



Maryland State Music Teachers Association



Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

www.msmta.org

A bi-monthly publication of the Maryland State Music Teachers Association

February 2020

From the President...

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is staying healthy!

Since my last newsletter, we had our conference in October which was well run by our committee led by Debbie White-Bondhus. I thank all the committee members: Richard Hartzell, Matthew Palumbo, Constance Fischel, Sheila Johns and David Holmes. It was great to see many familiar faces and new members at this event. We have already secured the date for our next conference on **Sunday, November 15, 2020**. I hope everyone will mark your calendar, and I hope to see all of you there.

Now we are heading into the busy spring season with many festivals and competitions coming up. Please keep in mind as you enter students in these events

that all the teachers are required to assist if a chair assigns work. I know everyone is extremely busy, but it would not be possible to run these events without your help. I thank you in advance for your willingness to volunteer.

As always, I am open to any suggestions and comments from you to better our organization, so please feel free to contact me anytime!

Sincerely,

Junko Takahashi



NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Thirteen board members attended our board meeting on February 3. Here are some of the items we discussed:

Keyboard Musicianship Test

The committee, led by Laurel Carroll, has been working to put together a new Syllabus, and the board has approved the cost associated with doing this. Part of the Syllabus (Scales and Arpeggios) should be available by the end of February, and the complete Syllabus should be posted on our website by the end of March, to be used starting in Fall 2020.

Tech Committee

The tech committee was reformed to “work on updating our website” with our webmaster, John Ralph. The Committee will be led by Daniel Lau, Junko Takahashi, Laurel Carroll, Matthew Palumbo, and Constance Fischel. We hope to present a new website by the end of the year.

Dr. Junko Takahashi
President,

Maryland State Music Teachers Association

MSMTA CONFERENCE 2020

The MSMTA Conference will be held on **Sunday, November 15, 2020** at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland in the Clarice Performing Arts Center - Leah Smith Hall Room 2200 and the School of Music Lobby area. We have a wonderful conference planned for this year. Our presenters include Carol Wolfe-Ralph – Taxes for the musician and Jeffery Chappell – improvisation. In addition to this we will have an intermediate master class hosted by Brian Ganz. This year we will have two concerts: one showcasing Brian Ganz and the other showcasing the winners of the Jack Weaver Memorial Competition for Violin, Viola and Cello, Spring Voice solo, Davis for piano. Be sure to reserve this date on your calendar!!!! You won't want to miss this wonderful day of music.

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Maryland State Music Teachers Association



2019 Conference

October 6, 2019

University of Maryland College Park, MD
Department of Music

We had an informative and educational afternoon with Monica Dale and Marjorie Lee, sharing their knowledge of music in Masterclasses and programs. A truly wonderful afternoon of sharing and gaining knowledge!!!

Monica Dale started our conference, presenting a program on MusiKinesis, a contemporary American approach to teaching and learning music through movement.

During the session we learned the philosophy of MusiKinesis emphasizing aural and kinesthetic experience before abstract notation. Exercises integrate ear, mind and body in a process designed to develop musicianship from the inside out.

This session introduced practical techniques and strategies teachers can use within group, private and semi-private music lessons. We had fun playing with concepts including simple and compound meters, rhythmic patterns and polyrhythm with examples from piano literature. Skills addressed included internalization of tempo and duration, aural perception, coordination, and rhythm reading. It was a very hands-on approach with audience participation. A great deal of fun for all.



Monica Dale



Teachers at presentation

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Following this wonderful program, we had time to catch up with old and new friends in the lobby and grab a snack.



L to R: Junko Takahashi, Li-Ly Chang, Lois Jones, Constance Fischel, Yoon Huh, Richard Hartzell, Deborah White-Bondhus, Sheila Jones, Matthew Palumbo, Sarah Cronin. Conference Committee: Constance Fischel, Richard Hartzell, Deborah White-Bondhus, Sheila Jones, Matthew Palumbo. Not pictured: David Holmes

President Junko Takahashi presided over our annual meeting and recognized the service of President Emeritus, Constance Fischel.



