

MARYLAND STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2026

An affiliate of Music Teachers National Association 🎵 EST. 1957

From the President

Greetings,

I want to begin by sincerely thanking the Officers, Vice Presidents, and Standing Committee Chairs for their unwavering commitment to making this organization the excellent one it is. I especially commend the student activities chairs for their tireless and dedicated work in planning and implementing the many competitions and festivals throughout the year. These events are tremendously important to our students and us. Their hard work truly makes my job easier.

The highlight of 2026 was undoubtedly the MTNA 150th Anniversary Conference held in Chicago from March 21 to 25. This landmark occasion was filled with excitement and celebration. The conference artist, one of my favorite interpreters of Bach, Angela Hewitt, was a true joy to hear and served as a great inspiration.

The DMV region was brilliantly represented at the conference, with the largest number of attendees I have ever seen—18. Nancy Breth gave a masterful Intermediate Master Class on Sunday morning. We also enjoyed a special Maryland table of 10 at the Monday night gala to celebrate Deborah White-Bondhus being honored as an MTNA Fellow. Li-Ly Chang and Ann Matteson were recognized on the MTNA Teacher Honor Roll for this, the second year of Teacher Honor Roll recognition.

On Tuesday evening, 16 of us gathered for an ebullient and delicious dinner before the Angela Hewitt concert. Our group was so large that we needed two big tables, reflecting the warmth and camaraderie of the DMV community. Leah Claiborne and Immanuela Gruenberg were featured as Hal Leonard Showcase presenters for their respective publications, *Arise and Shine*, and *Scarlatti: 25 Selected Sonatas*.

Additionally, Junko Takahashi was inducted as the Eastern Division Director-Elect—an exciting milestone for us all.

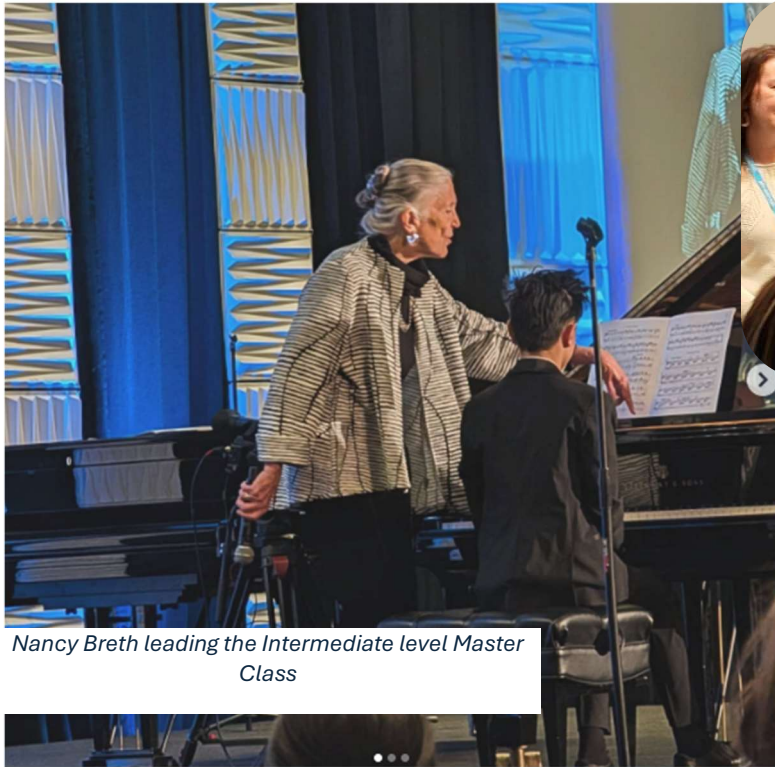
I hope you will have a restful, adventuresome, fulfilling summer.

Edwina E. Hunter

Greetings from Chicago!



Pictures from Chicago, The 2026 MTNA Conference



Nancy Breth leading the Intermediate level Master Class



Junko Takahashi inducted as Eastern Division Director-Elect



Debbie White-Bondhus honored as MTNA Fellow



From left to right, front row:: Ann Matteson, Li-Ly Chang, Immanuela Gruenberg, Grace Bottelier, David Holmes, and Debra E. Merritt. Back row: Brad Bondhus, Debbie White-Bondhus, Norman Bay, Yuri Chayama, Lorena Brougher, Helen Smith Tarchalski, Stanislaw (Stas) Tarchalski, Edwina Hunter, Junko Takahashi, and NYMTA President, Tomoko Uchina.



