



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

June 2020

From the President...

I hope everyone has been staying safe and healthy.

It has been a trying time for all dealing with both the pandemic and social climate. Please know that MSMTA will always support equality and diversity and continue to be inclusive. I hope having music in our lives can help bring us together at this difficult time.



The shutdown due to Covid-19 forced us to cancel some of our events, but thanks to our Chairs and Webmaster, John Ralph, we were able to move forward “virtually” with five events: High Piano Examination, Theory testing (reminding centers), Spring Solo Piano Festival, Gottlieb Piano Competition and Doris Chase Piano Sonata Competition. Nothing can replace the live event experience, but I believe MSMTA did our best to offer opportunities for students to achieve their goals and keep music in their lives. We had 742 students participate in the Spring Solo Piano Festival, and over 324 in the Gottlieb Competition.

At the student activities meeting on May 29th, many of the chairs were in attendance to discuss various options to keep our events going for next year. They may not be perfect options, but we are committed to offer as many events as possible for our members and students.

As you may know from the last newsletter, we have scheduled our conference for **November 15th** at UMD. However, it is uncertain whether it will be safe to have this event in person. Therefore, our conference committee will look into offering the conference “virtually.” I will send out a global email as our plans solidify.

I hope you have a wonderful summer, and that you get some needed rest!

As always, if you have any concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Junko Takahashi

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Twenty-six board members attended our zoom board meeting on June 8th, and the following items were discussed.

Honorary Membership: The Board has unanimously voted to award Honorary Membership to our webmaster John Ralph. Many of us have met him at the Spring Solo Piano Festival, where he helps his wife, Carol Wolfe-Ralph, every year. This year, he was instrumental in creating programs so our events can move forward as “virtual” events. He spent countless hours, beyond his duty, to make sure events ran smoothly.

The Scholarship for High School Graduating Seniors with a Declared Music Major: This year, we had six well-qualified students applying for this scholarship. Since we did not have to pay the large rental fee due to live event cancellations, the Board voted to allocate the funds to award all six applicants.

Theory and Keyboard Syllabus: The Board voted to keep a majority of our syllabus in the “membership only” section as it is our intellectual property, but we will release a small portion to the public area of our website so potential new members can sample our programs.

Conference: The committee will look in to the option of hosting our conference “virtually” on November 15th. The Board has voted and approved that if this event becomes a virtual event, there will be no fee for our members.

Dr. Junko Takahashi
President, MSMTA

President

Junko Takahashi

VP Student Activities

Yoon Huh

VP Membership

Edwina Hunter

VP Publications

Matthew Palumbo

VP Certification

Helen Weems

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Douglas Guiles

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Carroll County MTATeresa Bliss
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Janice Puckett

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Christopher Hall**Greater Laurel MTA**

Jeffery Beaudry

Montgomery County MTA

Alice Ma

Prince Georges MTA

Harmony Yang

MTA Southern Maryland

Debra Smedley

A FRESH IDEA FOR SUMMER

Pianists never run out of great music to play. In fact, we can't live long enough to learn half of what's out there. We cannot cover all of Bach or all of Beethoven—and only Brian Ganz can cover all of Chopin!

With such an embarrassment of riches at our fingertips, we can be forgiven for living in music history instead of music present. We can be forgiven, but we might be missing a lot.

Like many teachers I am looking for summer projects to brighten our stay-at-home existence. I decided to start with a studio project on modern music. I compiled a list of one hundred plus “modern” pieces that appeal to me and that I believe will appeal to others. (Nothing radical or shocking!) My students are checking it out, and choosing pieces.

To see the list, click [here](#).

For every piece I include two links: one to a performance of the music and another to a source for acquiring the score. (Where possible, I've chosen links to YouTube videos that show the score as you hear the music.)

The data is entered into a simple Excel file, so you can sort it any way you like. First highlight the whole page by clicking in its upper left corner, then click Data and Sort. You can sort by Composer, Title, Level, Performance or Source/Publisher.

I have not assigned specific difficulty levels: everybody has different ideas on levels. Instead I just put an “A” to mark the pieces I consider to be quite advanced, and then I called all the rest E/I. These levels range from early Elementary to upper Intermediate. Of course, even a work marked “A” might contain a movement of lesser difficulty, and vice versa.

All composers on this list were born in 1890 or later. Yes, there are women among the men, and there are composers from widely different cultures. But right now you might be especially interested in exploring the music of African Diaspora composers, for example, George Walker, Joshua Uzoigwe, Oswald Russell, Halim El-dabh, and Mohammed Fairouz.

I encourage you to roam through the list and click random performances. I hope you and your students find some new music to love.

Nancy O'Neill Breth



2020 Conference

Sunday, November 15, 2020

**University of Maryland
College Park, MD
Department of Music**

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. This year we will have a concert showcasing Brian Ganz. Be sure to reserve this date on your calendar!!!! You will not want to miss this wonderful day of music.

*There is a possibility that this will be a virtual conference, but we will have it one way or the other.
Updates will come out as available.*

A look back at 2019



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

*Deborah White-Bondhus
Junko Takahashi
Conference Co-Chairs*

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising
Matthew Palumbo

Bylaws/Parliamentarian
David Holmes

Certification
Helen Weems

College Faculty
TBA

Community Outreach and
Education
Deborah White-Bondhus

Composition Commissioning
Li-Ly Chang

Conference
Deborah White-Bondhus
Junko Takahashi

Fund Raising
TBA

Independent Music Teachers
Helen Smith Tarchalski

Legal Advisor
Randy Reade

Local and Student Associations
Kathryn Stansbery

MTNA Foundation
Carol Wolfe-Ralph

MTNA Foundation Fundraising
TBA

Nominations
Ann Matteson

Technology
Daniel Lau

MSMTA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

2020-2022 NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS OF MSMTA

The following officers were unanimously elected as of April 14, 2020 by electronic ballot. Ballots were mailed to those members who do not use internet.