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MSMTA CONFERENCE 2019

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Alice Ma (President Montgomery County) presented for Helen Weems (certification Vice-President) the following teachers with Certification Recognition:

John Horst, Matthew Palumbo, Matthew Brower



Alice Ma with John Horst



Alice Ma with Matthew Palumbo



Alice Ma with Matthew Brower

Our Masterclass was done superbly by Marjorie Lee. The student performers gained a wealth of knowledge from our Ms. Lee.

Benjamin Li (Yevgeniya Oleshkevich)

Fei Collins (M. Zheng)

Lucy Viehnicki (Hedy Bannon)

We also had the added pleasure of hearing a Concert Recital showcasing the winners of the Spring Festival Voice Solo, Weaver Competition for Violin, Viola and Cello, and the E.R. Davis Competitions.

Michelle Tang (K. Zaitesva), Alicia Poling (M. Gray), Colin Hill (J. Kaboff), Trung Nguyen (M. Lee)



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A special thanks to Advertisers who helped make our conference possible:**Candlelight Concert Society, Inc.**

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MSMTA would also like to thank the following Vendors for supporting the conference with door prizes.**1) Maryland Ensemble Theater (MET)**

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Frederick, MD 21701
Box Office (301) 694-4744
www.marylandensemble.org

4) Rick Jones Pianos Inc,

<http://rickjonespianos.com/>
1-800-466-2198
Showroom Hours
Monday - Saturday: 10-6 - Sunday: 12-6
5209 Holland Drive, Beltsville, MD 20705

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Box Office (301) 600-2828
www.weinbergcenter.org

5) Candlelight Concert Society

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3) Music & Arts

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www.musicarts.com

6) IYAPC

Music Arts International
Executive Director Li-Ly Chang
www.musicalartsinternational.org
2603 Henderson Ave. Silver Spring,
MD 20902

A special thank you goes to the Conference Committee who worked hard to make this happen for MSMTA. Junko Takahashi – co-chair and registrar extraordinaire, who helped with many other aspects of the conference. Sheila Jones – who found new and interesting door prizes and provided us with a wonderful veggie tray at the conference. Constance Fischel who attended all the meetings and helped with the setup and a wonderful fruit/cheese tray.

David Holmes and Richard Hartzell came to the meetings with many ideas and helped with setup and clean-up. Matthew Palumbo had much input at the meetings and did such a good job with the booklet. We couldn't do it without the whole committee. And last but not least, Yoon Huh, who was a great help at the registration table and with pictures on the day of the conference.

Deborah White-Bondhus
Dr. Junko Takahashi
MSMTA Conference Co-chairs



Dr. Junko Takahashi and Deborah White-Bondhus

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

GERTRUDE S. BROWN MEMORIAL CONCERTO COMPETITION

2019-2020 Gertrude S. Brown Memorial Concerto Competition was held at UMBC in Catonsville, MD on Sunday January 12, 2020 with a total of 155 entries from 27 teachers. All participants and award winners (24 Winners, 24 Alternates and 42 Honorable Mentions as shown on MSMTA website) deserve hearty congratulations. I want to express my sincere appreciation for the judges, accompanists and teachers - without their dedicated help the event would not have been as successful. Special thanks go to Dr. Junko Takahashi, MSMTA President and Dr. Bok Hwa Kim for their help throughout the competition. Our appreciation also goes to UMBC for allowing us to hold the event on their facilities.

Winners of the competition had opportunity to perform their winning piece as soloists with New England Youth Ensemble of Washington Adventist University (Dr. Preston Hawes and Dr. Brian Liu, co-conductors) on February 2nd at Peters Music Center of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park. Special thanks are due to Dr. Daniel Lau (MSMTA Vice President for Student Affairs) and Dr. Hawes (Director of NEYE) of Washington Adventist University for their support. Photos are of the performers of the two concerts (Team I and Team II).

Hyun Park, Chair



KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP PROGRAM

Approximately 830 students have taken the Keyboard Musicianship Test so far this year, and we still have one more center to go! Thank you to everyone who has made this year run so smoothly!

For instructions on submitting a student's nomination for honors trophy, teachers must log into the msmta.org website, go to "Student Calendar" and scroll down to "Keyboard Musicianship Exam." Click on the link for "Award Nomination" for NEW instructions for submitting awards. There are two deadlines left this year: March 1st and May 1st. Trophies will be sent to the teachers within three weeks of the deadline.