Leah Claiborne and her publication with Hal Leonard: Arise and Shine

Upcoming Events

Deadline for Next Newsletter

Please e-mail all notices for inclusion in the Fall MSMTA newsletter by Friday, September 18, 2026 to VP Publications, Yee-Ning Soong:

ningsy23@gmail.com

The MSMTA newsletter is published three times annually by the Maryland State Music Teachers Association. It is available for viewing at msmta.org.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Ads will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact ningsy23@gmail.com. Rates are:

	Members	Non-Member
1/8 page	\$20	\$30
1/4 page	\$40	\$50
1/2 page	\$80	\$90
Full page	\$135	\$150

DON'T FORGET!

Help us keep MSMTA running smoothly...

Confirm your active membership by July 1, 2026 to get on local associations' rosters by the Fall.

Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday, 18 October 2026,
MSMTA Conference
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Live! at Calvary Lutheran Church
[9545 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring,
MD 20910]**

2:00 PM General Membership Meeting -
Edwina Hunter, President MSMTA
2:45 PM Break
3:00 PM Mini recital: Bonnie Kellert
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Master Class for
Intermediate/Advanced Students - 3
students, Bonnie Kellert
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Reception
6:30 PM End of conference

In Memoriam

Remembering Richard Hartzell (1943-2026), by Carol Wolfe-Ralph

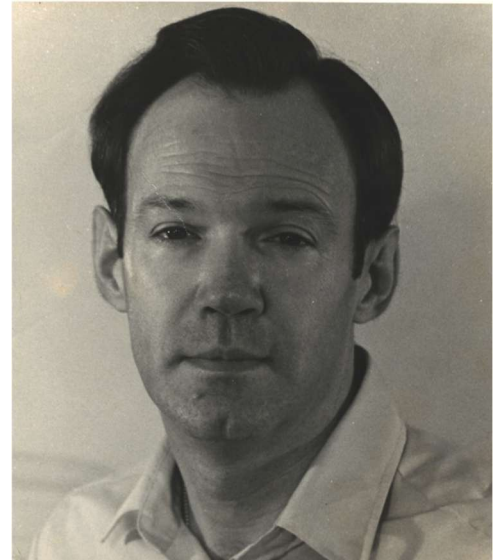
To read Richard's obituary, please go to: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/gaithersburg-md/richard-hartzell-12906555> Memorial service date will be posted there in the future.

Richard's obituary talks about a sparkle in his eye, and yes, that was true. I knew Richard for almost 40 years and was involved in many of the activities with which he was involved. Over the years, I have often helped his students out for recitals, auditions or



Richard at the piano c. 1975

competitions. It was difficult to ever say no to him. He dedicated so much of himself to his students and music. He maintained many relationships with the people he met through the years and often shared his "visits" with me. He was most enamored with Broadway and opera. I'm not sure which was his greatest love. The move to a retirement home was difficult for him, but music truly helped him adjust. He continued to think of projects to share with the tenants there--often involving his favorite operas. I helped him with his taxes, which was always comical, because when I did try to explain taxes to him, he'd always say, "Now Carol, you know I don't know anything about this stuff!" He just couldn't or wouldn't wrap his head around the numbers, but he was trainable. He knew exactly what he needed to give me every year! There was always a bottle of wine, sometimes left on my porch, but often there was wine and lovely conversation. There is one less kind-hearted soul in the world. Richard touched a lot of people, and he will be missed.



Richard Hartzell c. 1965



Richard conducting a Christmas concert c. 1988

President

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VP Student Activities

Junko Takahashi

VP Publications

Yee-Ning Soong

VP Certification

Helen Weems

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Recording Secretary

Yee-Ning Soong

Historian

Yuri Chayama

Member-at-Large

Ann Matteson

Immediate Past-President

Junko Takahashi

Upcoming Meetings

Student Activities

TBD

Board of Directors

September 14, 2026,
January 25, 2027,
June 7, 2027.

From the Board...

Eighteen members of the MSMTA Board of Directors met virtually on June 11, 2026. The meeting opened with a moment of silent meditation in memory of Richard L. Hartzell, former MSMTA Board member, who passed away on May 30, 2026.

The meeting was productive and full of meaningful discussion. The Board approved the following motions:

1. Accompanists for the Gertrude S. Brown Concerto Competition will be paid \$75 per hour for the 2026–2027 competition cycle.
2. Teachers who are unable to fulfill their required work duties at MSMTA events must reimburse MSMTA at a rate of \$60 per hour for a substitute provided by the association.*
3. A new MSMTA performance event, the Winter Piano Solo Festival, will be offered virtually in February 2027.
4. Compensation for theory examination formatters will increase to \$250 per test.
5. For the highest Keyboard Musicianship Award level, the MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Distinguished Honors Award, students must now complete at least four modules at Level 12.
6. The policy of reimbursing first-year MSMTA members will continue through the 2026–2027 fiscal year and will be reviewed thereafter.

*Please note the current work requirements:

1–6 students enrolled: 4 hours

7–15 students enrolled: 6 hours

16+ students enrolled: 8 hours, or at the discretion of the event chair

Congratulations to Haemi Erickson on achieving Nationally Certified Music Teacher status.

