

Advancing the profession of music teaching through education, certification, networking and advocacy.



## ABOUT US

Welcome to the Minnesota Music Teachers Association! Founded in 1901, the MMTA is a professional non-profit educational organization affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), founded in 1876. Our mission is to advance the music teaching profession through education, certification, networking, and advocacy.

Over six hundred MMTA members across the state and beyond are committed to the highest standards of music teaching. They are dedicated to upholding and improving the standards of all music education in Minnesota.

Join MMTA to connect with your colleagues, find resourcing for continuing education, and find opportunities that nurture and inspire students.

# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### CONTESTS AND SOLO FESTIVALS

The Piano Contest attracts thousands of students annually. Pianists compete in preliminary and final rounds, and the performers with the highest scores participate in the Honors Concert, a gala event involving 700 young pianists on 20 grand pianos.

The Piano Solo Festival is an option for students who are older beginners, adults, or may not want to compete but still wish to receive feedback from a judge.

Voice and Instrumental Contests encourage high performance standards for woodwinds, guitar, organ, strings and voice. The contest culminates in a Winners Recital.

The Voice and Instrumental Solo Festival is an option for students who are older beginners, adults, or may not want to compete but still wish to receive feedback from a judge.

The Young Artist Contest acknowledges the highest performance standards for piano, woodwinds, guitar, organ, strings and voice. Winners receive cash awards and performance opportunities.

The Student Composition Contest encourages students to submit an original composition, with four competition levels based on current school grade. The Student Composition Festival is held concurrently with the contest and is available to students who wish to experiment with composition but do not wish to compete.

Logowear Design Contest - All students are eligible to submit a design for an MMTA Logo each year. The winning design will appear on MMTA t-shirts, tote bags and other Logowear items. Winning designer receives a free T-shirt and tote bag with the winning design.

#### MMTA CHALLENGE AWARD

MMTA created the Challenge Award program to encourage and recognize student participation in all MMTA programs. It offers tangible rewards to students for the years of hard work spent developing their skills. Students earn points for participation in MMTA programs. Teachers track the progress of their students using the record keeping sheet and pay only for shipping of the awards. Awards include an award ribbon, bronze star pin, silver star pin, gold star pin, progressing ultimately to a Challenge Award trophy!

#### MMTA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Comprehensive Piano Exams combine keyboard skills, sightplaying and repertoire requirements into a single exam. Certificates are awarded upon successful completion of the Piano Exam and its corresponding Theory Exam.

Comprehensive Voice and Instrumental Exams encourage technical proficiency and musicianship. Certificates are awarded upon successful completion.

Theory Exams (Keyboard) develop proficiency and understanding of music theory at the keyboard through notation, ear training, analysis, transposition and harmonization.

Keyboard Skills Exams develop proficiency in scales, chords and arpeggios.

Sightplaying Exams develop proficiency in keyboard sightplaying.

Popular Styles Exams have four levels of curriculum to build student competency in pop, jazz, blues and other contemporary styles. Teacher training seminars and testing of levels 1-4 of the student syllabus are now available.

### ARTISTIC OPPORTUNITIES

The Music Bridges program invites students to design a unique performance program. In addition to repertoire performance, a student's program may include an original composition, dance, drama or visual art.

The Ensemble Festival encourages collaboration between students including any combination of instruments and/or voice.

MusicLink Play-a-thon participants collect pledges to support the MusicLink Foundation, and perform the selections of their choice at the Mall of America.

MTNA Performance and Composition Competitions recognize exceptionally talented young artists with cash prizes through competitive rounds at the state, regional and national level.

## TEACHER OPPORTUNITIES

The Mentor Program pairs new members with an MMTA mentor. Your mentor will be a valuable resource when program preparation and registration questions arise. MMTA is committed to welcoming and supporting new membership.

Local Associations offer educational programs, and give members the opportunity to network with music teachers in their area.

MTNA Certification is encouraged and supported in several ways:

Rebates of up to \$100 per person available to the first 20 members each year to become nationally certified.
Classes specific to NCTM mentoring will be available.

Contest Workshops introduce members to the State Piano Contest Repertoire, and help teachers prepare their students for this well-loved event.

The Annual MMTA Convention offers sessions on teaching, technology, and business development. This event provides opportunities for education, performance and networking.

MMTA and MTNA Foundation Grants provide financial support for projects that will enhance the performing and teaching skills of the applicant.

We support our member composers with programs like Teacher Original Duet Composition Contest and Piano Contest & Solo Festival Composition Submission.





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