



MARYLAND STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Our
66th
year

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

www.msmta.org

a publication of the Maryland State Music Teachers Association

February 2025



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are winding down from a very busy, productive season of competitions, festivals, keyboard and theory exams, and recitals. Kudos to the event chairs and teachers for all your hard work.

I attended the excellent MTNA Conference in Minneapolis in March. To my delight, the weather was a surprising 74-degrees the day I arrived so I walked throughout the downtown area of the city. I felt a special musical welcome upon seeing the mural of a section of “Scarbo” from Ravel’s “Gaspard de la Nuit” painted on the 5-story wall of the old Schmitt Music Building. That one day was indeed an anomaly because the weather quickly turned to the Minnesota seasonal norm of cold and windy. However, the warmth of seeing and talking with friends, old and new, counteracted the cold.



MTNA President Dr. Kevin T. Chance

The informative Pedagogy Saturday featured five tracks: Artistry (Artistry Through the Eras), Musician Wellness (Making Music Through Life’s Transitions: The Psychological and Physiological Challenges), Recreational Music Making (Learning by Doing), Representation and Advocacy (Confluence: connecting with Each Other Through Music), and Young Professionals (Crafting Your Career: Inspiring Insights and Practical Strategies).

The remainder of the conference was replete with sessions on innovative teaching ideas, revelations of newly-discovered and newly-published music, masterclasses, and competition winners recitals. A conference highlight was the Tuesday evening concert by conference artist Michelle Cann who gave an enthralling, virtuosic performance of dazzling, demanding piano repertoire.

Congratulations to Dr. Carol Wolfe-Ralph who was presented with the MTNA Fellows award at the Conference Gala and to Deborah White-Bondhus who received the 50-year membership award at the Awards Brunch.

Congratulations to Douglas Guiles and Li-Ly Chang for being among the inaugural honorees of the new MTNA Teacher Honor Roll.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

President
Edwina Hunter

VP Student Activities
Junko Takahashi

VP Publications
Wendy Johnston

VP Certification
Donna White

VP Membership
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Historian
Yuri Chayama

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David Kreider

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Michele Avrick

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Prince Georges MTA
Janice Kilgore Wood

Southern Maryland MTA
Patricia Blanchard
Mary Stevens



Edwina Hunter, Li-Ly Chang, Alice Ma, Jeongseon Choi, Immuanuel Gruenberg, Deborah White-Bondhus, Brad Bondhus



DMV representatives: Li-Ly Chang, Edwina Hunter, Deborah White-Bondhus with husband Brad Bondhus, and Chelsea Wright.

Have a full, adventuresome summer,

Best Regards,

Edwina

FROM THE BOARD

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bylaws/Parliamentarian
David Holmes

Certification
Donna White

College Faculty
TBA

Community Outreach
and Education
Deborah White-
Bondhus

Composer
Commissioning
Li-Ly Chang

Conference
Deborah White-
Bondhus
Junko Takahashi

Finance
Carol Wolfe-Ralph

Independent Music
Teachers
Helen Smith Tarchalski

Legal Advisor
Randy Reade

Local and Student
Associations
Sheila Jones

Membership
Lori McCarthy

MTNA Foundation
Carol Wolfe-Ralph

MTNA Foundation
Fundraising
TBA

Nominations
Douglas Guiles

Publications
Wendy Johnston

Technology
Daniel Lau

At the June 9, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting, the board approved all but one of the seven motions:

(1) Hidden Treasures Festival

The Board unanimously approved the proposal to establish a Hidden Treasures Festival. Students may enter competitively or non-competitively. Students must play two pieces: at least one piece from the Underrepresented Composers database on the MSMTA website. All students will receive an evaluation and DMA points if the rating is Very Good (30 points) and above. The November 16, 2025 festival registration will be on the MSMTA website. The inaugural festival will be open to pianists only with plans to add additional instruments in the future.

(2) Reimbursement to local chairs for printing at home. The motion was unanimously passed to pay local chairs \$0.10 per copy for at home printing with supporting receipts.

(3) Keyboard and Theory Exam Overflow-The Board unanimously passed the motion that Teachers registering their students for a Keyboard or Theory exam outside their local center must contact the chair of the intended center three months before the registration deadline.

(4) Broadening the Scope of "Local" Association for the Distinguished Music Achievement Award Proposal

After much discussion, the Board voted to allow events from Washington, D C. MTA and neighboring MTNA state organizations to count towards a student's DMA portfolio, ONE TIME PER APPLICATION.

(5) MSMTA Chamber Music Festival

Motion was passed to allow non-members to register with an additional \$60 fee per group. This fee is in addition to the registration fee.

(6) E. R. Davis minimum participation requirement

The Board voted unanimously that there must be a minimum of 5 registrants in each of the divisions in order to hold the competition for that division.

(7) Use of music on electronic devices

After much discussion a motion was made and seconded to allow music to be presented on an iPad to judges at MSMTA competitions. All Opposed. The motion was not carried.

FROM THE BOARD

(8) String Events Changes

The only string events scheduled are the String Solo event chaired by Ji Yin Lee and the Strings Plus event chaired by Yee-Ning Soong.

(9) The Winners Concert of the Gertrude Brown Concerto competition will hereforth be called the Hyun Park Winners Concert.

We all wish Hyun Park who served as concerto competition chair for over 20 years the best in her retirement in Paris.

(10) The Officers for the 2025-2027 term are:

President (Second Term)-Edwina E. Hunter, Finance (Second term) Carol Wolfe-Ralph, Yee-Ning Song-VP Publications, Helen Weems-VP Certification, and Ann Matteson-Member-at-Large. We thank Wendy Johnston-VP Publications, Donna White-VP Certification, and Bonnie Kellert-Member-at-Large for their service.