Vice President of Student Activities: Yoon Huh

Vice President of Membership: Edwina Hunter

Corresponding Secretary: Douglas Guiles

I thank the members of the Nominating Committee: Constance Fischel, Douglas Guiles, Yoon Huh, and Lori McCarthy

For your information, this is the slate of officers for 2020-2021:

Junko Takahashi – President

Matthew Palumbo – Vice President, Publications

Edwina Hunter – Vice President, Membership

Yoon Huh – Vice President, Student Activities

Helen Weems – Vice President, Certification

Richard Hartzell – Recording Secretary

Douglas Guiles – Corresponding Secretary

Carol Wolfe-Ralph – Treasurer

Lori McCarthy – Historian

Joanna Greenwood – Member-At-Large

Constance Fischel – Immediate-Past-President

*Ann Matteson
Nominating Chair, MSMTA*

CERTIFICATION

Get Certified While Quarantined!

How about a way to make lemonade out of the current pile of lemons dumped in our lives recently: use this quarantine misery to pursue your professional credentials, and become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, through MTNA.

Let's face it, none of us have the best concentration right now. Pursuing certification forces one to focus on improving teaching skills. Distance teaching offers the possibility of continuing our careers, and, depending on the platform used to teach, can offer ready videos of lessons at the touch of a button. Setting up devices and the studio in order to record lessons is one of the hurdles to certification, so this is a great time to start the process.

There is help for getting the process started, and how to plan your approach to certification. The Certification Study Group meets every other month, currently on Zoom. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, July 15, from 11am-1pm**. Please contact MSMTA's Vice President for Certification, Helen Weems, (weemspianostudio@gmail.com, 410-997-7524) to receive the next zoom invitation for the next certification study group meeting.

*Helen R. Weems
VP for Certification, NCTM*

ZOOM WORKSHOP

A Zoom Workshop on Encouraging Your Students to Compose will be given by Joanna Greenwood on **Thursday, August 6th at 10:00 a.m.** This program is being given for GLMTA but they would like to offer it to any MSMTA member who might be interested. If you aren't in GLMTA, let Edwina Hunter <edwina.hunter@gmail.com> know so that she can send you the link and you'll be included in the workshop. Come join us.

Ann Matteson

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

2020 MSMTA THEORY HONORS AWARDS

MSMTA congratulates the students and teachers who have received the 2019 MSMTA **Intermediate Theory Award**. **Fifty-eight** students received the MSMTA Intermediate Theory Award for passing five levels with a score of 90 percent or higher from the studios of Christopher Hall, Dmitri Nazarenko, Donghee Kwon, Irina Koulikova, Svetlana Volkova, Irina Gurevich, Ruth Peng, Bonnie Pausic, Jeannine Case, Bok Hwa Kim, Lori McCarthy, Patricia Blanchard, Elena Eliseeva, Yie-Chen Tsau, Deborah White-Bondhus, Lorri Yawney, Anne Chen, Constance Fishel, Chieh-Ming Lee, Junko Takahashi, Hui-Yen Chang, Adriana Schueckier, Tzi-Ming Yang.

Congratulations to the student recipients: Claire Lee, William Zhang, Kobie Andrews, Cyrilla Truong, David Myung, Zachary Edenbaum, Christopher Tu, Vladimir Volkov, Amy Ye, Yao-Yao Zhu, Claire Guo, Anastasia Fitenko, Elsie Rozario, Rebecca Liao, Rence Luo, Keely Sigler, Andrew Wilson, Ivan Hughes, Marissa Michel, Ashahli Edwards, Zoey Zhang, Noah Peng, Tiffany Luan, Elena Lee, Jeremy Yang, Annabelle Liang, AnnaBelle Wang, Andrew Rioux, Jane Liang, Olivia Benson, Ida Chen, Zoe Cheng, Cynthia Chang, Ethan Luo, Vivien Fu, Yi-Sa Li, Timothy Keogh, Advik Rai, Lillian Robinson-Cheung, Anna Samuel, Zach Rowan, Sebrina Tseng, Sebastian Tseng, Amy Gu, Joanna Huang, Reyna Li, Louis Wang, Chloe Zhu, Queenie Zhou, Stella Schreiber, Harrison Wong, Sophia Ge, Devin Pradhan, Emily Johns, Ellen Johns, Zijing Wu, Leah Persons, Xinyue Foo.

Twenty-two students received the 2019 MSMTA **Senior Theory Award** for passing five levels including level 7 or above with a score of 90 percent or higher from the studios of Dmitri Nazarenko, Svetlana Volkova, Ruth Peng, Bonnie Pausic, Elena Eliseeva, Yie-Chen Tsau, Deborah White-Bondhus, Elena Dubovitsky, Chieh-Ming Lee, Junko Takahashi, Yaling Yeh, Rosanne White.

