Refund requests must be submitted to the VP-Convention in writing and no later than one week prior to the convention. A processing fee will be assessed, and refunds will be issued after the event.***Meals will be served buffet style. Buffets will have a wide variety of options that will suit most diets and food preferences. If you have food restrictions or allergies and are unable to eat from a buffet, you may request a plated meal in place of the buffet. When requesting a special meal, please be as specific as possible about what is required.***Monday dinner not provided. A restaurant is available on-site, plus many other restaurants and cafés can be found nearby in and around the Mall of America. Hotel offers a free shuttle to MOA.*

Performances

Sunday, June 11, 3:30pm
Member Concert

Sunday, June 11, 6:00pm
Composition Contest Winners Recital

Sunday, June 11, 7:30pm
MMTA Foundation Award Winners Recital
(reception following)

Monday, June 12, 7:30pm
Dr. Leah Claiborne Lecture Recital

Sessions

MMTA Programs

MMTA 101

Laura Harding and Diana Shapiro

From Piano Syllabus to Piano Exam

Grace Kopitske

Music Theory Trends in the 21st Century: 3 mini-sessions

Dr. Jake Fitzpatrick

Teaching Theory Level 1 and 2 – Let's Get Organized

Rebekah Richards

Solo and Ensemble Guitar at MMTA Contests and Festivals

Gene Swanson

Music Bridges Showcase

Mary Goetz

MusicLink--Reaching Out to Children in Need

Sue Wege

Birds-Eye View of Judging

JEC Committee

DEI committee

Voice & Instrumental Open Round Table Discussion

Wellness/Selfcare

Threads of Human Connection

Laura Harding

Silence Your Inner Rival

Jeff Butorac

Wellness & Prevention for Musicians

Dr. Peter L'Allier

Experience the Benefits of Qigong for Musicians

Cynthia Ali

Sessions continued...

Teaching/Studio

Nailing Jell-O to a Tree: Centering the Distracted Musician
Vanessa Cornett

Rhythm: Let's Hit It!

Lacey West

Nine Nifty Practice Strategies to Use in the Studio and Assign at Home

Dr. Mary Tollefson

Intervals all Around Us!

Robert Groneman

Improvisation as a Tool for Performing, Directing, and Teaching

Dr. Eric Bigalke

How to engage and motivate students through improvisation

Siobhann Paulman

Fun with analysis – What do all those accidentals mean?

Dr. Sarah Miller

Create a lasting impression that fosters a music career with your students

Kathryn Karg

3Ms: Mental Health, Medicine and Music

Parnjai J Johnson

The Twelve Principles of Piano Playing

Dr. Paul Wirth

The Schubert Club Music Museum: Bringing Music to Life!

Kate Cooper

Performance/Repertoire

Songs of Fields and Prairies: Art Song from Modern-Day Minnesotan Composers

Dr. Ann DuHamel and Dr. Tracey Engleman

Philippine Piano Pieces

Dr. Horacio Nuguid

Achieving Synergy of Music and Dance: the Possibilities and the Risks of Collaboration

Dr. Rie Tanaka

MMTA Voice and Instrumental Contest**March 11, 2023 St. Peter's Catholic Church, St. Cloud, MN****Lori McCauley and Diane Jordan, VP Voice & Instrumental Programs**

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners at the Vocal and Instrumental Solo Contests, Solo Festival and Finale Concert!!
Thank you to the many participants and those that made the events happen!

2023 Voice and Young Artist Winners**Junior Young Artist**

- 1st: Noelle Trowbridge, student of Kathryn Larson

Senior Young Artist

- 1st: Annie Houglum, student of Kathryn Larson
- 2nd: Jada Soltau, student of Heidi Lecy
- 3rd: Ahan Devgun, student of Siri Calvedt

Voice Winners**Level 1**

- 1st: Brooklyn Watson, student of Kathryn Larson
- 2nd: Jake Erickson, student of Lori McCauley

Level 2

- 1st: Annika Das, student of Tara Colegrove

2023 Guitar and Young Artist Winners**Elementary**

- Sage Kuphal, student of Kevin Carlson

College Young Artist

- 1st: Liam Depauw, student of Radovanlija

2023 Woodwind Young Artist Winners

- 1st: Breeana Schmidt, student of Katie Johnson



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216 4th Street East, Hastings, MN 55033 • 651.437.4320



2023 MMTA Piano Young Artist Contest Results

Caroline Langfeld, VP Piano Contests

The Annual Young Artist Contest took place on February 4th and 5th, 2023. The top three winning performances in each category will perform at the MMTA Foundation Awards Winner Recital on June 11th, 2023. First Place Winners in Junior Young Artist and Senior Young Artist will also perform at the Honors Concert on June 3rd, 2023.