(11) Upcoming Board meeting dates: Monday, September 15, 2025, Monday, January 26, 2026, and Monday, June 8, 2026.

MSMTA 2025 CONFERENCE

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Virtual on Zoom

12:45 - 6:30 PM

- 12:45 PM** **Meet and Greet**
- 1:00 PM** **The Healthy Pianist: Strategies for Avoiding Injury and Building Strong Foundations**
Studies indicate that between 70-90% of musicians experience an injury over the course of their careers. This presentation will focus on the most common injuries afflicting pianists and provide teaching strategies for their prevention.
Dr. Michael Finlay, Piano Keys Academy, MM from Peabody Conservatory;
DMA, University of Montreal
- 2:00 PM** **General Membership Meeting**
Edwina Hunter, MSMTA President
- 2:45 PM** **Break**
- 3:00 PM** **Mini-Recital**
Dr. Thomas Hecht, Faculty Peabody Institute, Professor of Piano, Recording Artist,
Steinway Artist
- 3:30 - 5:00 PM.** **Masterclass for Intermediate/Advanced Students**
Dr. Thomas Hecht
- 5:00 PM** **MTNA Presentation**
Dr. Kevin T. Chance, NCTM, MTNA President
Gloria Narramore Moody Piano Area, University of Alabama
- 5:30 PM** **Guide to Successful Sight Reading**
Lack of reading fluency is perhaps the most common issue teachers identify among their students and it is among the most common problems encountered among incoming piano majors. By examining reading statistics, approaches and theories in this 60-minute lecture, we can thoughtfully reconsider the approaches we are using in our studios. Additionally, a wealth of excellent materials for fostering more fluent reading will be presented.
Dr. Kevin T. Chance, NCTM, MTNA President
- 6:30 PM** **End of Conference**

ANN S. MATTESON

COMPOSERS AND IMPROVISERS CIRCLE

Opus 30 - 2024
Sunday December 8, 2024
Three o'clock in the afternoon

The Composer's Circle had a record Twenty-Three student performers plus Composer Li-Ly Chang. A very enjoyable afternoon of original compositions was enjoyed by all. Founder Ann Matteson attended and hosted a reception afterwards with Chair Deborah White-Bondhus. Many thanks to Joanna Greenwood for doing our composition booklet.

Studios Represented: Patricia Blanchard, Ken Chen, Douglas Guiles, Haemi Erikson, Krista Keyser, Li-Ly Chang, Shisa Suskey, Deborah White-Bondhus, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Dr. Tzi-Ming Yang, Yaling Yeh.



Participating students: Anna Singalla, Ava Lee, Cassandra Woolley, Jolina Pang, Matcha Christiansen, Ian Woolley, Emma Lee, Emma Qing, Andrea Dudley, Joshua Liu, Aadya Rai, Harold Lin, Mason Bloomquist, Howard (Menghao) Ren, James Pang, Alice Zhang, Timothy Mitchell, Zachary Hickman, Caitlin Liu, Li-Ly Chang, Katherine Morgan, Advik Rai, Joanna Liu, Aidan C. VanBuren.

ANN S. MATTESON

COMPOSERS AND IMPROVISERS CIRCLE

Composers Circle for 2025 will be on
Sunday December 14, 2025
at University Methodist Church College Park, MD.
We will be spotlighting our Commissioned composer Joel Freidman



Joel Phillip Friedman – Composer/Professor/Writer Arts Center, the New Music Orchestral Project, and the Society of Composers, as well as various Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Awards nominations.

In addition to composing, Joel teaches a range of university courses in composition, theory/analysis, and history, and popular music at institutions including Georgetown University, Catholic University, and Swarthmore College. His Beatles and Sondheim courses at Stanford University's Continuing Studies Program are considered annual highlights. Friedman received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from Boston University. His Doctor of Musical Arts degree is from Columbia University, where he was a President's Fellow and Mellon Scholar.

Works by Joel Phillip Friedman have been recorded for the Jay, Crystal, Acis, and Americus labels, and published by Samuel French and Grey Bird Music. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife, Jenny Bilfield (President/CEO of Washington Performing Arts) and parrots extraordinaire Percy and Heathcliff. Their daughter actress/writer Hallie Eliza Friedman lives in New York City.

For more information see www.joelfriedman.com

Chair of Commissioned Composer – Li-Ly Chang

MSMTA DISTINGUISHED MUSIC AWARDS

This year's Distinguished Music Achievement Awards were given to 40 students in the Elementary division, 38 students in the Junior division and 31 in the Senior division, from the studios of 38 MSMTA teachers. As the chairperson of the DMA Awards, I would like to express my gratitude to all the participating teachers, and my congratulations to all the recipients for their outstanding accomplishments over the years. And for future applications, I would like to remind all, again, that ONLY MSMTA and local MTA sponsored events qualify for these awards. Also, please remember that all communication should be conducted through the teacher ONLY.