Congratulations to the student recipients: Shuchi Tyagi, Kana Puttkammer, Bertrand Zhu, Daniel Chen, Emily Liu, Chelsea Tu, William Lu, David Guan, Mandy Zhang, David Gordo, Alyssa Gribov, Rosalinda Sherman, Anika Satapathy, Andrew Hui, Albert Ho, Christopher Adams, Flora Ye, Anne Wang, Anthony Ren, Naveen Ramamurthy, Isadora Liu, Sanjana Mayenkar.

Special congratulations to **thirteen** students who received the 2019 MSMTA **Distinguished Theory Award** for passing level 11 with a score of 90 percent or above: Hannah Zhang, Nicholas Qiu, Rose Wen, Carina Guo, Justin Chen, Johnathan Sun, Jason Liu, Sean Li, Sahana Ramesh, Esther Tang, Alexander Yang, Theo Gifford, Andrew Hui from the studios of Dmitri Nazarenko, Svetlana Volkova, Bok Hwa Kim, Elena Dubovitsky.

It takes special dedication and perseverance to get through such a demanding course of study and again, MSMTA congratulates all the students and their teachers for achievement of these honors.

Dr. Dmitri Nazarenko
Chair, MSMTA Theory Testing Program

COMPOSERS CIRCLE

Summer is here! This is a message to all the composers in Maryland, both teachers and students, to get your creative juices flowing in preparation for the Composers Circle Concert in December. The summer is a great time to compose as many of the stresses of the school year fall away, and time opens up for creative projects. Also, with the restrictions of staying in place because of Covid-19, it is a particularly great time to fill up those extra hours with a composition project.

The recital is a wonderful venue for composers of all ages to showcase their compositions in a supportive environment. Each teacher can enter their own composition and those of four students.

Date: TBA

Location: The goal is to have a live recital at the University United Methodist Church, 3621 Campus Drive in College Park, Maryland; however, the recital may have to be on-line if restrictions of social distancing remain in place because of Covid-19.

Joanna Greenwood,
Composers Circle

KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP PROGRAM

During 2019-2020, 847 students registered for the Keyboard Musicianship Testing, which was an increase of 51 from the previous year! Testing was almost completed when the coronavirus shutdown began in Maryland, but local chairs managed to find ways to finish up the year. Thank you so much to all the local chairs who put in so much time to make the testing successful!

In early April, the first half of the *2020 MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Syllabus* was published electronically and distributed to MSMTA members by email. The second half of the new syllabus is finalized and the examples are being put into notation and into the final format as quickly as possible! The complete “Syllabus Summary Sheet Grid” is now available on MSMTA.org. Click on the “Student Activities Calendar” and scroll down to “Keyboard Musicianship Exam.” The complete syllabus will be posted in the “Members Only” portion of the MSMTA.org website, along with other resource materials. We hope to have the examples posted on the website by July 1st. Keep checking the “Members Only” website for more materials to be posted by the end of July, such as “Student Preparation Resources” and links to videos with examples of some of the Improvisation levels! We appreciate your patience as the committee has put in countless hours making decisions on 10 “skills” over 12 levels and writing about 60 new examples! Here are some of the changes in the new syllabus:

- The Syllabus is extended from Levels 1 through 12.
- Each level requires fewer keys, to allow for more focused learning.
- The technique skills of Scales, Cadences, Chords and Arpeggios are consolidated into **one required module**, called “Scales & Chords.” (Two separate scores will still be given so that students can still earn up to six scores for DMA points.)
- A new skill called “Chord Knowledge/Chord Progressions” is added to Module 1, to help students with both theory and practical studies.
- Keys and skills are aligned with the Theory Program when possible.
- A “Rhythmic Reading” element is added to the Sight Reading module to increase rhythmic awareness and practice.
- A new “Lead Sheet Realization” module is added for teachers and students who are interested in popular styles.
- An Appendix of Resources to help teachers prepare students for the program will be available.
- A Preparatory Level will be available in August for teachers to administer in their own studio whenever the student is ready. No DMA points will be given for the Preparatory Level.

I wish to thank the members of the Syllabus Revision Committee for the many hours of help revising the syllabus: Joanna Greenwood, Svetlana Volkova, Edwina Hunter, Lori McCarthy and Junko Takahashi, as well as previous members Ann McCandliss and Constance Fishel. Thank you to the membership for being patient with us as we worked as hard as we could to finish this huge project! It was much more time intensive than I think any of us thought it could be, but hopefully the result will be beneficial to the teachers and students of MSMTA for many years to come!

Laurel Carroll,
Chair

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

GOTTLIEB AND CHASE COMPETITION

In these tumultuous times, it was good that we were able to hold both the Miriam Gottlieb memorial Piano Competition and the Doris and Larry Chase Sonata Awards. It was clear that both of these events gave students extra motivation to prepare for performances since there was a 40% increase in participation over last year. This was a new experience for students, teachers, and judges. And they all stepped up to the challenge. None of this could have happened without John Ralph. In a short period of time he created a wonderful system for dealing with so many students. As with any new program, there were glitches. But he was right on top of every issue and worked quickly to make any necessary corrections. I hope the membership realizes how many students and teachers benefited from his work. I also got praise from the judges for the system he set up which made it possible for them to do their job. We now have a system that will allow us to proceed in the future, if necessary, with greater ease.

I am grateful for the judges who were willing to undertake a new approach to judging. Many realized that this was a challenge for students – particularly from the standpoint of accuracy. And they provided encouragement for their hard work. There is one other person who is responsible for the success of these programs, and that is Junko Takahashi. She was always available to help in any way she could. We could not have had a more supportive President during this stressful time.