Congratulations to all participants and winners!

Junior Young Artist

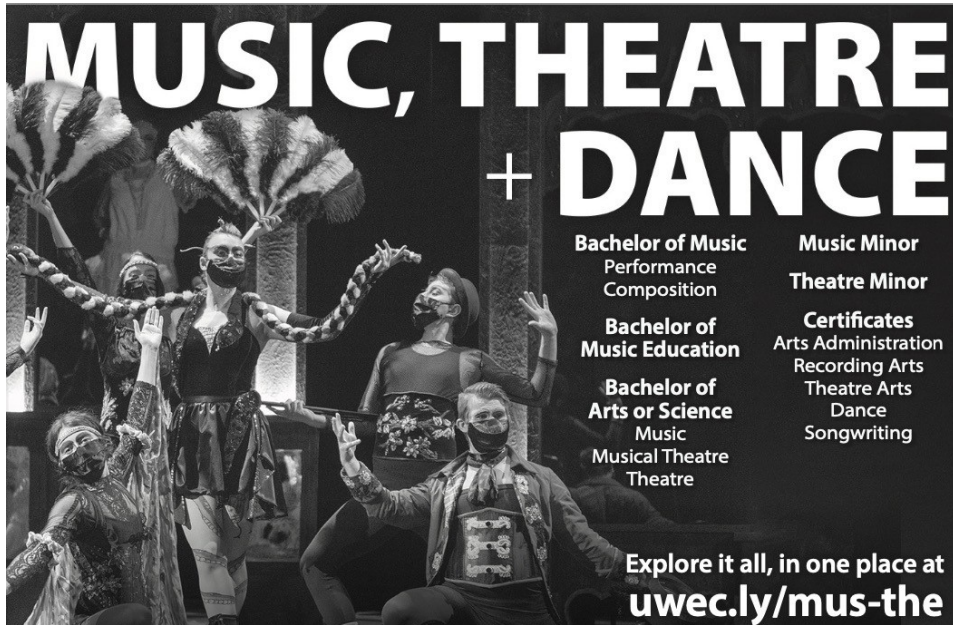
1. 1st place winner - Julia Wang, student of Rosanna Nuguid
2. 2nd place winner - Tingyun Wang, student of Denis Evstuhin
3. 3rd place winner - Fiona Dong, student of Tina Park

Senior Young Artist

1. 1st place winner - Tim Chang, student of June Chang
2. 2nd place winner - Maria Kim, student of Julia Elkina Ehrlich
3. 3rd place winner - Isabel Li, student of Philip Low

Piano Contest & Piano Solo Festival - Member Composition Submission

Compositions submitted before June 1st will be considered for the MMTA Piano Contest and Piano Solo Festival repertoire list in two years. All submitted compositions will be added to a library/repository of submissions and will be available for future repertoire considerations. The composition should be at least 16 bars in length, and should not exceed 3 minutes of performance time for the beginner level, 4 minutes for intermediate, and 5 minutes for advanced.



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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 greater Minnesota - both for Piano Contest and for exams.

Independent Music Teachers Forum - The Great Minnesota (Music Teacher) Get Together**Jenna Huntoon, NCTM, IMTF Chair**

This year's convention will be held on June 11th-13th, and as a Convention Committee member, I have gained a new perspective on the importance of time for us to gather as professional colleagues, as well as friends: the state fair of the music teaching world, if you will. There will be fun, learning opportunities, shopping, catching up with friends from across the state, and food! Check out the convention page on the MMTA website for details.



Some of the highlights I am most looking forward to are:

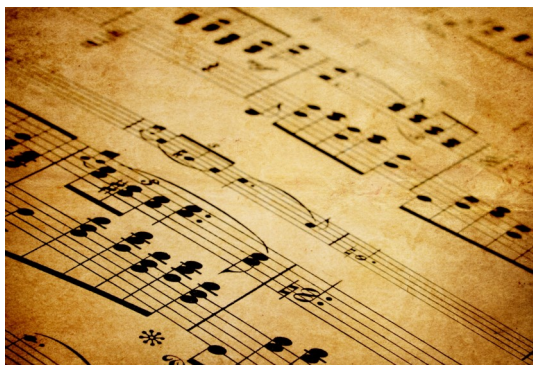
- The piano master class with our keynote speaker, Dr. Leah Claiborne
- MTNA President Peter Mack's session, "The Art of the Phrase"
- Seeing a choir on stage working with vocal clinician Christine Bass
- The MMTA Foundation used music sale and their fundraising game during lunch
- Learning new teaching tips to help my students succeed
- Reconnecting with friends from past conventions
- Working in person with the wonderful convention committee