2025 DMA Recipients

Elementary:

Ethan Corbin (Patricia Blanchard)

Alex Hou (Patricia Blanchard)

Ellie Wort (Patricia Blanchard)

Daniel Golikov (Elena Eliseeva)

Claire Han (Elena Eliseeva)

Ivan Lugovkin (Elena Eliseeva)

Cian Shangguan (Elena Eliseeva)

Claire Wei (Elena Eliseeva)

Bernard Yu (Elena Eliseeva)

Jayden Gao (Bok Hwa Kim)

Charity Loych (Bok Hwa Kim)

Allison Wang (Bok Hwa Kim)

Nathan Zhang (Bok Hwa Kim)

Edwin Thai (Yao Lin)

Edward Yang (Yao Lin)

Ethan Zhang (Yao Lin)

Joey Chow (Alice Ma)

Tatiana Dolgopyat (Lara Parris)

Anna Kitsul (Lara Parris)

Stone Hargrove (Monica Roberson)

Luca Culpepper (Olga Soukhoveev)

Arjun Lakhani (Olga Soukhoveev)

Divyanshi Passi (Olga Soukhoveev)

Advik Sehgal (Olga Soukhoveev)

Oliver Steggles (Olga Soukhoveev)

Emma Lee (Shisa H. Suskey)

Estelle Allen (Junko Takahashi)

Jeffrey Wang (Junko Takahashi)

Alice Zheng (Junko Takahashi)

MSMTA DISTINGUISHED MUSIC AWARDS

Elementary:

Emma Wang (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Eli Chen Block (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Vivian Chen Block (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Helena Ellis (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Han Foo (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Audrey Juan (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Ethan Liang (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Alwin Zhao (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Aarohi Sarkar (Deborah White-Bondhus)
Anna Singalla (Deborah White-Bondhus)
Hannah Fu (Tzi-Ming Yang)

Junior:

Justin Chen (Dr. Hui-Yen Chang)
Connie Zhou (Dr. Hui-Yen Chang)
Jason Hua (Lauren Di)
Joanna Marantan (Irina Dvoynoy)
Marie Trusov (Elena Eliseeva)
Liam Wang (Elena Eliseeva)
Chase Zhang (Elena Eliseeva)
Sean Zhang (Elena Eliseeva)
Lewei He (Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich)
Sei Goossens (Meri Gugushvili)
Makayla Davis (Edwina Hunter)
Victoria An (Bok Hwa Kim)
Emily Oh (Bok Hwa Kim)
Erica Li (Olga Kuperstein)
Anlan Zhang (Olga Kuperstein)
Christina Zhang (Olga Kuperstein)
Kristine Huang (Hsien-Ann Meng)
Andrew Lin (Dmitri Nazarenko)
Jingwei Zhao (Dmitri Nazarenko)
Andrew Nam (Hyun Park)
Ella Pei (Hyun Park)
Amy Xu (Hyun Park)
Alexandra Rosenfeld (Olga Soukhoveev)
Brendan Wang (Olga Soukhoveev)
Grace Wu (Olga Soukhoveev)
Meilynn Hataye (Junko Takahashi)

MSMTA DISTINGUISHED MUSIC AWARDS

Junior:

Tian Feng (Junko Takahashi)
Kathy Wang (Junko Takahashi)
Matthew Chan (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Brian Huang (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Kaelyn Jia (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Hannah Tang (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Sherry Zhu (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Boyce Chen (Helen Weems)
Joshua Liu (Deborah White-Bondhus)
Aadya Rai (Deborah White-Bondhus)
Jenny Wang (Dr. Kuei-I Wu)

Senior:

Dhanyashri Senthilkumar (Anne Hsueh Chen)
Jonathan Cao (Elena Eliseeva)
Maja Gelvanovska (Elena Eliseeva)
Ivy Guo (Elena Eliseeva)
Olivia Guo (Elena Eliseeva)
Elli Jacobs (Elena Eliseeva)
Noa Goossens (Meri Gugushvili)
Gabriel Joshi (Meri Gugushvili)
Hanna Zheng (Christopher Hall)
Wilson Cai (Cherie Jeng)
Adison Cai (Bonnie Kellert)
Tyler Wu (Bok Hwa Kim)
Allan Ying (Bok Hwa Kim)
Aiden Zhang (Bok Hwa Kim)
Yuzhi Liu (Beatrice Ko)
Qihong Liang (Chia-Hsuan Lee)
Grace Gao (Alla Merport)
Alina Liu (Alla Merport)
Lavinia Bonvini (Dmitri Nazarenko)
Andrew Jiang (Dmitri Nazarenko)
Kana Puttkammer (Dmitri Nazarenko)
Austin Moon (Hyun Park)
Matthew Nam (Hyun Park)
Jason Yin (Hyun Park)
Shayan Kurup (Olga Soukhoveev)
Daisy Wong (Junko Takahashi)
Mahilan Guha (Chen-Li Tzeng)
Eric Zhang (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Simryn Pandya (Deborah White-Bondhus)
Lillian Robinson-Cheung (Deborah White-Bondhus)

MSMTA THEORY HONORS AWARDS

MSMTA congratulates the students and teachers
who have received
MSMTA Theory Awards.

49 students received the Intermediate Theory Award for passing five levels with a score of 90 percent or higher, from the studios of Christopher Hall, Bok Hwa Kim, Jeffrey J. Doenges, Dmitri Nazarenko, Deborah White-Bondhus, Yie-Chien Tsau, Svetlana Volkova, Donghee Kwon, Chen-Li Tzeng, Olga Soukhoveeva, Mei-Fen Yen, Jeannine Case, Anne H. Chen, Erica Wang, Edwina Hunter, Patricia Blanchard, Beatrice Ko, Yeechen Pao, Chieh-Ming Lee, Junko Takahashi, Yaling Yeh, Tzi-Ming Yang, Elena Eliseeva, Adriana Schueckler, and Hui-Yen Chang.