Congratulations as well to the following former Board members: Constance Fischel, past MSMTA President, Jeannine Case, past president of Bowie MTA, and Patricia Blanchard, past President of Southern Maryland MTA, on their retirements.

MSMTA Officers for 2026-2027

President: Edwina E. Hunter
President-Elect: Helen Smith Tarchalski
VP Student Activities: Carol Wolfe-Ralph
VP Publications: Yee-Ning Soong
VP Certification: Helen Weems
VP Membership: Lori McCarthy
Treasurer: Carol Wolfe-Ralph
Recording Secretary: Yee-Ning Soong
Historian: Grant McMullan
Member-at-Large: Ann Matteson
Immediate Past-President: Junko Takahashi

Local Association Reports

Anne Arundel-All Shore MTA

Anne Arundel — All Shore Music Teachers Association



AA-ASMTA continued to grow our membership as well as student and teacher participation in the 2025-2026 academic year. This year we held events on both the Western and Eastern Shores, serving many additional families. In some cases, students previously had to travel more than two hours to participate in an event. In May, our Spring Solo Concerts boasted more than 100 students filling seven concerts in two locations: five concerts at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, and two at Cunningham Piano Company in Delmar. This represented record event participation for our organization, and we hear promise for continuing growth.



Continued on page 12, **Local Association Reports**

Local Association Presidents

Anne Arundel All-Shore MTA
Helen Smith Tarchalski

Bowie MTA
Brian Gorman

Greater Baltimore MTA
Joanna Greenwood

Carroll County MTA
Teresa Bliss

Charles County MTA
Michele Avrck

Greater Columbia MTA
Deborah White-Bondhus

Frederick County MTA
Karen Skelly

Howard County MTA
Christopher Hall

Greater Laurel MTA
Jan Puckett

Montgomery County MTA
Yuri Chayama

Prince Georges MTA
Janice Kilgore Wood

Southern Maryland MTA
Debbie Smedley +
Mary Stevens

Membership News

Update from Lori McCarthy, VP Membership

The most recent download from MTNA shows that MSMTA has 439 members! That is an increase from last year, so we are headed in the right direction for growing our vibrant association. However, only 226 active members have renewed for the upcoming year, which begins on July 1st. So here is a friendly reminder to renew by June 30th to continue enjoying all the benefits that MSMTA has to offer.

Please note rule 2 in the Rules Governing All MSMTA Events: In order to enter students into MSMTA student activities, the teacher must have been a member of MSMTA for a minimum of 30 days prior to the registration deadline. To avoid disappointment down the road, why not ensure you are a paid member of MSMTA in ample time for all of next year's deadlines? You will only be able to log into the online registration for most events if you are an active member. So please renew by June 30th! If you need any assistance with your membership or online access to the members-only section, please feel free to reach out to me at lorinmccarthy@verizon.net.

Certification Update

Update from Helen Weems, VP Certification



Certification Group Meeting in March — celebrating Haemi Erickson's NCTM!!

Going for Certification offers long-lasting value for MSMTA members. **The next certification group meeting is on Tuesday, August 25, 11am** at the home of Helen Weems in Columbia. The group offers interaction with other MSMTA members striving to improve their teaching and attract more students through the NCTM designation. Currently, three members are pursuing certification, and there's room for you to join us! Also, Helen makes breakfast for everyone. (Really!) Given Helen a call at 410-997-7524 or email weemspianostudio@gmail.com to get started now, and benefit from a forgiving schedule that prepares you for submitting your certification materials in a timely fashion. Many congratulations to MSMTA member Haemi Erickson, who received her NCTM certification in March! Woo hoo!

Elizabeth R. Davis Memorial Competition Results

9/10 Grade Division

1st place: Yunbo Li (J. Takahashi)
2nd place: Ella Pei (Bok Hwa Kim)
3rd place: Kevin Shen (S. Blazquez)
HM: Andrew Lin (D. Nazarenko)
Judges: Thomas Hecht & Eric Himy

11/12 Grade Division

1st Place: Henry Golden (D. Nazarenko)
2nd Place: Sean Kim (Bok Hwa Kim)
3rd Place: Clark Hu (Bok Hwa Kim)
HM: Thai Nguyễn (M. Lee)
HM: Alex Wang (Bok Hwa Kim)
Special Composer Prize: Evan O'Bryan (C. Dillon)
Judges: Eric Himy & Heidi Hau

Theory Examination Awards

Presented by Jeffrey J. Doenges, MSMTA Theory Awards Program Chair

2026 MSMTA Theory Honors Awards MSMTA congratulates the students and teachers who have received MSMTA Theory Awards. 46 students received the Intermediate Theory Award for passing five levels with a score of 90 percent or higher, from the studios of Jeffrey J. Doenges, Lori McCarthy, Olga Soukhoveeva, Dmitri Nazarenko, Svetlana Volkova, Chieh-Ming Lee, Shwu-Ching Jeng, Mei-Fen Yen, Sima Elkis, Bok Hwa Kim, Chen-Li Tzeng, David Holmes, Junko Takahashi, Patricia Blanchard, Yaling Yeh, Elena Eliseeva, Erica Wang, Katya Merchant, Tzi-Ming Yang, Alice Ma, Debra Smedley, and Bonnie Pausic.