Our MMTA President-Elect, Laura Harding, will be presenting a session titled "Threads of Human Connection". In her session description, she states "... true human connection helps support us in work that can often feel isolated." I wholeheartedly agree! I am looking forward to connecting with all of you in June!

MMTA Foundation Board of Directors - Open Positions

The Foundation Board has the following positions to fill beginning August 1, 2023. Please consider serving on the board to assure continuing the vital charitable arm of MMTA.

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Director



You can contact anyone on the current executive board for more information:

- Gina Skule langfeldpiano@gmail.com
- Caroline Langfeld, langfeldpiano@gmail.com
- Sue Krebsbach, sakrebs@comcast.net
- Megan Gilles, gillesmusicstudio@gmail.com

MTNA Competitions Division Winner List (West Central Division)

President-Elect, Laura Harding, NCTM

Congratulations to students and teachers who competed in the West Central Division MTNA Competition. Winning students were invited to compete at the MTNA National Conference in March.



West Central Elementary Composition

Representative: Emma Lu

Teacher: Sarah Miller

Emma Lu is 10 years old and a 5th grader at the Navigator Program at Excelsior Elementary School. She loves composing and has been a national finalist for MTNA composing competition in the past couple of years. Besides composing, Emma likes playing piano and violin, reading, writing and drawing.

The title of her composition is "Hope in Despair".



West Central Senior Performance Voice

Winner: Adelina Mukhametzhanova, Soprano

Teacher: Melissa Holm-Johansen



West Central Senior Composition

Honorable mention: Ashton Volkmann

Teacher: Jon Naatjes

Ashton Volkmann has been taking piano lessons with his long-time teacher, Jon Naatjes, for many years. He has earned nearly all Superior ratings in Festivals for the National Federation of Music Clubs, which he has been participating in ever since he was a young student. In the last several years he has largely been studying music by Chopin, Debussy, and Rachmaninoff, as his favorite and leading composing style is Romanticism. He has also been studying greats such as George Gershwin and Scott Joplin, who have influenced his composition expression. He is very grateful to have won the MMTA Composition competitions in 2021 and 2022, and to have been given an Honorable Mention 2022 in the West Central Division. He is very honored to be featured in the MMTA newsletter. "Thank you kindly MMTA!"

The name of his composition is "Resplendent Moon".



West Central Senior Performance String

Winner: Vladimir Tsiper, Violin

Teacher: Lucinda Marvin

Vladimir Tsiper is a 10th grader at the Breck School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His violin studies began at age 5 with Lucinda Marvin. He continues his work with her and has studied with Yulia Ziskel of the New York Philharmonic for the past two and a half years. In addition, he has been studying composition with Sarah Miller at MacPhail. He is a member of the MYS Symphony Orchestra and Artaria Chamber Music School. At his school Vladimir leads Breck Chamber Players ensemble. The highlights of this season include the appearance on the National radio show *From The Top*, winning MYS Concerto competition and Minnetonka Symphony Young Artists competition, as well as receiving the Jacobson Prize at the YPSA finals. Aside from music, Vladimir enjoys downhill skiing, theater, and traveling, especially visiting the tallest buildings in the world. He is a movie nerd and an active member of the film lovers community.



West Central Young Artist Performance Piano

Alternate: Hui Chen

Teacher: Alexander Braginsky

Hui Chen is currently a second-year DMA student at the University of Minnesota and majoring in Piano performance. Like many other adult students, Hui is required to arrange and meet specific criteria so she can qualify to pursue his chosen music career. Her significant ability is that she finished her Master's degree within a year; besides, she was awarded the first prize in the Schubert Club Student Scholarship Competition and the Mechelke Student Scholarship Competition in her first year of the doctoral program. She now studies with Professor Alexander Braginsky.



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MMTA CHALLENGE AWARD TROPHIES

Deadline for ordering trophies for students who have earned them is: **May 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 2022-2023 Handbook for more information. The next trophy order deadline is May 20th.