*Douglas Guiles,
Chair*

GAIL F. MCDONALD HIGH SCHOOL PIANO EXAMINATIONS

Recognition/Credit For Private Music Study

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 40th 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, were 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 studies piano privately. Letters and application forms go out each fall to the principals and to music department heads of all public and private high schools in Maryland to tell them about the program. 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.

Students taking the examination for credit must present 5 more minutes of adjudication time in technique over and above the memorized music.

This year we had 200 students take the examination for recognition plus 4 students for credit. We are pleased to see this valuable program continue for the benefit of the students.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Continued from page 7

(H.S. Exams, cont.)

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

Hedy Bannon, Maja Blagojevic, Patricia Blanchard, Kristin Butler, Dr. Hui Yen Chang, Jeannine Case, Anne Chen, Sara Cronan, Ariel Dechosa, Wendy Dengler, Elena Eliseeva, Sima Elkis, Constance Fischel, Irina Gurgevich, Georgia Harvey, David Holmes, Edwina Hunter, Cherie Jeng, Bonnie Kellert, Heesun Kim, Insun Lee, David Kuperstein, Olga Kuperstein, Jaewon Lee, Chieh Ming Lee, Mei-Yu Lin, Doris Mattingly, Alla Merport, Hesien Ann Meng, Jamie Mitchell, Dmitri Nazarenko, Yengeniya Oleshkevich, Colleen Oren, Marina Ovtcharenko, Hyun Park, Laura Parris, Ruth Peng, Evelyn (Ye-Ling) Shih, Susan Smith, Dr. Joan Spicknall, Junko Takahashi, Ziona Tuchler, Thanh Vo, Sofya Vulfson, Helen Weems, Roseanne White, Deborah White-Bondhus, Janice Wood, Ka Nyoungh Yoo.

Our Local chairs do a huge amount of work to make the program work. Thank you to all of them for their hard work!!!

Due to Covid 19 we had 2 centers close – Baltimore and Annapolis. We had 3 centers that were chaired by new chairs who stepped up to the plate with the reorganization of the H.S. exam program: Alla Merport, Cherie Jeng and Sarah Cronan. In addition, Anne Chen and Edwina Hunter co-chaired Howard County with Deborah White-Bondhus. Many thanks to them for all their hard work. Our ongoing chairs were wonderful and did an awesome job in an exceedingly difficult situation.

Annapolis	Closed
Baltimore	Closed
Columbia	Alla Merport
Laurel	Wendy Dengler
Howard County	Deborah White-Bondhus, Edwina Hunter and Anne Chen
Montgomery Blair	Ziona Tuchler
Quince Orchard High School	Cherie Jeng
Richard Montgomery High school	Heesun Kim
Southern Maryland	Patricia Blanchard
Whitman High School	Sarah Cronan
Winston Churchill High School	Chia-Hsuan Lee
Thomas Wootton	Luba Turkevich

Thank you to all who took time out of their schedule to judge:

Jeffery Beaudry, Jeannine Case, Sara Cronan, Jeffery Doenges, Constance Fischel, David Holmes, Edwina Hunter, Yoon Huh, Carolyn Lamb Booth, Bonnie Kellert, Helen Smith Tarchalski, Debra Smeldley, Betsy Stocksdale, Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng, Dr. Junko Takahashi, Helen Weems, Deborah White-Bondhus, Janice Wood.

Special thanks to our registrar, Constance Fischel, who processes all the applications and grades, and to Ellen Sakai, who does the certificates with her student Darren Nguyen.

After many years of dedicated service Constance Fischel has decided to hand over the registrar position to a new registrar. We will need a new registrar in 2021. Please let me know if you are interested.

Deborah White-Bondhus
Chair, MSMTA High School Examination

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



MTA Southern Maryland came through this challenging spring with flying colors as teachers, students and parents joined forces to keep music in all our lives. By combining our technology skills, we were able to successfully hold several virtual events. Our last in-person recitals were in February, with An Afternoon of Ensembles and a marathon recital day as part of our community Kalnasy Concert Series. MSMTA Theory exams were arranged so students could take them at home, and the MSMTA High School Exams were held virtually as scheduled. Several students took part in the MSMTA Solo Piano Festival and the Gottlieb Competition as well. A highlight of our year: Honors Recitals for Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels were also held online. All students who were chosen by their teachers to participate received trophies. Each level was also adjudicated with winners chosen. We are happy to announce that our Senior winner, Joseph Ensminger, student of Patricia Blanchard, also earned the MSMTA Performance Award. A very special event for us this year was the awarding of the David Graham Memorial Scholarship, created in memory of the husband of our wonderful long-time member Barbara Graham. Graduating seniors who wished to apply answered essay questions about the role of music study in their lives, provided service logs of their musical activities, and submitted online performances. The winner of the scholarship is Laurel Eckenrode, student of Georgia Harvey. I wish to thank event chairpersons Patricia Blanchard and Mary Stevens for their many hours of work, ensuring that our events ran smoothly and safely, and for our teachers who rose to the challenge of having their students take part. As we plan for an uncertain year ahead, I am confident that we will continue working together to keep all our students experiencing the gift and joy of music.

Debbie Smedley
President, MTASM



It was not an easy time for many of us amid the pandemic situation the last few months. I am very thankful for the MCM TA Event Chairs trying their best to come up with alternate plans for the events.

Events Successfully Held in the Last Few Months in Virtual Format – The following events were held successfully with students submitting videos. It was the first time that these recitals were being held in virtual format.