24 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 Christopher Hall, Dmitri Nazarenko, Svetlana Volkova, Chieh-Ming Lee, Chin- Yi Lee, Donghee

Kwon, Chen-Li Tzeng, David Holmes, Junko Takahashi, Patricia Blanchard, Yaling Yeh, Elena Eliseeva, Katya Merchant, Tzi-Ming Yang, and Helen Smith Tarchalski.

2 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 2026). They are from the studios of Junko Takahashi and Bonnie Kellert.

Special congratulations to the 5 students who received the 2026 MSMTA Distinguished Theory Award for passing level 11 with a score of 90 percent or above: Henry Golden, Yuzhe Chen, Kevin Shen, Advik Rai, and Alyssa Wang, from the studios of Dmitri Nazarenko, Svetlana Volkova, Deborah White-Bondhus, and Tzi-Ming Yang. It takes special dedication and perseverance to get through such a demanding course of study!

Keyboard Musicianship Report and Awards

Presented by Laurel Carroll, MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Program Chair

Thank you so much to all the teachers and students who participated in the Keyboard Musicianship Program this year! Special thanks to all the local chairs who put in so much time and effort to organize their local events: Mary Stevens (Southern MD); Olga Kuperstein (Howard-K); Anne Chen (Columbia-C); Haemi Erickson (Charles); Christopher Hall (Howard-H); Svetlana Volkova (Montgomery); Edwina Hunter (Columbia-H); Kim Roberts (Frederick); Joanna Greenwood (Baltimore). Teachers interested in learning more about the program can contact one of the chairs and/or go online to the "Members Only" section of the msmta website and click on "Keyboard Exam."

A new rule has been approved regarding the requirements for the Distinguished Honors Award (the highest award): A student must take at least four modules at Level 12 (including the Scales/Arpeggio module) and receive a grade of at least 4 “Outstandings” their final year, to earn the award. Before applying for any Keyboard Awards next year, teachers must go online to the msmta.org website under Student Activities/Keyboard Program/Awards Info and read the updated instructions for applying, as there will be a few changes next year. Also remember that teachers are only allowed to make one order per year, so that we don’t pay for extra shipping.

Congratulations to the following 118 students who have earned the Awards listed below:

Keyboard Musicianship Award: Nickolaus Daniel Adams, Mikayel Adamyan, Samar Agrawal, Ehaan Akbar, Arianna Chang, Kevin Chen, Tatiana Dolgopyat, Jake Fisher, Han Foo, Daniel Golikov, Claire Han, Mia Harrington, Beatrix Hsu, Iris Huang, Lydia Huang, Anna Kitsul, Tri Le, Ruoku Lee, Emma Lee, Mason Li, Alice Li, Lucy Li, Danny Lin, Albert Lu, Reef Nimri, Carly Ou, Annie Ou, Allen Ou, Jolina Pang, Joshua Park, Avery Qiu, Chiaoyang Qu, Veronica Reshetova, Emma Rhee, Alexandra Rosenfeld, Melania Rykova, Zoelle Schwarzman, Ariana Shah, Cian Shangguan, Gabriel Stepter, Charles, Wang, Brendan Wang, Claire Wei, Brianna Weng, Grace Wu, Joyce Xu, Edward Xu, Bernard Yu, Audrey Yue, Alwin Zhao, Jackie Zhu

Keyboard Musicianship Intermediate Honors Award: Kevin Chen, Ethan Corbin, Helena Ellis, Suen Foo, Davis Gordon, Darren Gordon, Grace Guo, Ethan Hang, Kelly He, Leo Jiang, Pranav Kittane, Rosie Lee, Ruoku Lee, Yi-Lin Li, Lawrence Liao, Vivian Lin, Enlin Liu, Linda Liu, Avin Mayer, Nathan Mo, Maisie Monroe, Joy Newberger, Anika Paranjape, Aarohi Sarkar, Anna Singalla, Alice Song, Heather Sun, Lleyton Tan, Mandy Teng, Zoe Thomas, Audrey Wang, Samuel

Yan, Grace Yue, Elvis Zhang, Jacob Zhang, Lillian Zhao, Jesse Zhao, Nicole Zheng, Matthew Zhou, Allison Zhou