Results of MMTA Member Survey, December 2022

by Susan Sophocleus

The MMTA Board continually evaluates all educational programs. Overall membership and registrations for Piano and Theory Exams decreased substantially in recent years. In response to this trend, a survey was created to gather member feedback and input. Members were notified of the survey and given an opportunity to respond in December, 2022. We thank everyone who completed the survey for their input.

The survey was conducted through Google Forms. The response rate was very good among teachers who have been members for ten or more years. There were 122 respondents. 102 respondents have had a student or students participate in a theory or piano exam. For context, 145 teachers participated in piano exams last year. Many teachers provided detailed open-ended responses. Participation among new members was not as strong.

Key Findings

- Lower participation in exams is partly related to a decrease in members but also related to a student body that is not as interested in preparing for exams. Secondly, some teachers feel that preparing students is too time consuming. Teachers need support in demonstrating the value of the exams to students and ideas for teaching the curriculum efficiently.
- Teachers feel the theory requirements are aligned well for piano exam levels 1-3 and State Contest. 30% rate the theory requirements as too difficult for Piano Exam levels 4-7.
- Providing online and in person options for exams is important to the membership. Teachers see important benefits to both formats.

Overall Participation in Piano and Theory Exams

- 70% of teachers participate in piano exams and 84% participate in theory exams. These results were consistent across teachers who have been members 5-10 years 10-15 years and over 15 years.

Responses and Feedback from Members Who Use Exams

- A majority of teachers (about 60%) have at most 25% of their students participating in piano and theory exams. **The main reason teachers give for not having more students participate is "Some students are not interested." The second most common reason was "Preparation is too time consuming."**
- The reasons for not having more students in piano and theory exams were similar. Time consuming preparation was cited slightly more often for piano exams than theory exams.
- There were many insightful comments about the piano and theory exams. For example, a newer teacher described the challenges of getting started. Suggestions were made for improving theory workbooks. Overall, there were many positive comments about the curriculum of the piano and theory exams.

Why don't more students participate in piano exams?

Some students are not interested	71%
Preparation for a piano exam is too time consuming	46%
Scheduling is difficult	17%
Not enough in person dates	13%
Cost of the exam is prohibitive	9%
The theory exam requirements do not work with piano exam	9%
I prefer to test my own students	6%
I utilize a different program	5%
Not enough online testing	5%

Why don't more students participate in theory exams?

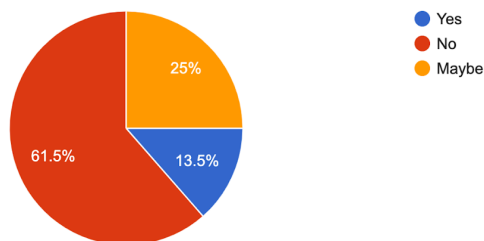
Some students are not interested	70%
Preparation for a theory exam is too time consuming	32%
Scheduling is difficult	13%
Layout of material is confusing	12%
Not enough in person testing	7%
Not enough online testing	7%
Material is too difficult	6%
Cost of exam is prohibitive	3%

Alignment of Theory Requirements with Piano Exams and Contest

- Respondents generally rate the theory requirements as “just right” for Piano Exam Levels 1-3. They rate theory requirements for Contest and Young Artist as “just right” or “too easy.”
- For Piano Exam Levels 4-7, 70% of respondents rate the theory requirements as “just right” and 30% rate them as “too difficult.”
- For Young Artist, 58% rate the theory requirements as “just right” and 42% rate them as “too difficult.”

Would you like to see a theory level for every level of the Piano Exam? This would mean a more gradual curriculum; teachers would need new materials and students would need to take more exams.

96 responses



In-Person Exams vs. Online Exams

- Most teachers have used both testing formats since COVID restrictions were lifted.
- For theory and piano exams, slightly over half of teachers want both formats to be available.
- Teachers have a stronger preference for In-Person testing (47%) for piano exams compared to theory (36%) exams.
- Teachers estimate their students having a slightly stronger preference for online testing - especially for theory.
- Some respondents prefer online testing because of convenience, ease of scheduling, elimination of travel for out-state families, and less stress while taking exam.
- Other respondents prefer in person for piano exam performances because of the social and personal nature of playing in person; better sound quality for judging.
- Both formats offer important benefits to teachers and students.

