



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

March 2021

From the President...



It is hard to believe it's been a year since we had our last "live" event and many of us had to start teaching "online" lessons.

Thanks to our dedicated chairs and our webmaster,

John Ralph, we are continuing to offer many of our students' events through online platforms. These events are well attended and it is great to see so many students continue to make music. But I must say, I do miss seeing my colleagues at our events and hearing live performances of our students. Hopefully by next year at this time, we can bring back "live" events and see each other in person!

Since the last newsletter, we had our conference via zoom with fantastic presenters which were well attended with over 90 people. For next year's conference, we have decided to keep the virtual format just for one more year and plan for it to be scheduled in November. As soon as we have the date and list of presenters, we will inform our membership.

Please stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Junko Takahashi

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Twenty-two board members attended our zoom board meeting on February 8th and the following items were discussed.

E.R. Davis Piano Competition:

For safety, the board voted to offer this as a virtual event. To maintain the high level of competition, the board agreed that each student should submit one video for all the pieces rather than an individual video for each piece

Music Study Grants:

The board voted to offer eight additional grants if needed.

VP of Recording Secretary and Publication:

These positions have changed. VP of Recording Secretary will be Matthew Palumbo and VP of Publication will be Richard Hartzell (This switch was implemented in accordance to our by-laws).

Dr. Junko Takahashi

President, MSMTA

President
Junko Takahashi

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Maryland State Music Teachers Association



MSMTA Conference 2020

November 15, 2020, 1:00 – 6:00 ONLINE CONFERENCE

Wow!!! Our first virtual conference was a success!!!

We had an informative and educational afternoon with Brian Ganz, Jeffrey Chappell and Dr. Carol Wolfe-Ralph. It was nice to see old and new friends, albeit in a virtual setting.

We are indeed blessed to have the technology available to do our conference remotely.

Our Conference started with a wonderful presentation by **Brian Ganz** on Chopin's Creative Laboratory: Mining the Mazurkas for Experiments in Sound. It was an incredibly enjoyable hour and a half spent on exploring and listening to different Mazurkas. Brian did a great job of combining lecture, education and performance. It was a treat for both the ear and mind.



Brian Ganz



Jeffrey Chappell

Our next presenter, **Jeffrey Chappell**, helped us to explore new and different ways to use improvisation in our teaching. His presentation included helpful hints on sound, harmony, melody, rhythm, growth of your improvisation and expression. Wonderful ideas to incorporate into our teaching.

Our final presenter, **Dr. Carol Wolfe-Ralph**, shared her expert knowledge on Tax Time-What the Independent Music Teacher Should Know. This was extremely informative and helpful as we approach tax season. Thank you Carol for giving us many tips on how to best use deductions in our studios.

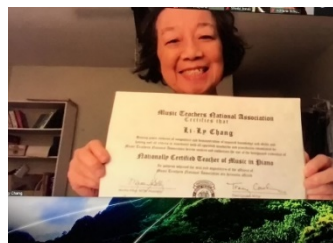


Dr. Carol Wolfe-Ralph

We also recognized two teachers who have achieved National Certification under the sponsorship of our Vice President of Certification **Helen Weems**. Congratulations to **Li-Ly Chang** and **Yee-Chen Pao** for achieving National Certification!!



Helen Weems



Li-Ly Chang



Yee-Chen Pao

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CONFERENCE 2020, cont.

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Many thanks to our incredible president and my co-chair, **Dr. Junko Takahashi**, who worked tirelessly to make the technology and registration happen.



Co-Chairs: Deborah White-Bondhus and Junko Takahashi

Considering this was a first for MSMTA as a virtual conference, we are pleased with the quality of the presentations, our local professional musicians, and level of participation.

Thank you MSMTA.

Deborah White-Bondhus

Dr. Junko Takahashi



Conference Participants

Look for future information on our upcoming conference – November 2021. This will also be a virtual conference. Can't wait to see you there!!!