JUDGED RECITAL (April 26): We had four wonderful recitals. Forty-two students participated representing the studios of fourteen teachers. The judges awarded twenty-five high honors trophies and sixteen honorable mention ribbons.

Judged Recitals were chaired by Miri Fenkel-Yacubovich.

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED RECITAL (April 19): Through video submission, forty-four students participated representing the studios of eight teachers. Intermediate/Advanced Recitals were chaired by Elena Eliseeva.

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED RECITAL (May 9): Through video submission, thirty-nine students participated representing the studios of six teachers. Intermediate/Advanced Recitals were chaired by Olga Soukhoveev.

SENIOR RECOGNITION AWARDS: Twenty students representing eleven teachers received their trophies.

Great Speakers for Past Membership Meetings – Professor Larissa Dedova presented *Russian Piano School: Lessons with Lev Oborin* in March meeting; Barbara Wing presented *Piano Study is As Easy As ABC* through video recording for April meeting. The topic for May meeting was *Teaching During the Time of Corona: thoughts, experiences, and ideas to share*. It was a zoom meeting with teachers sharing online teaching experiences. Thanks to our VP for Programs, Immanuela Gruenberg, for all these wonderful programs.

In the upcoming school year, we plan to hold most events and programs at actual locations with contingency plans.

Alice Ma
President, MCM TA

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Anne Arundel Music Teachers Association



At our October meeting, Anne Arundel Music Teachers Association met at Anne Arundel Community College and welcomed new members. After our business meeting, we attended a program called *Ritmica Workshop* presented by Rogerio Boccato, Professor of Music at Manhattan School of Music. Professor Boccato discussed intricacies of complex rhythms, including jazz patterns and techniques for communicating rhythm with students.

Melodies at the Movies Fall Music Marathon, one of our most popular events, was chaired by Ellen Winner and held at Westfield Shopping Center Bow Tie Cinemas in Annapolis. Students participated in recitals throughout the day. A variety of solo and ensemble repertoire, from traditional classical repertoire to movie soundtrack arrangements, was featured.

Students filled exciting recitals with a variety of solo and ensemble performances at the Holiday Festival in December. The event was held at Riva Trace Baptist Church in Davidsonville. Traditional holiday carols and other seasonal favorites were heard in arrangements for solo piano, piano duets, and trios.



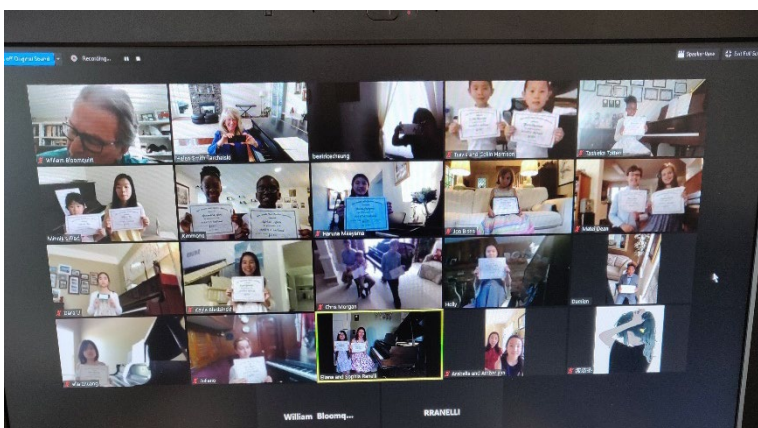
AAMTA Holiday Festival 2019



AAMTA Chamber Music Festival 2020 with Lontontowne Symphony

In February, we welcomed the Londontowne Symphony Quartet for our Chamber and Ensemble Festival, chaired by Adriana Schueckler, at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. In the Chamber Recital, students performed music composed or arranged for piano and string quartet with the professional group. The Ensemble Recital featured a variety of piano duets and trios, as well as performances on violin and cello.

Our April meeting was scheduled at Anne Arundel Community College for a program... and then you know what happened! Our venues were closed, but Zoom is not. So instead of our previously planned program about repertoire and resources for beginning and intermediate students, we quickly shifted to resources and techniques for beginning online teaching and met on Zoom. A banner attendance represented the resourcefulness and diversity of our wonderful membership. Many helpful tips regarding equipment and online teaching techniques were shared by teachers who were already experienced in online teaching. The membership decided to push ahead with our already scheduled spring and summer performances; on Zoom, of course.



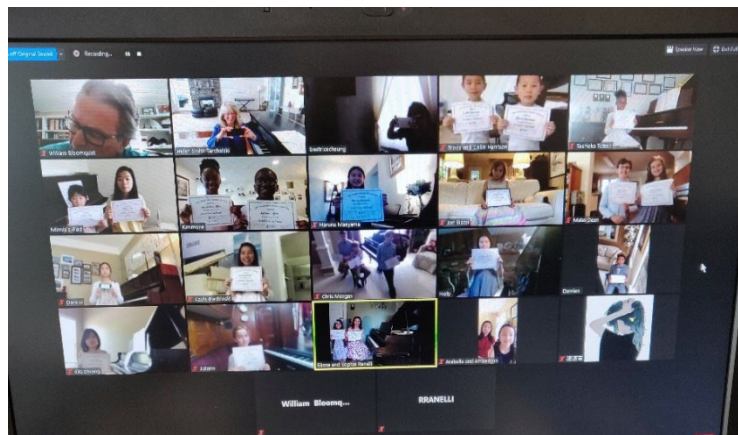
LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

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(AAMTA cont.)