In response to the survey results, MMTA has taken the following steps:

- The Piano and Theory Curriculum committees are working together to better align the keyboard skills required for piano and theory exams. Currently, the requirements for scales and cadences, for example, are different and that requires more preparation for teachers and students.
- Rebekah Richards, Chair of the Theory Development Committee, created teaching guidelines for Theory Exam levels 1, 2 and 3. This teaching guide gives step-by-step assignments for teachers and checklists for students. Teachers can use this guide to prepare students for a theory exam in 13 weeks. These teaching guidelines will be presented at the MMTA Conference and will be available to all members.

.....Continued on next page



MusicLink News

Sue Wege, State Chair

The 2023 MusicLink Playathon took place in Macy's Court at the Mall of America on the weekend of February 18th & 19th. Even though our numbers were a bit lower with 150 performances this year, over \$9,000 was raised to help children in need get the opportunity to have affordable lessons.

Many thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who worked the desk and emceed including MMTA teachers Sara Diedrich, Solveig Englund, Kathryn Karg and Rachel Weyandt. Guest emcees included singer/songwriter, Michelle Rose, Miss Minnesota's Outstanding Teen, Elly Rowen and Rachel Luchsinger.

The 3 top fundraising studios were Kathryn Karg (\$3,637), Sara Diedrich (\$970) and Kim Nichols (\$595). Top individual fundraisers were Rory Thompson (\$385), Charlotte Stone (\$335) and Ivy Williams (\$260). 12 performers were gift card winners with donations of \$250 or more.

Special thanks go to Kathryn and Andy Karg for livestreaming the event and to Gary Wege for his photography and support!

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



....survey results continued

- The Piano Curriculum Committee will develop similar teaching guidelines for piano keyboard skills and sightplaying exams.
- Members are encouraged to teach 40 to 45-minute lessons with students to allow time to teach the valuable MMTA piano and theory curriculums.
- MMTA will continue to offer online exam opportunities as members feel these are important.

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—January 2023

- For the MMTA Convention, two free registrations will now be offered per commercial or educational exhibitor with a completed contract.
- For the MMTA Ensemble Festival an update was approved; a teacher may accompany an ensemble if it includes at least two of their students. Although we encourage students to play with other students or family members, if an appropriate ensemble partner cannot be found, a teacher may perform with the student.
- A chart was created and approved for State Piano Contest and Solo Piano Festival late and change fees.

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—February 2023

- The MMTA board approved an increase to the MTNA travel grant which is given to students who have earned a place to compete at the MTNA National Competition. Reimbursement will be up to \$1,000 per student. If more than four students are selected to participate from Minnesota, \$4,000 in funds would be split.
- A newly named award for Piano Junior Young Artist 1st Place was created in memory of Patricia K. Langer. The funds for this award are held by the MMTA Foundation.
- The board was notified that the employment of Sonja Gustafson, Director of Operations had ended as of February 13, 2023 and that the recruitment and hiring process would begin.
- * Piano Exams - *There has been a change in substitutions allowed at Level 7. Students taking Level 7 and above will be allowed to include TWO substitutions in their repertoire choices.*
- * Theory Exams ~ *Because of a backlog of the old Theory Workbooks for Level 6, the revised workbooks will not be released until 2024.*

MMTA Board Minutes Highlights—March 2023

- Approval was given for the Convention Registration Fees for June 2023. Registration costs for early bird (by May 1st) will be the same as 2022.
- The name of the 'Volunteer of the Year' will be announced at the Honors Concert and convention. The 'Volunteer of the Year' will receive an all-inclusive registration to the MMTA Convention in the same year that the award is received.
- A new staff person has been hired and is set to begin employment on April 3rd as the Office Administrator. Lorna Wolthoff will be employed as the Office Assistant, which is a job title change.
- Minnesota is pleased to have two student representatives at the MTNA Conference- Senior Performance Voice - Adelina Mukhametzhanova, student of Melissa Holm-Johansen and Senior Performance String-Vladimir Tsiper, Violin, student of Lucinda Marvin.
- Increased fees are being investigated for theory exams.
- Merchandise: 365 t-shirts were purchased for prelims, sales were strong, 100 more t-shirts were purchased for finals.

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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6 Lines \$20 3 Lines \$10
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MINNESOTA
MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

MMTA ANNUAL CONVENTION



June 11-13 2023



Hilton-Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Hotel

3800 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN 55425

DISCUSSIONS AND INSIGHTS

Information about MMTA Programs

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) topics

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Concerts by Dr. Claiborne,
members and students

Technique, practice, improvisation and
performance strategies

Music theory teaching tips and
repertoire analysis

Topics including voice, piano, wellness,
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