CERTIFICATION

National Certification can be a useful resource for those dedicated teachers who lack a music degree but wish to showcase their commitment and skill as a music education professional. Certification is a boon for all music teachers, and I encourage all members of MSMTA to consider the certification process as a discipline toward more mindful teaching and an outward sign of one's career mission.

The Certification Study Group exists to support you on your certification journey. The next zoom meeting for this group is **Monday, March 29 @ 10am**. Please contact **Helen Weems (410-997-7524, weemspianostudio@gmail.com)** to request a zoom invitation to the meeting. All are welcome!

Helen Weems, NCTM

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
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Helen Smith Tarchalski

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Randy Reade

Local and Student Associations
Kathryn Stansbery

MTNA Foundation
Carol Wolfe-Ralph

MTNA Foundation Fundraising
TBA

Nominations
Ann Matteson

Technology
Daniel Lau

KEYBOARD

MUSICIANSHIP PROGRAM

The Keyboard Musicianship Program had 11 centers and 758 students participate in testing this year. Most testing was done virtually due to the pandemic. I am grateful to the chairs and teachers who participated in spite of the difficult circumstances. The new 2020 Keyboard Musicianship Syllabus was used for the first time, and I appreciate so many teachers' willingness to jump in and try the new material! I received several compliments from teachers about the organization and clarity of the new Syllabus. There were also suggestions for improvement and clarification, which will be discussed by the Keyboard Syllabus Committee during the next couple of months. Any (minor) adjustments or clarifications to the Syllabus will be announced by June 1st and posted on the msmta.org website under "members only."

The final application deadline for Keyboard Musicianship Awards is **June 1st**. Refer to the MSMTA website (Calendar/Keyboard Musicianship/Keyboard Awards) for details on how to submit applications.

I am so glad that teachers continue to find the Keyboard Musicianship Program helpful for their students. Wishing each of you good health and happiness!

*Laurel Carroll,
Keyboard Musicianship Chair*

MEMBER NEWS

MSMTA and AAMTA members **Carolyn Sonnen** and **Helen Smith Tarchalski** were included in an award-winning documentary short "**As We Are (tagline: When Words Fail, Try Music)**", which was accepted from thousands of entries and aired at the 2020 Woods Hole Film Festival. "**As We Are**" won the Audience Award! The festival was virtual this year. The film chronicles the work and development of a young autistic man as he prepares for and performs in a concert at Maryland Hall in Annapolis. Carolyn and Helen are interviewed in the film and are seen preparing him for the concert (Helen as his piano teacher and Carolyn as his music therapist and coach). Carolyn works with other autistic students in the film as well. Excerpts of Helen and the student's performance of Grieg's Symphonic Piece appear in the film. "**As We Are**" was rebroadcast along with the other award winners for Best of the Fest. The concert featured in the film raised \$60,000 to support a performing arts venue for autistic students. Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan and Anne Arundel County Executive Steven Schuh were in the audience.

Helen Smith Tarchalski

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

GREATER COLUMBIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

January brought GCMTA's annual "Music Tells the Story" and "Friends & Family" Festivals... two very popular events held the same day. Participation in these events was excellent! Music Tells a Story featured four recitals including a total of 58 performances. The Friends & Family recital featured 14 teams.

We have had, so far, two Outreach Recitals and are anticipating a third in March.

February 20th brings our Judged Recitals which will be held live on zoom. There will be four recitals with a

total of 43 performances. The participation we are seeing in all of our events is especially gratifying given the unusual circumstances all of us have endured for the past year!

Coming up at the end of April will be our Spring Solo Competition and High School Awards. Having navigated the waters of live zoom for the solo competition this past year and discovered some of the challenges, we are revisiting exactly how this event will take place.