We hosted our annual Spring Solo Festival on Zoom *without* technical issues, but *with* a lot of very excited students, families, and guests. Bill Bloomquist chaired the event. A PDF of the program was sent to all participants and guests, and a PDF of the certificates was sent to the students. We were thrilled to welcome an audience of approximately 150 from Canada, Germany, England, Romania, China, and all over the U.S.! From this successful experience, we decided that even when we again meet in person, we will livestream all future performances to include audience members who cannot attend in person.

Helen Smith Tarchalski
President, AAMTA



GREATER COLUMBIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Greater Columbia MTA thankfully managed to get in three of their annual events before sheltering in place went into effect.

January 25th brought two of our very popular events, our “Music Tells a Story” Festival and “Friends & Family” Recital. We had three lovely recitals that day. Students seem to really enjoy writing a brief paragraph about the pieces they are playing on “Music Tells a Story.” It is a great way to stimulate their imagination. “Friends & Family” affords yet another opportunity for ensemble performances, allowing for students to play with friends or family members that don’t necessarily study with a member of GCMTA.

Our annual Judged Recitals took place on February 22. Participation was excellent, requiring four recitals.

Then it hit... our lives changed in a way no one ever anticipated, and for a brief moment, we thought our Spring Piano Solo Competition would have to be cancelled. Our chairperson, Helen Weems, was determined to figure out a way to make it happen. After an incredible number of hours researching and planning (thank you, Helen), we settled on turning it into a ZOOM festival, non-competitive, but allowing our students to earn points toward their gold cups. With a total of 56 students entered, we had seven recitals

beginning at 8:15am and running until about 5:15pm. It wasn’t without challenges, but everybody agreed that it was a huge success, and we would do it again if faced with the need to do so.

It was especially gratifying that, in spite of circumstances, we were able to allow our students to continue earning points toward gold cups. In 2011 GCMTA started a Gold Cup incentive program for participation in events similar to the MSMTA Distinguished Music Achievement Award.

The following students were awarded the GCMTA 30 - point Gold Cup for 2020:

Madelyn Dwyer and Jeffrey Li (students of Bok Hwa Kim)

Boyce Chen, Nathan Elpus, Emily Graff, Eric Han and Sophia Mistry (students of Helen Weems)

Navya Krishna, Katherine Wood and Alexander Wood (students of Deborah White-Bondhus)

The following students were awarded the GCMTA 60 - point Gold Cup for 2020:

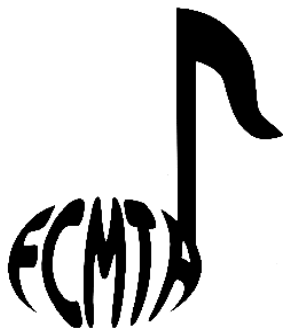
Boyce Chen (student of Helen Weems)

Alana Cowan (student of Constance Fischel)

Amanda Chin and Advik Rai (students of Deborah White-Bondhus)

Jan Puckett
President, GCMTA

Continued on page 12



Greetings from the Frederick County MTA! We just completed another busy year of music even during these unusual times! Teachers met in February for a program called "Everything You Wanted to Know About Keyboard Testing" taught by Laurel Carroll and Kim Roberts. They discussed the revised MSMTA program including topics on scales, chord progressions, arpeggios, transposition, sight-reading, harmonization, and improvisation. We hope that by learning more about this program, more teachers will have their students participate. This event prompted many discussions and demonstrations. In March, we had a class on "Projects to Encourage Your Students to Try Composing" presented by Bobbie Rastall. We had lots of discussion and learned about new ideas and

available resources on how to encourage our students to create and compose. Our last teacher enrichment event was in April, but due to the pandemic, Karen Skelly put together an information sheet on the topic, "Everything You Wanted to Know About Theory Testing." This was distributed to all members. Hopefully, by educating members about this MSMTA program, especially new members, there will be an increased interest.

In the past, every month, the FCMTA had met for breakfast. We have continued this but now through ZOOM. We have met a few times these past few months as we all needed support during the transitioning of our studios to remote-only teaching. We were all eager to see what everyone was doing, and this added support proved very helpful. It made a stressful time a bit less stressful.

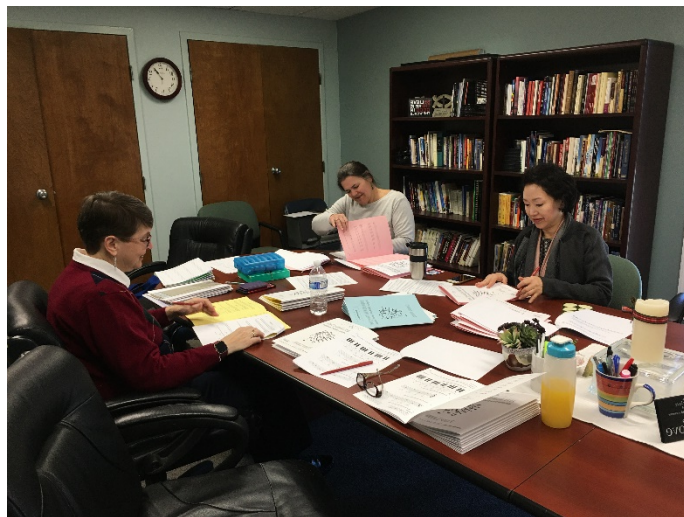
We were fortunate to complete most of our planned student events including the Keyboard Musicianship and Music Theory testing (see photo). We had to cancel our final event, the Sonata Festival, which was supposed to be the end of March. The "Frederick Festival of the Arts" in downtown Frederick is canceled for the summer. We were looking forward to this event, but hopefully it will occur next summer. Teachers are now busy planning their end of year studio recitals remotely. Music teachers have had to learn so much in a short period of time.