20 students received the Senior Theory Award for passing five levels including level 7 or above with a score of 90 percent or higher, from the studios of Chin- Yi Lee, Dmitri Nazarenko, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Deborah White-Bondhus, Svetlana Volkova, Chen-Li Tzeng, Bonnie Kellert, Edwina Hunter, Chieh-Ming Lee, Junko Takahashi, Patricia Blanchard, and Hui-Yen Chang.

7 students received the Advanced Theory Award for passing any two from levels 8-10 (with a score of 90 or above; one level must be passed in 2025). They are from the studios of Dmitri Nazarenko, Yie-Chien Tsau, Svetlana Volkova, and Hui-Yen Chang.

Special congratulations to the 3 students who received the 2025 MSMTA Distinguished Theory Award for passing level 11 with a score of 90 percent or above:

Caleb Wen, Melody Chen, and Sean Wang, from the studios of Dmitri Nazarenko and Junko Takahashi. It takes special dedication and perseverance to get through such a demanding course of study!

Jeffrey J. Doenges
MSMTA Theory Awards Program

KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP PROGRAM

2024-2025

A total of 577 students participated in the Keyboard Musicianship Program this year. Thank you to all the teachers who participated, and especially the local chairs, who put in so much time and effort to make sure the program runs smoothly!

The MSMTA Board has approved a new rule for teachers entering 6 or more students in a NEW Keyboard center: Teachers planning to register 6 or more students in a center FOR THE FIRST TIME, must contact that local chair at least three months in advance of the registration deadline, giving an estimate of the number of students they plan to enroll in that center. (Without this advance notice, it is extremely hard for local chairs to know how much time they need to reserve at the scheduled venue.) If in doubt, contact the local chair to explain your thoughts and ideas... no one likes unpleasant surprises!

I am happy to congratulate the following 135 students who received awards in the Keyboard Musicianship Program this year!

Keyboard Musicianship Award:

Ife Adeniyi, Jimi Adeniyi, Estelle Allen, Zoe Alonso-Tao, Meryl Ashy, Diya Balamurugan, Vivian Chang, Vivian Chen Block, Eli Chen Block, Helena Ellis, Jackson Fisher, Anna Sophia Gartvig, Grace Guo, Jaden Han, Clark Hu, Ivan Huang, Audrey Karagöz-Yamaoka, Khelen Kuo, Reya Kurup, Rosie Lee, Tobey Leung, Ellie Leung, Yi-Lin Li, Sophia Lin, Vivian Lin, Trinity Lit, Ruofeng Liu, Claire Luo, Avin Mayer, Nathan Mo, Gavin Quach, Giselle Quach, Nathalie Schwartzman, Jessica Seow, Raaga Seshadri, Robert Sicora, Michael Sicora, Sophia Arcadia Soldatova, George Konstantin Sopko, Ryan Sun, Heather Sun, Umay Temirbekova, Serena Wang, Audrey Wang, Jeffrey Wang, Samuel Yan, Grace Yue, Liya Zhao, Alice Zheng, Allison Zhou, Matthew Zhou, Calvin Zhu, Sherry Zhu

Intermediate Honors Award:

Ellie Cathirell, Matthew Chan, Kevin Chen, Chelsea Chen, Makenzie Davis, Sebastian Delgado, Elana Dioguardi, Michelle Du, Eric Han, Meilynn Hataye, Eleanor Howse, Kaelyn Jia, Nathan Leitan, Benjamin Li, Jeremy Liang, Melinda Liu, Judy Liu, Charity Loych, Ethan Luo, Emma Ma, Brianna Minton, Anna Morgan, Simryn Pandya, Krisha Passi, Ella Pham, Ethan Quach, Kate Rhee, Vivien Shubow, Ryan Sun, Jayden Sun, Allison Tang, Sophia Ta-Zhou, Katie Thai, Chaya Thomas, Liam Wang, Sophia Wang, Evan Wu, Alivia Xu, Benjamin Yang, Jenny Yu, Elisa Yue, Jeremy Zhang, Vincent Zhang, Chase Zhang, Chloe Zhao, Owen Zheng

KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP PROGRAM

2024-2025

High Honors Award:

Nathaniel Bankston, Eli Becker, Justin Chen, Zorianna Chorney, Isadora Chorney, Sarah Dang, Yun-Pei Deng, Alfred Dolfin, Tian Feng, Raffaella Galati, Ronan Gunning, Kareena Gupta, Yi-Sa Li, Yuchu Li, Ava Pham, Anna Polon, Emma Ta-Zhou, Joanna Wang, Kayli Werner, Violet Yang, Jacob Zhang, Leah Zhang, Yongniu Zhao, Connie Zhou

Advanced Honors Award:

Pranav Boreddy, Amber Lin, Caitlin Liu, Advik Rai, Kevin Shen, Zijing Wu, Victoria Yao

Distinguished Honors Award:

Aditya Bhandari, Ethan Huang, Mark Li, Sophie Su, Emily Zhang

Congratulations to the teachers of the above students!

Patricia Blanchard, Jeannine Case, Hui-Yen Chang, Yuri Chayama, Anne Hsueh Chen, Irina Dvoynoy, Elena Eliseeva, Constance Fischel, Christopher Hall, Edwina Hunter, Bonnie Kellert, Bok Hwa Kim, Beatrice Ko, Olga Kuperstein, Lara Parris, Debra Smedley, Olga Soukhoveeva, Janet Swaney, Junko Takahashi, Yie-Chien Tsau, Chenli Tzeng, Svetlana Volkova, Hsiu-Hui Wang, Helen Weems, Deborah White-Bondhus

As you can see, we have many students learning and performing with a high level of Keyboard Musicianship! Any teachers with questions about the program should check the syllabus and other information in the “Members only” part of the msmta.org website; contact their local Keyboard chair; or contact the State Chair, Laurel Carroll (msmta.kmp@yahoo.com), for suggestions and ideas.