The big news is the forthcoming **2020 Keyboard Musicianship Program Syllabus**, the first update in 25 years! Teachers can look for it to be released in mid-March and it will be used for the Fall 2020 testing. It will be posted on the MSMTA website in the "Members only" section. Here are some highlights to look forward to:

- The syllabus is extended to Level 12. Levels 1 through 12 will be adjudicated at the state level. The Preparatory Level will be administered by the teacher, in-studio or in coordination with other local teachers, at any time of the teacher's choosing. (No DMA points given for Preparatory Level.)
- Both Scales and Arpeggios modules will be required at the same level for all students.
- Modules will be organized by level, to help teachers see how they relate.
- Rather than cumulative keys, Levels 1 through 6 will be more focused on a limited number of keys for students to prepare for the test.
- Blocked Chords and Arpeggios are grouped together for students to see the connection in what they are playing.
- For each module, the increase in difficulty from level to level is designed to be a natural progression.
- A new part of the Scales module is called "Chord Knowledge," in which students will be asked to show their understanding of their skills.
- All Transposition modules will be prepared, and the pieces given in the syllabus are required at the given level.
- A "Rhythmic Reading" test will be given before the sight-reading test, in which part of the sight-reading is to be tapped while counting out loud.
- A new "Lead Sheet Harmonization" module is an option for students (and teachers) interested in learning modern styles of playing with lead sheets. (Students will choose to do either the Traditional Harmonization as in the current syllabus, or the Lead Sheet Harmonization.)
- Suggestions for teaching the Harmonization modules will be given.
- Resources for students will be suggested.

Our committee has worked hard to make the 2020 edition intuitive and as easy to understand as possible for teachers and students. The scale levels are close enough to the current 1995 edition that students should be able to easily move up to the next level next year.

Many, many thanks to those who helped with this project over the past few years: Joanna Greenwood, Ann McCandliss, Svetlana Volkova, Edwina Hunter, Lori McCarthy, Junko Takahashi, and Connie Fischel, as well as others who've given suggestions and guidance! We are looking forward to many more students using this innovative and exciting program!

Laurel Carroll

THE STRINGS PLUS FESTIVAL

The Strings Plus Festival is a chamber music competition for string students (ages 7-18). All combinations of string groups, including strings with non-stringed instruments, are eligible to apply. Piano trios, string quartets, strings ensembles with wind players, and other groups are welcome to participate as long as the group includes a string instrument. All participants receive comments, and winners are awarded a certificate and ribbon. Strings Plus Festival will be held on **Sunday April 19, 2020** from 9-12 at the Landon School. **The application deadline is Monday March 9, 2020.** For more information please check the MSMTA website under student activities calendar.

Kelly Hsu
Strings Plus Festival

CERTIFICATION

Do any of these goals ever occur in the back of your mind?

- ✓ I would like to attract more students
- ✓ I would like to find out what is going on in other piano studios regarding repertoire/technique/practice requirements
- ✓ I would like to improve my own teaching
- ✓ I would like to get together with a small group of teachers regularly to talk about pedagogy

You can achieve these goals by coming to the certification group meetings every other month! Our next meeting is at the Olney Library on **Wednesday, March 11, 11am-1pm!** Email Helen Weems at weemspianostudio@gmail.com for more information.

Further, if you are willing to start another Certification Study Group for those in Southern Maryland (a bit of a hike to Olney), please let Helen know ASAP at the above email address!