*Jan Puckett
President, GCMTA*

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LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



Music Teachers Association of Bowie

As previously reported in the September newsletter article, MTAB is a small

local chapter with several older, but faithful and long-standing members for whom online platforms, such as Zoom, are not feasible for participation. Fortunately, we have a church, Village Baptist, in Bowie (where I have been a substitute organist for 18 years) that allows MTAB to use its facility for our events. We have held a small and successful "Autumn Harvest" Festival with four mini-recitals, as well as our December 12 Ensemble Festival with seven mini-recitals, which were very varied, with flute, clarinet, violin, guitar, percussion and piano ensembles. We canceled the January 30 Chamber Festival (not possible with a maximum of 10 people in the church), but we will host the Mirabella Spanish Competition on February 27, which has traditionally been "audition" format. The first place Winners' Recital will be presented at Village on **Wednesday, March 3**, as part of our General Meeting. Our January Board Meeting was held LIVE at the home of Marie Fulginiti, with seven members present. The MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Exams (scheduled for Sat, March 27) will not be held live at Village Baptist, but virtually, with each teacher judging their own students, as has been done in the other chapters this year. MTAB plans to hold our annual Senior Awards Competition in "audition" format, live at Village Baptist on April 24, with the winners' performance the following Wednesday, April 28. Our Spring Competition is scheduled for May 15 and will be held live, likely in "audition" format, while the Evaluation portion will be held virtually: prepared, administered and judged by Owen Adams, one of our "tech savvy" younger members. During this pandemic, we have found that our participating teachers and families are very grateful for the live performances, since they are constantly inundated with virtual school and work, and other endless online Zoom activities. Even with masks, social distancing, sanitizing and mini recitals, it has proved to be a welcome "breath of fresh air" for all of us! And we are especially grateful that our group is small enough to make these live events safe and possible!

Jeannine Case,
President, MTAB

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HCMTA experienced a drop in our membership numbers from last year to this year similar to MSMTA. We contacted our members who did not renew and heard back from some of them. It was disheartening to learn the pandemic has caused a difficult time financially for a number of our colleagues and their students' families.

The HCMTA Board shared this information with our current members and proposed lowering our annual local dues for next year by 67%. Half of our 40 current members responded with their votes and the proposal unanimously passed. We also proposed a reduction in entry fees for all of our local association live and in-person student events next year: 20% for Recitals and 10% for Festivals and Competitions. We included careful clarification this was for HCMTA student events. The response from our members was 85% voting in favor of the changes.

HCMTA is fortunate, even with the loss in membership due to the pandemic and several once in only 5 to 10 years expenses over the past several months, to maintain a reasonable treasury balance of over \$12,000. Our past members have been informed of the adjustments, and we hope this will allow their decision to rejoin MSMTA, as well as HCMTA, again next year to be an easier one.

HCMTA made a sizable contribution to Howard Community College's Piano Fund last year. We then also voted to institute an annual donation in support of this fund which began this past fall. There are several reasons for this: HCC is not only the home of many of our HCMTA student events, it is also one of several statewide venues for MSMTA's Keyboard, Theory and High School Exam Centers. In addition, there are the wonderful music faculty concerts, a number of which are performed by our own HCMTA members. HCC is also the location of the shining classical music star for our area's music-loving community, the outstanding Candlelight Concert Society Series.

HCMTA is looking forward to the return of our live and in person student events as soon as it is feasible to do so later this year. We wish the same for our local association MSMTA colleagues at their various venues across the state. Although still a gradual ongoing process, the light can now finally be seen at the end of the tunnel!

Christopher Hall
Co-President, HCMTA

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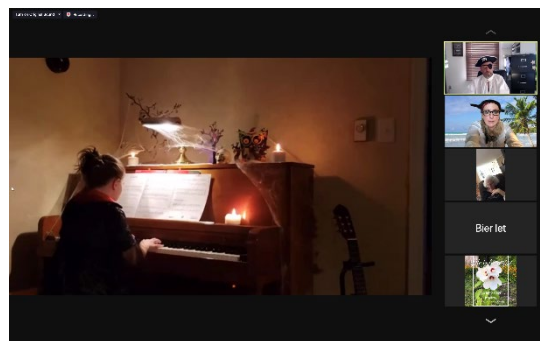
Greetings from the Frederick County MTA. We have had a busy Fall/Winter semester. During our October remote meeting, Dr. Jay DeWire presented "A Conceptual Framework for Developing Practice Techniques". This topic prompted much discussion among teachers on how to understand what is occurring in the mind of a student when they struggle at the piano. We discussed efficient solutions to our student's problems. November 10th, Miyako Zeng presented and facilitated a class on "Yoga for Musicians". We learned the importance of moving and stretching and common causes of injury. To end 2020 on a happy note 🎵, the teachers had a Holiday Gathering by ZOOM. Even though we could not meet in person, we still had a lot of fun. We played games like "Name That Tune", Holiday Trivia and guess the holiday song by using