Keyboard Musicianship High Honors Award: Victoria An, Ariel Chen, Makayla Davis, Charles Golden, Joy Liang, Joshua Liu, Judy Liu, Aadya Rai, Kate Rhee, Jayden Sun, Elisa Yue, Nathan Zhang, Leyna Zhou

Keyboard Musicianship Advanced Honors Award: Lucas He, Yunbo Li, Yi-Sa Li, Erica Li, Terrence Tam, Isaac Yoo, Anlan Zhang, Christina Zhang, Yongniu Zhao

Keyboard Musicianship Distinguished Honors Award: Rui Feng, Clark Hu, Advik Rai, Kevin Shen, Yolanda Zhang

Congratulations to the teachers of the above students: Jeannine Case, Anne Chen, Hui-Yen Chang, Yuri Chayama, Irina Dvoynoy, Elena Eliseeva, Kathryn Evans-Santiago, Meri Gugushvili, Edwina Hunter, Shwu-Ching Jeng, Beatrice Ko, Bok Hwa Kim, David Kuperstein, Olga Kuperstein, Lara Parris, Olga Soukhoveeva, Yie-Chien Tsau, Junko Takahashi, Chenli Tzeng, Svetlana Volkova, Helen Weems, Deborah White-Bondhus

[MSMTA GAIL F. McDONALD HIGH SCHOOL PIANO EXAMINATIONS](#)

Presented by Deborah White-Bondhus, High School Exam Awards Chair

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 46th 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. Working 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 86 students register to take the examination for recognition. We are pleased to see this valuable program continue for the benefit of the students. Sadly, one of our active teachers (Ziona Tuchler) passed away this year. I would like to extend our sympathy to the family. Her son Dan Tuchler made sure that the 3 students finished their exams and uploaded their repertoire--a testimony to a dedicated teacher. You will be missed Ziona!!!

I would like to thank the following teachers who participated in the program: Patricia Blanchard, Ariel Dechosa, Lauren Di, Irina Dvonoy, Elena Eliseeva, David Holmes, Edwina Hunter, Lauren Kim, Beatrice Ko, David Kuperstein, Olga Kuperstein, Chia-Hsuan Lee, Chia Ming-Lee, Dmitri Nazarenko, Cathy O'Donovan, Yevgeniya Oleshkevich, Yee Chen Pao, Evelyn (Ye-Ling) Shih, Debra Smedley, Olga Soukhoveeva, Junko Takahashi, Ziona Tuchler, Chenli Tzeng, Svetlana Volkova, Deborah White-Bondhus, Helen Weems, Janice Wood, Mei Fen Yen.

I would like to thank the following teachers who were judges for the examination: Anne Chen, Lauren Di, Irina Dvonoy, Elena Eliseeva, David

Holmes, Edwina Hunter, David Kuperstein, Chieh Ming Lee, Dmitri Nazarenko, Cathy O'Donovan, Yevgeniya Oleshkevich, Evelyn Shih, Debra Smedley, Junko Takahashi, Chenli Tzeng, Helen Weems, Janice Wood, and 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.

[Distinguished Music Achievement Awards](#)

Presented by Bok Hwa Kim, MSMTA DMA Awards Chair

This year's Distinguished Music Achievement Awards were given to 27 students in the Elementary division, 37 students in the Junior division and 26 in the Senior division, from the studios of 26 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.

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. And lastly, to minimize shipping cost for the association, please file your applications as one package. Thank you!

Elementary DMA Recipients:

Joshua Herrera (Patricia Blanchard)
James Moritz (Patricia Blanchard)
Christina Sullivan (Patricia Blanchard)
Dharshini Senthilkumar (Anne Hsueh Chen)
Alex Wang (Bonnie Kellert)
Joanna Luo (Bok Hwa Kim)

Ryan Sun (Bok Hwa Kim)
Charlotte Yan (Bok Hwa Kim)
Jayden Sun (Olga Kuperstein)
Maggie Tang (Yao Lin)
Ellie Chen (Alice Ma)
Bryan Chen (Alla Merport)
Elfia Keram (Alla Merport)
Rex Liu (Alla Merport)
Wilson Qian (Alla Merport)
Jaxon Garcia (Monica Roberson)
Emery Hargrove (Monica Roberson)
Roy Prather (Monica Roberson)
Meryl Ashy (Olga Soukhoveev)
Jameson Fisher (Olga Soukhoveev)
Cassandra Woolley (Shisa Suskey)
Sophia Liu (Junko Takahashi)
Joyce Wang (Junko Takahashi)
Lucy Li (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Albert Lu (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Sophia Lu (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Emma Qing (Dr. Tzi-Ming Yang)

Junior DMA Recipients:

Anna Morgan (Patricia Blanchard)
Julian Uzhca (Patricia Blanchard)
Elise Chen (Dr. Hui-Yen Chang)
Michelle Du (Elena Eliseeva)
Lawrence Liao (Elena Eliseeva)
Braedon Ramsey (Elena Eliseeva)
Evan Wu (Elena Eliseeva)
Jenny Yu (Elena Eliseeva)
Elvis Zhang (Elena Eliseeva)
Noah Kue (Cherie Jeng)
Bella Lee (Cherie Jeng)
Sophia Ta-Zhou (Bonnie Kellert)
Elena Wu (Bok Hwa Kim)
Jeremy Zhang (Bok Hwa Kim)
Erin Liu (Olga Kuperstein)
Patrick Qiu (Olga Kuperstein)
Eileen Zhou (Yao Lin)
Declan Gregory (Dmitri Nazarenko)
Gloria Ouyang (Dmitri Nazarenko)

Natalie Leitan (Olga Soukhoveev)
Aktan Temirbekov (Olga Soukhoveev)
Candice Fan (Junko Takahashi)
Yuchu Li (Junko Takahashi)
Joanna Wang (Junko Takahashi)
Katie Wang (Junko Takahashi)
Yuan Fu (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Sherilyn Lai (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Ellie Yan (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Charles Golden (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Ruoku Lee (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Joy Liang (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Judy Liu (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Nicole Zheng (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Eric Han (Helen Weems)
Nidhi Kukunrap (Helen Weems)
Charles Wang (Helen Weems)
Joanna Liu (Dr. Tzi-Ming Yang)

Senior DMA Recipients:

Nate Bankston (Patricia Blanchard)
Angela Hou (Patricia Blanchard)
Samuel Lu (Lauren Di)
Yolanda Zhang (Meri Gugushvili)
Eli Becker (Edwina Hunter)
Ethan Hang (Cherie Jeng)
Leo Jiang (Cherie Jeng)
Christopher Chow (Bok Hwa Kim)
Clark Hu (Bok Hwa Kim)
Sean Kim (Bok Hwa Kim)
Daniel Phu (Bok Hwa Kim)
Evan Zhang (Bok Hwa Kim)
Jaylen Hu (David Kuperstein)
Michelle Wang (Olga Kuperstein)
Annie Yuan (Olga Kuperstein)
Melody Chen (Dmitri Nazarenko)
Vivien Jiang (Dmitri Nazarenko)
Daniel Boukhvalov (Lara Parris)
Kareena Gupta (Olga Soukhoveev)
Anderson Fan (Junko Takahashi)
Rui Feng (Junko Takahashi)
Sean Wang (Junko Takahashi)

Derek Yang (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Sophie Wen (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Advik Rai (Deborah White-Bondhus)
AnnaBeth Tsai-Turton (Deborah White-Bondhus)

for all our events, and to Glenn Clutter, who hosted us at Cunningham Piano Company and provided a beautifully prepared Bösendorfer piano for our events.

Helen Smith Tarchalski, AA-ASMTA President

Local Association Reports

Continued from page 06

Carroll County MTA

Anne Arundel-All Shore MTA (cont'd)

Many thanks to our event chairs for handling all details with professionalism and enthusiasm as we grow: Fall Concerts, Wendy Poole; Holiday Festival, Helen Smith Tarchalski; Chamber and Ensemble Music Concerts, Adriana Schueckler; Theory Testing, Diane Kinsley; Solo Concerts, Bill Bloomquist and Beatrice Cheung.



AA-ASMTA Chamber Music Concert

CCMTA Solo & Ensemble Festival Recital: Saturday, February 28, 2026 took place at Carroll Lutheran Village, Krug Chapel at 3:00pm. 27 students from the studios of six

teachers performed a wide selection of pieces, including classical, traditional, standard teaching repertoire, folk, spiritual, and pop music. We had a great turnout of students, teachers, families, and audience attendance for this event!

We look forward to our annual Nature and Water Music Festival in July at Truxtun Park with new member Yee-Ning Soong serving as chair. This event provides opportunities for students to explore how music relates to the earth. It is also a fun and effective motivator to keep students practicing during the summer!

Our regularly scheduled February General Meeting was postponed due to inclement weather. It was rescheduled and held on Monday, March 9, 2026 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 10:30am. We revisited the topic of our piano competition which used to be held annually, but due to lack of student participation numbers and chairpersons, has not taken place for several years. New ideas were discussed of how to produce it via video submissions, adjudication possibilities, and other elements of a competition.

Special thanks to Beatrice Cheung, who creates beautiful programs and personalized certificates

At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, David Kreider presented a discussion of J. S. Bach's Two-Part Inventions. The how-to of trills and ornaments of the Baroque time period, specific to Bach. Several teachers and one student each performed a chosen Bach Invention including #4, #13, #14, and #15, and one teacher played a Sarabande from Bach's French Suite #5.