Wishing everyone a relaxing and rejuvenating summer!

Sincerely,

Laurel Carroll
Keyboard Musicianship Program Chair

MSMTA GAIL F. McDONALD HIGH SCHOOL

PIANO EXAMINATIONS -2025

The High School Piano Examinations Program is a unique example of how schools and professionals in the community work together to enhance students' educational options. Done in cooperation with the Maryland State Department of Education, this is the 45th year that this program has provided recognition, and in some cases credit to piano students in their high school. Ann Matteson as the first chair, worked under the leadership of MSMTA president, Dr. Gail F, McDonald. Others who worked in the program at the origination were: Mary Jane Schaeffer, Gary Dinn, Dr. Stewart Gordon, and Ruth Weinberg who worked with the legislature and the Maryland State Department of Education's Director, Division of Instruction, Dr. James W. Lathan and Mr. James L. Tucker, Jr., Chief, Aesthetic and Gifted Programs. The examinations are unique in that they are open not only to MSMTA teachers' students, but to any Maryland student in grades 9 through 12 who study piano privately. Students play a minimum of 10 minutes of memorized music from three different periods of music literature. They receive critiques from two judges, a certificate of achievement, and a report to be placed in their permanent record folder.

This year we had 102 students register to take the examination for recognition. We are pleased to see this valuable program continue for the benefit of the students.

I would like to thank the following teachers who participated in the program:

PATRICIA BLANCHARD, DONNA BRIGLAND, ARIEL DECHOSA, LAUREN DI,
IRINA DVONOVY, ELENA ELISEEVA, CONSTANCE FISCHER, CHRISTOPHER HALL,
DAVID HOLMES, JAN HULBERT, EDWINA HUNTER, BONNIE KELLERT, HEESUN KIM,
BEATRICE KO, DAVID KUPERSTEIN, OLGA KUPERSTEIN, YAO LIN, DMITRI NAZARENKO, CATHY
O'DONAVN, YENGENIYA OLESHKEVICH, YEE CHEN PAO, HYUN PARK, LARA PARRIS,
EVELYN (YE-LING) SHIH, DEBRA SMEDLEY, OLGA SOUKHOVEEVA, JUNKO TAKAHASHI,
ZIONA TUCHLER, CHENLI TZENG, SVETLANA VOLKOVA, DEBORAH WHITE-BONDHUS,
JANICE WOOD, CECILIA WYATT, MEI FEN YEN, KANYOUNG YOO.

I would like to thank the following teachers who were judges for the examination.

PATRICIA BLANCHARD, LAUREN DI, IRINA DVONOVY, ELENA ELISEEVA, DAVID HOLMES,
EDWINA HUNER, BONNIE KELLERT, EDWINA HUNTER, JARL HULBERT,
DAVID KUPERSTEIN, OLGA KUPERSTEIN, DMITRI NAZARENKO, YENGENIYA OLESHKEVICH,
LARA PARRIS, EVELYN SHIH, DEBRA SMEDLEY, JUNKO TAKAHASHI,
CHENLI TZENG, JANICE WOOD, CECLIA WYATT, MEI FEN YEN.

The examinations were virtual this year. I would like to thank John Ralph who set up our online protocol and video submissions. We will remain virtual again next year.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



MCMTA had a lovely session in March for our teachers on making improvisation more accessible to students. This pedagogy session was presented by Jazz educator, Quentin Walston. Lots of practical advice from his book, “How to Teach Jazz & Improvisation” was shared.

Our newly nominated slate of officers was voted on at our May meeting. The changes to our Board members are as follows:

President – Yuri Chayama
VP for Publication – Ella Wu

First Vice President – Yoon Huh
Recording Secretary – Anna Xuan Song

Afterwards, we held a Members’ Concert and potluck luncheon.



Pictured left to right: Composer Li Ly Chang, and performers, Lois Jones, Carolyn Deibel, Immanuela Gruenberg, Hai Jin, Etienne Zhou, Yuri Chayama, Debra Merritt, and Alice Ma (handbells - not pictured, her accompanist, Beatrice Ko).

As for Student Events, our Judged Recitals via video submission and the Ensemble Recitals occurred in February. April was the busiest month with Elementary, Intermediate/Advanced and more Judged Recitals, plus the Swarthout/Hayes competition.

Our final two events happened in the month of May, the Peggy Woolley-Martin Senior Recognition Award Ceremony (at which the Swarthout/Hayes winners performed) and the Adult Recital.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



Class of 2025 Seniors Recognized for at least six years of study with an MCMTA teacher.



Adult Recital 2025, Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



Upcoming for the Fall of 2025, MCMTA will be expanding on its Outstanding Music Achievement Awards. Not only will High School Seniors be eligible to apply for this award, but soon Elementary and Middle School students can apply for their respective Elementary Outstanding Music Achievement Award and Junior Outstanding Music Achievement Award too.

MCMTA is blessed with dedicated chairpersons, teachers and volunteers who organize and implement these events/awards. Thank you Alice, Bonnie, Carol B, Carol E, Cynthia, David, Elena, Eugenia, Hai, Immanuela, Junko, Miri, Olga, Svetlana, Tina, Yuri, and to all the behind-the-scenes volunteers as well!

Best wishes for a safe and wonderful summer!