emojis. Looks like this has become an annual event! Most recently, Michael Galdo presented "Improvisation- how every student can benefit from training in improvisation". The group discussed many insights on how improvisation improves musicianship and some concrete ways to teach it. A few of Mr. Galdo's students demonstrated their improvisational skills. All of these classes provide teachers with many ideas and tools to enhance their teaching skills.

We have had one student event. The Halloween Recital (see photos) was held on October 31st. Both students and teachers were in costumes. There were 35 students performing their "spooky" music in two Zoom recitals. Everyone had a great time! Students are now getting ready for the upcoming MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship and Theory testing. Finally, we are planning on our annual Sonatina Festival in April, still by remote.

FCMTA is looking forward to all the wonderful music and learning opportunities planned in 2021! We are also hoping that things will go back to normal and to be able to hold events in person!

All the best in the New Year!



*Sheila Jones,
President, FCMTA*





Towards the end of my term as MCMTA President, I would like to express my biggest thanks to our board for their great efforts and works, and members for their enthusiasm and support. This past year was not easy for many of us because of the pandemic. However, our event chairs/co-chairs were flexible and creative. Thus, most events were able to be held as scheduled. I am so grateful for our board. With this wonderful, strong, engaging board and the leadership of our tech-savvy incoming President Sara Cronan, MCMTA will continue to do well and grow.

Events held in the first few months went well – Our events were well-attended even though they were held in virtual format. There were three different days for our Zoom Elementary Recitals, for which we had 109 entries from the studios of nine teachers. On December 6, we had four online Judged Recitals. We had 37 students from studios of twelve teachers. The judges awarded 17 trophies and 20 ribbons. In November and December, we also had the Intermediate/Advanced Recitals and the MSMTA (Montgomery County) Keyboard Musicianship Exam.

Events in virtual format for the rest of the school year – As we have done from the beginning of this school year, we will continue with virtual format for all upcoming events through to the end of the academic year.

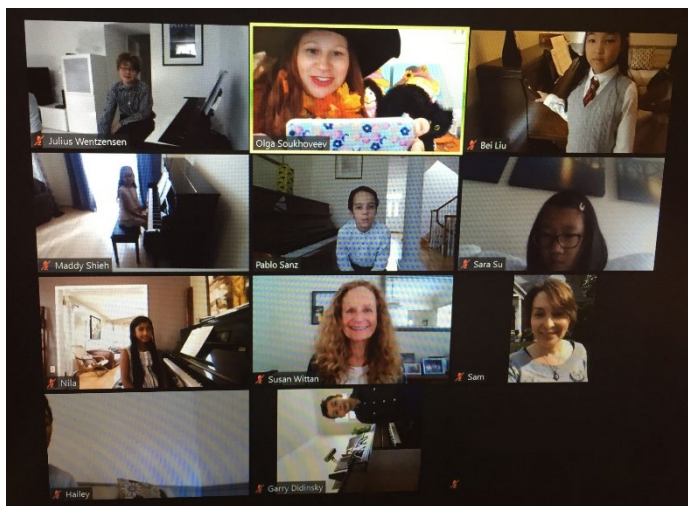
Teacher Grant for COVID-related relief – We have given out this grant to three applicants (\$1000 each). We are grateful to be able, as a professional family, to help each other during this difficult time in this tangible way.

Mini-Grants for needy families – During this pandemic time, a number of families are struggling with personal finances, and are missing in-person student activities. To help address these concerns, MCMTA is offering mini-grants to cover Student Activity Fees (50% or 100%) for our school-aged student events. Mini-Grant is offered for the 2020-2021 school year only.