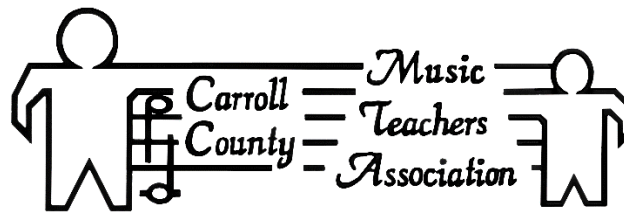
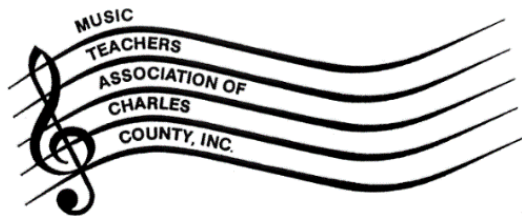
Our final business meeting of the year was in May. We elected officers for next year. Officers are Sheila Jones (President), Christine Pappas (Vice President), Karen Skelly (Secretary) and Cindy Taylor (Treasurer). We are busy planning out the 2020-2021 year. Many new topic ideas were discussed for teacher learning opportunities and student events. We are planning a Summer meeting as we are still figuring out how to conduct students' events if locations remain closed.

Finally, I want to thank all the officers, chairpersons, and members who have helped to make these opportunities available to our students and teachers in Frederick County this year! Also, for all the friendship and support during these difficult times.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Sheila Jones
President, FCMTA





The spring semester looked very different this year than ever before with MTACC, as I am sure it did for the rest of MSMTA! We did succeed in holding our Ensemble Recital/General Recital in early February, and, sadly, this was our last live event of the season. We were very sorry to have to cancel our Sonatina/Sonata Festival, which is always such an exciting event, but, after hard work and research by Lucy Snell, we were able to hold a very successful "Virtual" Scholarship Competition. It has been a season of much change and growth for all of us as we have struggled to learn to teach in new ways, and we are very thankful for the technology that has made it possible for our students (and ourselves) to continue to learn and grow during this time!

This was an election year for MTACC, and we are excited to welcome our incoming Executive Board for the 2020-2022 term:

Michele Avrick, President; Patricia Blanchard, Vice President for Teacher Programs; Krista Keysar, Vice President for Student Programs, Lucy Snell; Treasurer, and Lynne Bouchard, Secretary.

May we continue to work together in unity as we seek to enrich our community with music!

Krista Keysar
VP for Student Programs, MTACC

Before the pandemic quarantine began mid-March, Carroll County Music Teachers Association was able to fit in its Dressed for the Music recital in October, Music at the Mall in December, and its very popular Solo and Ensemble Festival in February which required two recitals to accommodate all the entries. We so appreciate the dedication our teachers have shown during the pandemic as many are continuing to teach but using non-traditional/alternate methods—Zoom, FaceTime, even just over the phone, and some in-person but safely conducted lessons from home. We are so proud of our students and that so many have chosen to continue taking lessons! In case the restrictions let up, we will continue to have a full calendar of offerings and opportunities for our students. Maybe some of us will become more tech-savvy and figure out some new methods for teaching! In addition, we held elections for new officers and are happy to welcome Dr. David Kreider and Teresa Bliss as co-presidents, Arlene Bullock and Jane Dennis as co-secretaries, with Carole Gauthier continuing as our Treasurer and Debbie Long as our historian. Have a safe and healthy Summer, MSMTA colleagues!

Jane Dennis
President, CCMTA



Our chapter has been fortunate as few events were affected by the pandemic. We only had to cancel an Adult recital and our end of year Honors Recital. All our other regular events for the Spring including a Popular music recital, Theory and Musicianship testing all took place before the lock-down. We also had two wonderful events before the Covid-19 took effect. In February, two of our members, Barbara Stumpf and I-Wen Tseng, gave us a presentation of their experiences of re-training through the Taubman approach to technique that they have pursued with a teacher in Philadelphia, Robert Durso. In March we had a visiting clinician, Benjamin Steinhardt, who gave us two excellent Masterclasses, in which eight students participated. He also gave us an inspirational talk about technique and movement for beginners. Our annual General Meeting will take place on June 19th via Zoom.

Joanna Greenwood
President, MTAGB

KEYNOTES

Greater Laurel MTA has risen to the challenges of being creative and becoming adept in new, expanded use of technology. In these most unusual times we are grateful that we have music as such a vital aspect of our lives, for, as Plato said, “Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.”

Under the leadership of festival chair, Yee-Ning Soong, we held our annual theme festival on Saturday, February 8. The Theme Festival was a celebration of Women Composers. The festival garnered participation from over 100 students from eight private studios in the region. Much of the repertoire was piano solo, but several other instrumental works made it to the program as well, including solo guzheng pieces (Chinese zither) and voice. This turnout provided lovely music in five separate hour-length recitals from morning to mid-afternoon. Chamber music was also featured on multiple programs, including Ethel Smyth's Sonata for Cello and Piano.