Helen Weems

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



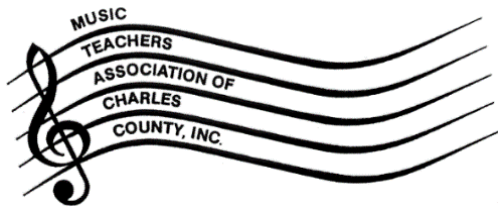
Greetings from Music Teachers Association of Southern Maryland, where our busy spring got off to a wonderful start on February 1st. Our membership was treated to an informative and inspiring presentation by Krista Keysar entitled "The Influence of Martin Luther on the Music of J.S. Bach". The presentation was followed by a business meeting and potluck, and our Ensemble/Collaborative Recital Festival in the afternoon. Our next event will be a day of student recitals as part of our community Kalnasy Concert Series. March will bring our Spring Festival for Piano and the David Graham Memorial Scholarship competition. This \$1,000 scholarship for high school seniors is being awarded by the family of a student in honor of the late husband of our long-time member Barbara Graham. The competition includes an interview, an application documenting musical service to the students' school, church, and community, and a performance. Our students and teachers are also looking forward to the MSMTA Theory test, High School Exam, and Honors Competition. Our very productive and successful fall included a Traditional Hymn Festival, Contemporary Music Recital, a Pops Recital and a Composer's Circle, and our Christmas Marathon Recital Day. Many thanks to our hard-working students, supportive parents and dedicated teachers who make all of these events possible.

Debbie Smedley
President, MTASM

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LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

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The Music Teachers Association of Charles County would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2020! Our fall 2019 events included two student concerts, our “Musical Masquerade” recital and our “Carols and Cookies” recital, as well as our Keyboard Testing Day. Following our Fall Business Meeting, teachers enjoyed a wonderful lecture/discussion with

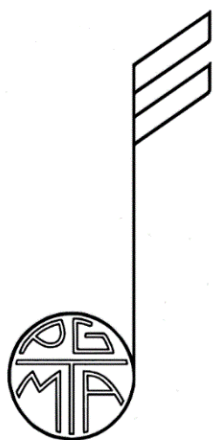
Joan MacFarland (currently a faculty member at St. Mary’s College, in the voice department). We kicked off the new year with a very informative lecture, on January 10, by Professor Michael Fili, of the Shenandoah Conservatory, on the subject of teaching form and analysis in the private studio. Upcoming events include our **Ensemble Festival and General Recital on February 8**, our **Spring Evaluation on March 14**, our **Spring General Recital on April 18**, our **Sonatina and Sonata Festival on April 25-26**, and our **Scholarship Competition Day on May 9**.

The spring of 2019 was a notable one for MTACC, because it marked the retirement of our founding president, Judy Dalton. Judy has been a pillar of the musical community in Charles County for many years,

and has passed on a love of music to many, many piano students. In honor of Mrs. Dalton, and to show our association’s deep indebtedness to her, MTACC changed the name of our scholarship for graduating seniors from the “Norma Killen-Scott Scholarship” to the **“Judith M. Dalton Scholarship.”**

We love you, Judy!

Krista Keysar
President, MTACC



Prince George’s Music Teachers Association held its first keyboard exam in December, 2019 at Prince George’s Community College’s new Center for the Performing Arts. We are very grateful for their support, especially for Dr. Shumway, Mr. Andre Mazelin and Professor Umbach.

This Spring, we will be hosting our annual Saul Roas Scholarship Event, theory exam, and also our Spring Recital.

Dr. Harmony Yang,
President, PGMTA

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I hope that many of you had a nice holiday break and that you are rejuvenated for the busiest season of the year.

New Look for MCMTA Newsletter - With the arrival of the new year, our newsletter has a new look, created by our new VP for Publications, Marc Donnelly. Marc has outstanding credentials as a piano and voice teacher,

choral director, and music theorist. More importantly for us though, he is also technologically savvy. We are so happy to have him on board.

Events Successfully Held in the Last Few Months – Thanks to all event chairs, the following events were successfully held in the last few months. **JUDGED RECITAL (October 20)**: we had three recitals at Jordan Kitt’s Music. Thirty-three students participated representing the studios of thirteen teachers. **JUDGED RECITAL (December 8)**: we had four recitals at Steinway Piano Gallery. Thirty-three students participated representing the studios of ten teachers. Judged Recitals were chaired by Miri Fenkel-Yacubovich.

ELEMENTARY “Autumn Magic” RECITAL (October 26): we had four recitals at Jordan Kitt’s Music. Sixty-three students participated representing the studios of eleven teachers. **ELEMENTARY “Let It Snow” RECITAL (December 21)**: we had the recitals at Jordan Kitt’s Music. Thirty-eight students participated representing the studios of ten teachers. Elementary Recitals were chaired by Olga Soukhoveev.