Debra Merritt, DMA
Immediate Past President, MCMTA

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

MTASM not only finished a busy, productive spring of music-making, testing and competition, we have just had our planning meeting to prepare for our upcoming year. Many of our students and teachers participated in local events including ensemble recitals, a day of recitals as part of the Kalnasy Concert Series at Saint Aloysius Church, a Spring Piano Festival for both competitive and non-competitive students, a Sonatina Festival hosted by Charles County MTA, and an Honors Recital in which each student chosen by his/her teacher performed and received a trophy.

MTASM was also well represented in spring MSMTA events including the Solo Festival, the theory test, the High School Exam and the MSMTA Student Scholarship competition. Teachers were also learning as we gathered monthly for our Pedagogy Discussion Group and held MTNA certification meetings led by our State Certification vice president, our very own Donna White. Thank you to our local event guest judges Tracy Ernst and Audrey Andrist, and to the MSMTA members who judged our students in the state events. We appreciate your expertise and time commitment evaluating our students! We are also so grateful to our event chairs, moderators, officers and families of our students as we work together to provide opportunities for our students.

As we begin the summer season, we also look ahead to the next teaching year. Special thanks to outgoing co-president Patricia Blanchard for her inspiration and leadership along with co-president Mary Stevens, and to Georgia Harvey, who has for many years served so faithfully as our secretary. Debbie Smedley will be joining Mary as co-president next year. Joan Chovanes will continue as vice president, assisted by Haemi Erickson. Donna White, who masterfully keeps track of our budget, will continue as treasurer and Patricia Blanchard will assume the position of secretary. We also would like to wish a long and happy retirement to long-time member Janet Swaney- she will be missed!

As we reflect on the year that just finished, we realize we have so much for which to be grateful. Thank you to MSMTA for providing wonderful opportunities for us, to our students and their families, and to our MTASM friends who support us in our teaching journey.

Happy Summer from Southern Maryland!

Co-Presidents Mary Stevens and Patricia Blanchard

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

GREATER COLUMBIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



Greater Columbia Music Teachers Association, started the year with a fabulous Masterclass hosted by Bok Hwa Kim. The masterclass was held on Sunday, Dr. Michael Adcock on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

Claire Suh- Sonatina in C Major, Op. 36, No. 1: III. Vivace M. Clementi

Jolina Pang - Le Petit Nègre C. Debussy

Heather Sun - Sonata in C Major, K. 545: I. Allegro W.A. Mozart

Jiulin Song - Variations in D Major, Op. 40, No. 1 D. Kabalevsky

Boyce Chen - Sonata in B Minor, Hob. XVI:32: I. Allegro moderato F.J. Haydn

Participating teachers: **Dr. Bok Hwa Kim, Janice Puckett, Ellen Suh, Helen Weems, Deborah White-Bondhus.**

We had an extremely active year -

Keyboard exam (Anne Chen),

Friends and Family Festival (Janice Puckett)

Music Tells the Story (Helen Weems),

Judged Recital (David Holmes),

MSMTA Theory Exam (Grant McMullan),

Outreach recitals (Constance Fischel),

Spring Solo Competition (Helen Weems)

High School Awards: David Holmes and Constance Fischel.

We ended the performance year with a wonderful Spring Solo Competition and High School Awards chaired by Helen Weems, Constance Fischel and David Holmes. Our organization continues to sponsor an award for the Music Arts International-IYAPC competition chaired by Li-Ly Chang.

Congratulations!

Sean Kim 1st (Bok Hwa Kim)

Elizabeth Liu 2nd (Bok Hwa Kim)

Sophie Su. 3rd (Olga Kuperstein)

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

GREATER COLUMBIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



Greater Columbia Music Teachers Association ended the 2024 – 2025 year with an enjoyable meeting and Potluck at the historic home of our Treasurer, Elaine Newhall.

Present were Debbie Allen, Gulnara Brown, Li-ly Chang, Patrice Donnelly, Constance Fischel, David Holmes, Olga Kuperstein, Alla Merport, Elaine Newhall, Helen Weems, Deborah White-Bondhus



Officers:

President; Deborah White-Bondhus, Vice-President; Bok Hwa Kim, Secretary Gulnara Brown and Elaine Newhall Treasurer were installed.

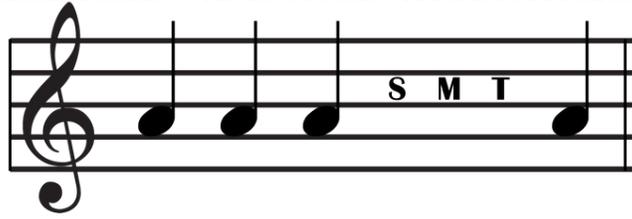
A full round of events is planned for the coming year. All the teachers are looking forward to a relaxing summer to be ready for a busy fall and spring.

Deborah White-Bondhus
President

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

ANNE ARUNDEL - ALL SHORE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Anne Arundel – All Shore Music Teachers Association



AA-ASMTA celebrated the spring with several events. The Ensemble and Chamber Music Festival was held in March with Adriana Schueckler serving as chair. Students from the studios of the following teachers participated: Lorena Brougher, Dorene Chen, Beatrice Cheung, Woobin Park, Wendy Poole, Adriana Schueckler, and Helen Smith Tarchalski. The Ensemble Recital featured piano duets and other instruments that included violin, guitar, and percussion. More advanced piano students were featured with the Naptown Philharmonic Symphony Quartet (formerly the Londontowne Symphony Quartet), which comprises the principal string players from the orchestra.