There was something new on each program as the festival boasted compositions from over 30 women! Yee-Ning Soong, also created an additional informational packet of biographies from the featured composers which can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/womenbios>. Happy reading! As always GLMTA's hope for the Theme Festival is to educate and expand teaching horizons. The festival was dedicated to the memory of Lisa Bussing. As far as we know she did not write any compositions herself, but even during her final bouts with cancer and chemotherapy, she would push herself and her studio to always try new pedagogical material.

Little did we know on March 7, 2020 that the Ensemble and Chamber Competitions would be our last in-person event of the academic year! This event has the usual piano duets, duos and trios, but also included an ensemble category for instrumental duos – either with or without piano. This year included piano, cello, violin, viola, flute, bassoon and voice. This was our last live festival of the 2019-2020 school year. The country began to shut down within the next week. We are grateful that we were able to hold this particular event – since it would have been impossible under the current social distancing guidelines.

Our Competition lasted from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. in 2 venues. In the piano division we had 7 Groups of duets, 5 groups of duos, and 2 groups of trios. For mixed duos – piano and another instrument – we had 3 groups.



(GLMTA cont.)

The chamber division included ensembles of duos, trios, and quartets with piano, strings, winds and voice. The literature included such diverse works as Schubert and Schumann Lieder, Ethel Smyth Cello Sonata, Beethoven and Debussy Piano Trios and the Dvorak American String Quartet. Participating teachers were: Wendy Dengler, Constance Fischel, Cici Greene, Douglas Guiles, Elaine Newhall, Janice Puckett, Yee Ning Soong, and Deborah White-Bondhus. The chairs were Douglas Guiles and Deborah White-Bondhus.

The remaining events of the year were held in altered formats. Jefferey Beaudry, Theory chairman, reported that 82% of the students registered for the March 14 Theory examinations were able to follow MSMTA's plan B wherein teachers administered examinations to their students.

Doug Guiles, chairman, reports that over 70 students from seven different GLMTA studios participated in our new Student Video Evaluation. This video audition gave students who would have participated in cancelled events (the popular Lisa Bussing French Music Competition, Young Musicians Competition and Evaluation, and Kirchoff competitions) an opportunity to perform and receive a written evaluation and points towards the GLMTA Trophy Award.

In 2017 GLMTA announced a trophy incentive program for participation in events similar to the MSMTA Distinguished Music Achievement Award. The following students were awarded the GLMTA 30 point trophy for 2020:

Lillian Robinson-Cheung and Mariana Lennon – Students of Deborah White-Bondhus

Kyron Medina – Student of Wendy Dengler

Ginny Bastien, Kelly Bu, Liam Cummings, Elaine Zhang, Aaron Zhong, Liam Cummings, Adam Martinson, Elaine Zhang, Surie Zhang, Aaron Zhang – students of Douglas Guiles

The following students were awarded the GLMTA 60 point trophy for 2020:

Kisakye Kirabo and Aliza Khan – Students of Wendy Dengler

Julia Cabacar, Carina Huang, Allison Li, Sean Li, Andy Xiong, Max Yu, Alex Zhang – Students of Douglas Guiles

Now that we are so adept at the use of Zoom we are looking forward to a Technology presentation by Yee-Ning Soong on July 1 as well as a workshop on Thursday, August 6 on Composition/Improvisation by Joanna Greenwood, State Composers' Circle Chair.

Ann Matteson presented the slate of officers at our May 21 Zoom meeting. We thank Ann and her Nominating Committee comprised of Constance Fischel and Deborah White-Bondhus. Congratulations to the new GLMTA officers:

Jefferey Beaudry, President

Yee-Ning Soong, Vice-President

Edwina E. Hunter, Recording Secretary

Wendy Dengler, Treasurer

Best wishes for a fruitful summer.

Edwina E. Hunter
President, GLMTA



Due to Covid-19, PGMTA held our Theory Test, our High School Scholarship Competition, and our Members Meeting virtually, for the safety and health of all our teachers and students this Spring.

In March, the Theory Test at the Prince George's site was canceled, but students were able to take the test remotely via DropBox, and the deadlines were extended. Teachers were able to grade tests as soon as the files were uploaded into DropBox folders. We are thankful that Dr. Janice Wood was able to facilitate this event with so many shifting pieces at hand.

On May 16, PGMTA held one combined competition for MSMTA Student Scholarship for Performance Award, PGMTA Eunice Wilson Greene Scholarship and Gail McDonald Memorial Scholarship. The competition was held virtually, because of Covid-19 pandemic. All students made performance videos and emailed them directly to the judge, Dr. Matthew Brower, from Washington College. The judge then made decisions based on music, overlooking any sound quality issues in the videos.

There were three performers from the studios of Dr. Hui-Yen Chang and Mei-Yu Lin. The winner of the MSMTA Student Scholarship for Performance Award was Rachel Wang. The winner of the Eunice Wilson Greene Scholarship went to Abigail Feng. The best performer of a romantic piece, awarded Gail McDonald Memorial Scholarship, was Rachel Wang.

Dr. Brower commented, "I was very impressed with the students' playing!" We sincerely thank him for adjudicating this event in this crazy time. We are also thankful that Dr. Hui-Yen Chang issued checks promptly to the judge and winners. With these helping hands, the competition ran smoothly.

*Dr. Harmony Yang,
President, PGMTA*

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PalumboMatthew@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please email all notices and copy for inclusion in the September 2020 MSMTA Newsletter by **Monday, September 14, 2020**, to:

PalumboMatthew@yahoo.com

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