November, December & February Membership Zoom Meetings – Many thanks to our VP for Programs, Immanuela Gruenberg, we always have great programs with wonderful presenters. From our November meeting, **Joel Weiss** presented *Finding your Allegro*. The December membership meeting was our *Members' Concert*. At our February membership meeting, **Marvin Blickenstaff** presented *Interpretation Rules of Thumb*. Many teachers expressed that they enjoyed the programs very much and found them very helpful.

In this final report of mine, I wish you all the best!

*Alice Ma,
President, MCMTA*



Zoom Elementary Recital

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

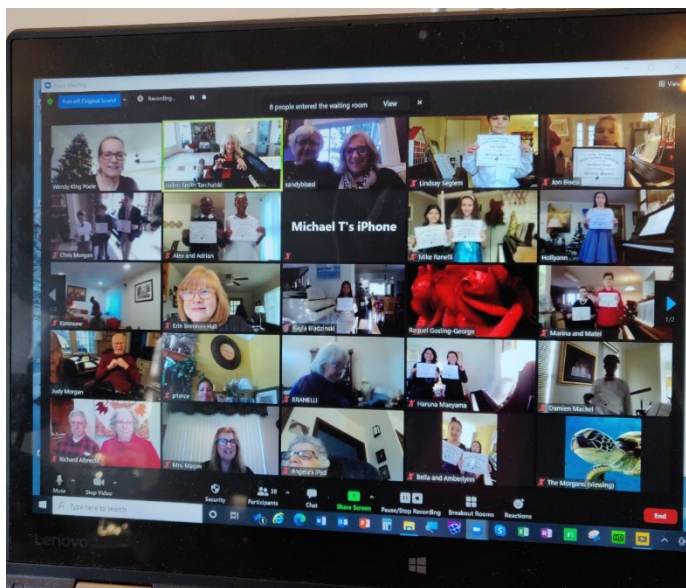
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Anne Arundel Music Teachers Association

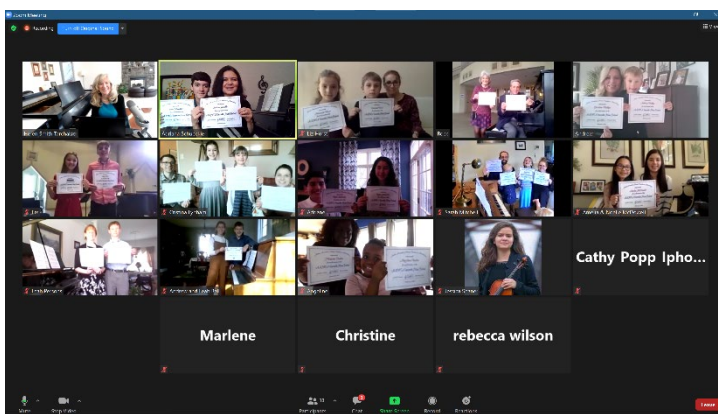


AAMTA students have been very active this school year so far, performing three live-streamed recitals. In November, our students filled three recitals for a *Fall Festival* in lieu of our annual *Melodies at the Movies Music Marathon*. In December, students performed solos and ensembles with family members in three recitals for our *Holiday Festival*. Performances included piano solos, duets, trios, electric bass, and vibes. We look forward to our chamber music performance with the Lodontowne Symphony Quartet in 2022, and we did move forward with two recitals for our *Ensemble Festival* with AAMTA students and family members who could join them. We heard performances on piano, violin, cello, flute, electric bass, vibes, and various other percussion instruments. Our festivals were made more exciting with large audiences from all over the U.S., Europe, Canada, South America, and Japan.