In April, we celebrated our first activity on the Eastern Shore with Spring Concerts Part I, chaired by Cheryl Florin. Cunningham Piano Company in Delmar graciously hosted us for the event and provided a beautiful Bösendorfer piano. Six students from the studios of Debra Dew and Cheryl Florin performed. The families are thrilled to have this new affiliation and opportunities.



LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Anne Arundel – All Shore Music Teachers Association



In May we concluded our academic year with the Spring Concerts Part II at Anne Arundel Community College, chaired by Beatrice Cheung and Bill Bloomquist. Seventy students from the studios of Beatrice Cheung, Dorene Chen, Lorena Brougher, Patra Maloy, and Woobin Park performed in competitive and non-competitive events. We held two elementary recitals, a middle school recital, and middle school and high school competitions.



We look forward to the Nature and Water Music Festival in July, which is chaired by Lorena Brougher and held outside on a digital piano at Truxtun Park. In addition to the expansion of our organization and our beautiful new logo created by Julia Tulloch, our other exciting news is that we opened an Instagram account for AA-ASMTA, hosted by Woobin Park, and we now include a QR code on our printed programs. The families were very enthusiastic about having quick access to photos from the event, we can send out news and reminders to our followers, and we went way up on the “cool” scale with the students!

Helen Smith Tarchalski, AA-ASMTA President

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Greater Baltimore Music Teachers Association

The Greater Baltimore Chapter's first event of the year was a Masterclass with the clinician Dr. James DeWire of Frostburg State University. He worked with three students: Yumi Davidson, (Teacher: Yoshi Kubota), Terence Huang (Teacher: Betsy Stocksdale) and Chesed Hyatt, (Teacher: Eva Mengelkoch).

A new event began in February this year called "I love that piece" concert, which was an informal concert that offered students the opportunity to play a piece of their choice in any genre. It was very successful with 20 students participating. The annual Spring Concert was held on April 27th in the recital hall at the Essex campus of the Baltimore Community College. A large number of students participated and their repertoire ranged from elementary to advanced. The second Adult Recital of the year was held on April 26th at the Steinway Gallery of Baltimore. This recital has a loyal group of performers who have bonded over the years. In early May, the association held its competitions. The results were as follows: The Middle School competition was won by Jackson Wu, grade 6 (Teacher: Shirley Yoo). He played Mozart Sonata, K. 330: III. Allegretto and Moszkowski Etude, op. 72, no. 12. Evan O'Bryan (10th grade) won the High School competition. His teacher is Christopher Dillon. He played Chopin's Etude Op. 10 No. 5 and Beethoven's Sonata Op. 22, Allegro con brio. The Collegiate winner was Eric Lian, a senior at Johns Hopkins University (Teacher: Shirley Yoo). He played Brahms Sonata No. 3: I. Maestoso and Trenchard Weissenberg "En Avril, à Paris". 11 students took the Theory Test with levels Prep through Level 7 and 29 students attended the Keyboard Musicianship Testing day.

Joanna Greenwood
Greater Baltimore Music Teachers Association

IN MEMORIAM

JOSELYN CROSS MAKOWSKI, MSMTA PAST PRESIDENT

BY HELEN SMITH TARCHALSKI



As was reported in the January newsletter, MSMTA marks with deep sadness the passing of past MSMTA president Joselyn "Jo" Cross Makowski. Jo Makowski was a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory. She was an Army wife to Colonel Paul Makowski for many years, which meant the Makowskis moved many times. When the family settled in Silver Spring, Maryland, Jo established a large piano studio. The quintessential life-long learner, Jo was enrolled in weekly piano lessons with a "Grand Dame" of MSMTA at that time, Esther Howe, when we met at a Montgomery County Music Teachers Association meeting.

She later studied with Tom Mastroianni for many years while he was chair of the piano department at Catholic University. Almost all of her travel time away from her studio was dedicated to MTNA and piano pedagogy conferences, workshops, and other piano study throughout the U.S. and Europe, with the exception of her annual family trips to Ocean City. For some of those vacations, she packed a digital keyboard and would play on the balcony of the condo while watching over the ocean. She reported that activity gave her a profound sense of fulfillment and peace. One time Jo said to me, "I feel like I was put on this Earth to teach piano."

Despite her full-to-overflowing personal and studio life, Jo somehow made time to work on teacher association activities and to help colleagues. She had five children, helped to rear a grandson, and helped her parents in their latter years. And yet, when her former teacher Esther became frail and needed help, Jo drove Esther to doctor appointments. When Lois Jones had a family medical crisis, Jo taught Lois's students so that Lois could focus on her family's needs and her students could continue to progress. Jo served as MSMTA President, MCMTA President, and chair and committee member for too many activities to recall. She was present at practically every student event as an adjudicator, a set of helping hands, and a teacher of participating students.

I learned from Jo the value of relationships with colleagues and mentoring younger or less experienced teachers, and that the value is a two-way street. With everything she had going on in her own studio, family life, and service to the music teacher associations, Jo somehow managed to also make time to mentor young beginning and aspiring teachers. When I joined MSMTA and MCMTA, I was twenty-four years old. In these organizations, I only knew a few of my former Peabody classmates, who had also joined. I felt a bit intimidated at my local association meetings (MCMTA at that time) because almost everyone was much older and obviously far more experienced than I, and the association was filled with "top-drawer" teachers and performers. But Jo called me on the phone several times to check in, found some accompanying work for me, and invited me to lunch. These gestures meant so much. She helped me to feel as though I really belonged, which gave me the incentive to enroll my students in many association activities and to become active in the association governance.