CCMTA Masterclass: Saturday, March 28, 2026, 9:30am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with clinician and artist Bonnie Kellert. Five students and two teachers performed pieces by Beethoven, Chopin, Poulenc, Gershwin, and Jennifer Linn. Bonnie was wonderful to work with, and interacted very enthusiastically and supportively with each student and teacher. It was a wonderful learning opportunity for all who attended!

Recital by clinician and artist Bonnie Kellert: Friday evening, March 27, 2026, 7:00pm at Carroll Lutheran Village, Krug Chapel. Bonnie played a tremendous recital of music by Brahms, Chopin, Mendelssohn, and Liszt's Mephisto Waltz. We were all dazzled by her performance of such great pieces as well as her charm and friendliness! A reception was held right after the recital which was a special time to visit and get to know Bonnie and her husband and friends.

April General Meeting, Thursday, April 16, 2026 at Menchey Music, Westminster, 10:00am.

A continuation of our discussion about a future piano competition, with very solid ideas was presented by Rachel Passerini. We also had a discussion and finalized plans for the upcoming Spring Recital.

CCMTA Spring Recital: Saturday, April 25, 2026 at Carroll Lutheran Village, Krug Chapel, 3:00pm. 13 students, including 8 from a local strings teacher, Erika Adam, joined with us to present an afternoon of piano pieces as well as violin, viola,

cello, and classical guitar, including several string



duets. It was a fun and lively presentation and enjoyed by all! Each year this recital presents a bit of a challenge for student participation. Students are so busy with sports activities and other endeavors. But it always turns out so very well, and seemingly just right, thanks to our chairperson Kathy Novalis, and our strings friend and colleague, Erika Adam and her students!

CCMTA Luncheon and General Meeting: Monday, June 8, 2026 at 11:00am at the home of Rachel Passerini. We had a fabulous lunch together and enjoyed a variety of chicken salads from Chicken Salad Chick, fruit salad, cookies and various types of snacks as we visited and enjoyed time together. This was followed by a business meeting. We scheduled our annual summer planning meeting for August 3rd to work on our 2026-2027 Calendar.

Wow this year has flown by! We declare that it was a success for our Music Teacher Association and for all our students.

Teresa Bliss, CCMTA President



Greater Columbia MTA

Greater Columbia
Music Teachers
Association,

started the year with a fabulous Masterclass hosted by Gulnura Brown and clinician Dr. Hsiu-Hui Wang. The masterclass was held on Saturday January 10 First Evangelical Lutheran Ellicott City, MD.

Thanks to chairs of 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, David Holmes, Deborah White-Bondhus), Spring Solo Competition (Helen Weems), High School Awards (David Holmes.)

Welcome new members: Ching-Ju Cheng, harp and piano, Dora Misumi, cellist Jing Zhang Carrie Hemington (piano), and David Kuperstein (piano). We currently have 41 members.

We say goodbye to two long time members who are retiring. Alla Merport will be moving to New Jersey to be closer to family. Constance Fischel will be retiring and staying in the Maryland area. May your retirement be filled with new adventures, treasured memories, good health, and all the happiness you deserve. While the music studio may miss your presence, the melody of your influence will continue to play on.

We ended the performance year with a wonderful Spring Solo Competition and High School Awards chaired by Helen Weems and David Holmes. Our organization continues to sponsor an award for the Music Arts International-IYAPC competition chaired by Li-Ly Chang. CONGRATULATIONS 1st Michelle Wang (Olga Kuperstein) 2nd Ella Pei (Bok Hwa Kim) 3rd Anlan Zhang (Olga Kuperstein)

Honorable Mention Ethan Huang (Olga Kuperstein)

GCMTA ended the 2025 – 2026 year with an enjoyable meeting and potluck at the historic home of our Treasurer, Elaine Newhall.

Officers: President, Deborah White-Bondhus; Vice-President, Bok Hwa Kim; Secretary, David Holmes; and Elaine Newhall, Treasurer were installed. A full round of events is planned for the coming year. All the teachers are looking forward to relaxing in the summer to be ready for a busy fall and spring.

Deborah White-Bondhus, President GCMTA

Greater Laurel MTA

Our students had a productive springtime with our usual slate of events, starting with the Theme Festival in February which chairperson Yee-Ning Soong organized from her St. Agnes hospital room after giving birth to their fourth child. This year's theme was Poetry & Music, where students had to choose a poem that they felt correlated with their piece. Thanks to her husband, Dan McCormack, and teachers participating in the event for working with the technology to run the poetry slideshow along with the performance! It ran without a hitch.