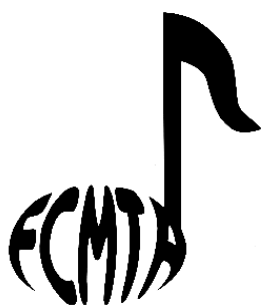
INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED RECITALS (November 10): We had the recitals at Steinway Piano Gallery. Twenty-nine students participated representing the studios of eight teachers.
 INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED RECITALS (November 16): We had the recitals at Steinway Piano Gallery. Twenty-two students participated representing the studios of six teachers. Intermediate/Advanced Recitals were chaired by Elena Eliseeva and Olga Soukhoveev.

MSMTA KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP EXAM (Montgomery County): It was held on December 15 at Washington Adventist University. There were 330 entries for this exam from the studios of nineteen teachers. Students were tested on all 11 levels (including the last level 11 available with the current syllabus). This exam was chaired by Svetlana Volkova.

Great Speakers for Past Membership Meetings – Dr. Susan Chan presented *Contemporary Chinese Piano Repertoire for Teaching and Performing*; Professor Catherine Kautsky presented *Debussy in Context: Postcards from Paris*; Professor Bradford Gowen spoke about *500 Years of English Keyboard Music That’s WAY Too Good to Ignore!* We had all these wonderful programs presented by very-hard-to-get, in demand presenters, all thanks to our VP for Programs Immanuela Gruenberg. Non-MCMTA members are welcome to visit MCMTA membership meeting.

‘Musical Camaraderie’ Group Meeting - *Musical Camaraderie* group meetings were held on November 8th and January 10th at Mentoring Chair, Bonnie Kellert’s. The meetings were productive and fun. Many topics have been covered. Musical Camaraderie provides opportunities for open discussion, a chance for teachers to mingle, share thoughts on different topics, and provide feedback and support for each other in a relaxing environment with light refreshments.

Alice Ma
 President, MCMTA



Greetings from the Frederick County Music Teachers Association. We have had a busy Fall semester. During our October meeting, Nancy O’Neill Breth presented "Goodbye Tears and Tantrums: A Fresh Look at Practicing". (see photo) This topic prompted much discussion among teachers on how to encourage our students to practice. Nancy shared with us many practice ideas and methods to try. A great event to have at the start of the teaching year.



November 12th, Laurel Carroll presented and facilitated discussion on "Non-Classical Music for the Older Student". We discussed creative repertoire ideas for mid-level students who want to play music in modern styles. We all discovered new repertoire for our students. Finally, to end 2019 on a happy note 🎵, the teachers had a Holiday Gathering. We shared snacks and Holiday Music! Looks like this is becoming an annual event! (see photo)



We have had three student events. The first was the Halloween Recital on October 26th, chaired by Christine Pappas and Ida Smith. Christine Pappas and Sheila Jones emceed this event dressed as Thing 1 and Thing 2. Both students and teachers were in costumes and photos appeared in the Frederick News Post. There were 52 students performing their "spooky" music, in three afternoon recitals. Everyone had a great time! (see photos)

The second student event was our second Ensemble Festival on November 16th, chaired by Laurel Carroll. There were 18 performances. Many styles of music were performed and students learned how to perform in an ensemble. After the performances, the teachers set up ensemble workshops including singing activities, rhythm cups and drumming. We definitely plan on providing this opportunity again next year! (see photo) Finally, we brought the joy of music to a local nursing home on December 28th, chaired by Sheila Jones and Peggy Flickinger. 50 students participated, so two recitals were held. Wonderful!



FCMTA is looking forward to all the wonderful music and learning opportunities planned in 2020!

All the best in the New Year!

Sheila Jones
President, FCMTA

The Greater Laurel Music Teachers Association has had a productive fall semester that began with the Stephanie Laios Composition and Improvisation festival chaired and founded by Ann Matteson. This event offers an opportunity for students to express their talent through their own unique musical ideas and voices. Jeffery Beaudry was the co-chair. Teachers from PGMTA and Bowie MTA also entered students. **It is our hope that teachers from other local associations will enter their students in future years.** Next was the popular Halloween Recitals chaired by Deborah White-Bondhus that featured 157 student performers.



LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

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November followed with the Orchestra and Piano Concerto Competition that culminated with the winners performing concerto movements with a chamber orchestra conducted by Douglas Guiles, Chair of the events. The Orchestra Winners' Concert was held on Sunday, November 10. The semester ended with the December 7 GLMTA Ensemble festival chaired by Jeffery Beaudry. The musical offerings were three recitals of duets, trios, and chamber groups.



Alexander Peskanov, commissioned composer of 16 piano concertos for the GLMTA concerto competitions, is pictured at Winners Concert with Douglas Guiles, Events Chair; Janice Puckett, Mei-Yu Lin, Jeannine Case, Deborah White-Bondhus, Yee-Ning Soong, and student winners.



On October 14, 2019 Dr. Bok Hwa Kim presented "Haydn's Keyboard Sonatas: Idiomatic Style and Its Influence" as this year's professional development offering.

The second semester is just as full of performance events beginning with our theme festival, "Celebrating Women Composers" on Saturday, February 8. Chair Yee-Ning Soong reports that 8 teachers have enrolled 127 students to perform music of 33 different composers. March is replete with competitions and evaluation opportunities: The Ensemble and Chamber competitions March 7, and the Young Artists Competition and Evaluation chaired by Wendy Dengler on March 21. The April 18 French competition is now named the Lisa Bussing Memorial Competition with a special Henri Carol award for the best performance of a piece by a French composer. On May 2 the focus is on the Kirchof, Wardell and Mirabella Senior Award competitions. We will end the year with a planning meeting and luncheon at the home of Ann Matteson.

Edwina E. Hunter
President, GLMTA



GLMTA members Deborah White-Bondhus, Ann Matteson, and Edwina Hunter with Patricia Blanchard and young composers at the December 15 Composers Circle

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**GREATER COLUMBIA
MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Greater Columbia Music Teachers Association has had several lovely events so far this year beginning with a Piano Master Class featuring clinician Dr. Joseph Satava on Saturday, November 16, 2019. The class, open to all prepared students at level Late Elementary and above, featured five performers.

December 8th brought the first of our three annual Outreach Recitals. This particular recital was held at Morningside House in Ellicott City. These recitals bring together students, family members and teachers with a senior community. The programs include a wide range of solo and ensemble literature. While most performers are pianists, vocal, string, brass and woodwind solo and ensembles are also welcome. Our second Outreach Recital will be held on February 9th at Vantage House in Columbia. This particular recital is limited to intermediate level students and above.

January 25th, 2020 was a delightful day, featuring two of our annual festivals, Family and Friends and Music Tells the Story. Our Family and Friends Recital is a wonderful opportunity to perform ensemble and chamber music with friends and/or family members. Many combinations are possible, limited only by the imagination. Instrumentalists, vocalists, parents performing with their children all combine to make for a very enjoyable event! Music Tells the Story is our theme recital for students of all ages, abilities, and instruments. Students entering write a story about their piece in one paragraph. The stories are included on the program for the audience to enjoy and the students benefit from writing a personal and engaging tale about their music. We were treated to three recitals ... one Family & Friends Recital and two Music Tells the Story recitals.

February 22nd will feature our Judged Recitals, a noncompetitive event in which students play a minimum of 2 minutes of memorized music. A carefully selected judge from outside the association listens, writes comments, and assigns a rating which can be applied toward Gold Cup points. Literature requirements are the same as in other GCMTA events. Emphasis is, as always, on a polished, stylistic performance and encouragement for the performer.

*Jan Puckett
President, GCMTA*

ADVERTISEMENTS

MSMTA is now accepting advertisements in its newsletter. Space is limited to two pages total, so ads will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates are:

	Member	Non-member
1/8 page	\$20.00	\$30.00
1/4 page	\$40.00	\$50.00
1/2 page	\$80.00	\$90.00
Full page	\$135.00	\$150.00

For more information, contact **Matthew Palumbo** at:

PalumboMatthew@yahoo.com

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT
NEWSLETTER**

Please email all notices and copy for inclusion in the June 2020 MSMTA Newsletter by **Monday, June 8, 2020**, to:

PalumboMatthew@yahoo.com

The MSMTA Newsletter is published three times per year by the Maryland State Music Teachers Association, Inc.

Ann Matteson and Jane McIlvain Dennis,
Contributing editors

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