IN MEMORIAM

At one point, Jo began taking on assistants to help run her busy studio. One of these assistants, Jeffery Beaudry, sums up his experience beautifully in this tribute, as well as captures some of the exquisite aspects of the Jo Makowski Piano Studio era.

Jo seems to have fulfilled the obligation she related to me when she said, “I feel like I was put on this Earth to teach piano.” Jo not only directly impacted the lives of her own piano students, but she made an indelible imprint on MSMTA, MCMTA, her colleagues and their students, and many aspiring and beginning piano teachers.

Ann Matteson

Jo was always so supportive of her students, and they came first in her very musical life. She also had an interest in technology. Her brother, Steve Cross, was at the time the tech guru for MSMTA (our first). The two of them were very helpful to me when I was MSMTA president in the 90s. MSMTA was perhaps the first state in MTNA to have a website. Many aspects of technology were so new. We sent out postcards to obtain teachers’ permission to be listed on the website. Jo’s interest in growing our technology support continued when she began her very successful years as MSMTA president.

Maxine Lewack

I got to know Jo when we were both charged with planning and executing the first recital for beginning students in MCMTA. We wanted, above all, for it to be a fun, not stressful, experience. We chose the Halloween theme with costumes, decorations, and trick-or-treat candy. It was a success, and the rest is history. And we found in each other a certain irreverence for the conventional that served us well in all our work with MCMTA.

A fun memory: At the 2001 MTNA convention in Washington, D.C. the hotel made a mistake with the room that Jo and Lois had booked. Since there were no more rooms available, the hotel gave them the Khrushchev Suite, complete with two bedrooms, living room, dining room, and kitchen. Jo decided with such opulent surroundings we needed to have a party with MTNA attendees...so we did.

Lois Jones

She was amazingly good at the things she did, and so much fun. I worked with her on MCMTA programs, and it was always like a crazy pleasure. She was a supportive colleague and friend. When my father had a serious car accident and I could not teach for several months, Jo took on my students. She did so much for MCMTA and MSMTA, and she was also a wonderful and caring teacher.

IN MEMORIAM

Li-Ly Chang

Jo offered monthly piano galas at her studio. These galas featured recitals by well-known pianists, masterclasses, lectures, and performances by attendees for each other. Sometimes we would sightread duets and trios. Jo always finished these gatherings with a wonderful and delicious reception reflective of her warm and gracious hosting. She was so proud of her students' and graduated students' accomplishments. We will always remember her and her dedication to music and teaching, and she will always be in our hearts!

Jeffery Beaudry

While I was earning my MM degree at Catholic University in the '90s, I worked in Jo Makowski's home piano studio in Silver Spring. I worked a day or two per week after school in a small studio space adjacent to her large basement studio, teaching lessons to kids who were just getting started.

She was an excellent mentor, and I enjoyed seeing some special activities she sponsored in her studio to help her kids grow. Sometimes she would host recitals of local artists and teachers, such as Tom Mastroianni, in the evenings, offering refreshments and conversation among the parents, teachers, and artist afterwards; these were really lovely affairs. On one particular evening, Tom offered four Beethoven sonatas, including the Waldstein sonata; a real feast for the kids and the rest of us. He was intently studying his scores before the performance, which was good for the kids to see how seriously he took the task of giving them a good performance.

On other occasions, she offered master classes with teachers from private studios or colleges, some traveling from far away. On one occasion I recall a female professor dancing in front of the pianos with a high school master class performer; she was trying to show her the dance-like character of something from Debussy's "The Little Shepherd."

Her studio policy was not some crummy typewritten rag but a beautifully produced document on fine paper. It looked like a program from the Kennedy Center minus the ads, listing all the events to be held, including special events like the master classes and piano concerts, with beautiful graphic flourishes.

Other things I could mention include her interest in expressing musical ideas through other modalities, such as fabrics. Once she showed me a beautiful sheer gown in pastel tones from a closet to evoke the essence of Impressionism. The studio was always tastefully decorated according to the season, and particularly at Christmas -- I remember the studio being a glittery miracle filled with tinsel, musical mobiles hanging from the ceiling and colorful candles in the windowsills. I have two grand pianos in my studio now owing to her suggestion; she said that a student should have the same expressive powers at his or her disposal that the teacher did in order to be in the best position to imitate and learn what the teacher was demonstrating. On occasion she purchased or otherwise facilitated a teacher having a second piano in their studio.

IN MEMORIAM

I remember that she taught theory classes for two different tiers of abilities, and served pizza to the kids as an enticement to attend. This may not seem remarkable but was just another example about how she was thoughtful about how she did everything related to her teaching.

She was very active in MSMTA, as you know, and did invite me to join the MSMTA Board to serve as a talent resource officer. I suspect she may have created that role for me, since I don't think it had been an official Board role up to that point, but she felt that it was important to help younger teachers remain interested and involved in the profession.

Maybe most special of all, her studio was also her home, and she warmly opened it up to us assistant teachers (including at least two other MM Catholic University students). Her late husband, while not a musician himself, was very involved in the planning of social events related to the studio, including her recitals. I remember that her kitchen was a place to talk and relax before or after lesson time, and I knew her adult son and adult daughter very well as friends, so personable and welcoming was her family. I was even acquainted with their cute dog! I have so many fond memories from that time. I am grateful for the opportunity to reminisce about how much Jo helped us aspiring musicians.

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For more information, contact Wendy Johnston
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wendyjpiano@gmail.com

Submissions for the Fall Newsletter are due no later than Friday, September 19, 2025.

**Please send newsletter submissions to Yee-Ning Soong, Vice President for Publications,
at ningsy23@gmail.com**