On the heels of Theme Festival, we had our perennially popular Ensemble Competition which runs all day and ends with a Chamber Music Competition in the evening. The Young Musicians Competition and Evaluation follows up a couple weeks afterwards. In April, we hosted the Lisa Bussing French Competition which requires students to learn three pieces from different time periods, including a piece with a French born composer. We cherish this event and remember our dear friend and colleague, Lisa

Bussing, who championed French literature in our group and has been missed since 2019.



GLMTA May potluck meeting. From left, front row: Ann Matteson, Edwina Hunter, Deborah White-Bondhus, Wendy Dengler, Jeannine Case. Back row: Jan Puckett, Wendy Johnston, Douglas Guiles, Grant McMullan, Dorene Chen, Katya Merchant, Livia Lai, Soo Young Chrisfield, Carol Wolfe-Ralph, Gulnura Brown. Not pictured: Patrice Donnelly, Yee-Ning Soong

The Darwin Kirchof Memorial Competition is the final crown to our events, requiring students to perform four pieces from different time periods. We have a younger cohort of students this year, and were pleased to see them many rise to the task.

Our May meeting potluck brought lots of ideas and lots of food. The Theme Festival next year will be "Around the World" We were happy to see our more senior members to brighten the meeting, despite being retired—thank you Ann Matteson and Jeannine Case for making it out to the meeting and spending time with us!

Yee-Ning Soong, Vice President GLMTA

Howard County MTA

HCMTA has been, during the 2025-2026 school year, a local association primarily focused on holding numerous recital dates for the students of our members. Our venue is Howard Community College where we have been able to have access to the beautiful Monteabaro Recital Hall with the college's two 9 foot Concert Steinways for the entire day for our students to perform on all of the following 11 dates:

November 22 and 23, December 13 and 20, February 15, March 28, April 18, 19 and 25 and finally May 30 and 31.

In addition, HCMTA held our annual High School Award MSMTA Scholarship for Performance Piano Competition at the same venue on May 16.

The Staff at Howard Community College has continually done everything possible in support of HCMTA throughout this school year. I am nothing less than amazed at their interaction with us, and we, as a local association of MTA teachers, are very thankful for the wonderful opportunity provided for our students. So are the parents, family members and friends of the students in our community who attend and enjoy the concerts.

Christopher Hall, Acting President, Acting Treasurer, HCMTA

Montgomery County MTA

Montgomery County Music Teachers Association had an active and busy spring season with meetings and student events!



March Meeting: Li-Ly Chang presented a lecture-recital titled "Hidden

Treasures: An International Piano Journey" at the Steinway Gallery. Her presentation introduced

rarely performed character pieces from around the world suitable for late-beginner and early-intermediate piano students. We were delighted to welcome attendees from Howard County, as well as Edwina Hunter, President of MSMTA. Thank you for taking the time to visit and support our event.

May Meeting: We held a members' concert followed by a potluck lunch at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville. It was a fun gathering where members mingled and shared their music. It was lovely to see Debra Merritt, our Past President. Thank you for visiting us from Dayton, Ohio!

In addition, a new slate of officers was voted upon. The changes to our Board are as follows:

Interim President: Junko Takahashi

Vice President for Programs: Bonnie Kellert

Treasurer: Patrice Donnelly

Historian: Lauren Di



MCMTA May General Membership Meeting at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville

Special thanks to Junko Takahashi for stepping into the role of Interim President and helping keep our organization running smoothly while we continue searching for a President-Elect. We would also like to express our deep appreciation

to our outgoing officers for their many years of dedicated service. Immanuela Gruenberg served as Vice President for Programs for 18 years, contributing greatly to our organization. We also thank Cynthia Cathcart for her service as Treasurer and for successfully leading the transition from paper-based records to an online bookkeeping system.

Student Events: From February through May, we hosted a total of nine student events: Online Judged Recitals; Ensemble Recitals; MSMTA Theory Exam at Montgomery County test center; Judged Recitals In-Person; Intermediate/Advanced Recitals; Elementary Recitals; Swarthout/Hayes Piano Competition; Adult Recital and the Peggy Woolley Martin Senior Awards. In total, 17 events were offered during the school year, including three online events.

Beginning this school year, we launched the new Outstanding Music Achievement Awards for elementary and junior students in addition to the existing high school category. A total of 20 awards were presented: 7 Elementary Awards, 11 Junior Awards, and 2 High School Awards.

I would like to thank all of our event Chairs for their dedication and hard work in ensuring that each event ran smoothly. I would also like to thank the Board for being such a wonderful team.

As I will be relocating to Albuquerque, New Mexico, this will be my final report. It has been a great honor to serve as MCMTA President and as Historian for MSMTA. I hope to see you again at future music events and MTNA conferences. Thank you for your support, friendship, and collaboration throughout the years. Wishing you all a happy, restful, and music-filled summer!

Yuri Chayama, DMA
Immediate Past President, MCMTA

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June 3, 2027

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