Helen Smith Tarchalski President, AAMTA



Holiday Program

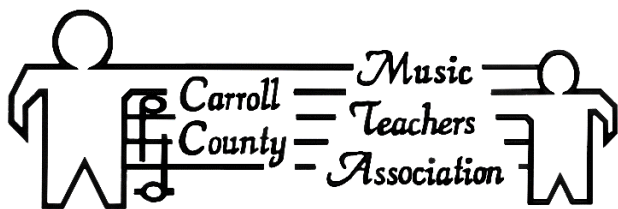


Ensemble Festival



Ensemble Festival

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The Carroll County Music Teachers Association began the 2020-2021 year with a general meeting and presentation on Monday, September 14, 2020 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Westminster, MD. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, social distancing, mask wearing, cleaning equipment and furnishings in use, and use of hand sanitizer were implemented. Seven of our twelve members were in attendance: Teresa Bliss and Dr. David Kreider, co-presidents; Arlene Bullock, Jane Dennis, current past-president; Cynthia Hoover, Karen Mihalko, and Kathy Novalis. Our long-time and esteemed member treasurer, Carole Gauthier, resigned her position and retired from teaching and CCMTA in August 2020. We all miss her diligence, expertise, and friendship. We discussed our proposed 2020-2021 Calendar, 2020-2021 Budget, the possibilities and details of holding our annual Costumed Recital, Music at the Mall, Solo & Ensemble Festival Recital, and Spring Masterclass for this year. Following our general meeting, we had a very interesting, informative, and educational presentation by David Kreider on intermediate-level student repertoire. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and felt it was a great kickstart to a new year of teaching!

On Saturday, October 24, 2020, we had our annual "Dressed For the Music: A Costumed Concert" at Dutterer Family Park in Westminster. It was a great success and so much fun! Thankfully the weather cooperated as fourteen students and two teachers performed pieces on piano and guitar of varying styles and themes from Halloween to classical master works. Covid precautions were followed for the health and safety of all students, families, and teachers. A huge thanks to Logan from Menchey Music for setting up and operating the sound/PA equipment, and to the Freeman family for the use of their Yamaha digital piano keyboard. They transported and set it up for us! And much thanks to Jane Dennis and Kathy Novalis for their indispensable help and assistance with everything!!

On Tuesday evening, November 10, 2020 we had a wonderful, inspiring, and most excellent presentation by Dr. John Wickelgren from Frederick Community College on the Taubman Approach to piano playing, also at St. Paul's. Five teachers and two college students of David Kreider attended. It was a delightful evening and so interesting to hear about John's experiences and successes in his discovery and use of the Dorothy Taubman approach to piano playing and performance, as well as his very direct demonstrations (with Covid precautions) of its principles and practices. We wished a few more teachers could have joined us for the evening. Due to a full evening of presentation, we decided to hold our regular CCMTA general meeting business through email.

Our annual Music At The Mall scheduled for December was cancelled due to Covid precautions implemented by the Town Mall of Westminster. We had also checked with Carroll Hospital Center with it's nice grand piano in the lobby. However, they too were not scheduling any activities this year.

On January 31, 2021, CCMTA launched its new Facebook page. A few posts have been created and we continue to work on publishing more as we update our information about activities and events.

On Monday, February 8, our general meeting was held at St. Paul's. Five members discussed business and planned upcoming activities. We also had a workshop in which we shared some of our favorite supplementary teaching collections and pieces for our piano students. Quite a variety of styles and genres were presented.

Coming up in March is our annual Solo & Ensemble Festival, followed on March 27th by a Piano Masterclass with Dr. John Wickelgren for our intermediate and advanced students.

We have had a busy and interesting year so far, filled with extra planning and careful work due to the pandemic. Carroll County Music Teachers Association is small, yet strives to stay strong!

*Teresa Bliss,
Co-President, CCMTA*

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

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The Greater Laurel MTA has had a number of interesting activities during the past fall and early winter. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we have had to conduct our events differently than usual, but have sometimes reaped unexpected benefits. For example, our enrollment increased for our fall Ensemble Recital, Stephanie Laios Composition Improvisation Festival, and Piano Concerto Competition. We suspect that the online format allowed more teachers and students to participate than would otherwise have been possible for these events when they were held in-person. The online format allowed the Laios festival to expand in scope. For the first time, we have been able to allow students to present composition performances that were purely playbacks of complex orchestral scores; the pieces could be rendered online with higher audio fidelity (which would not have been possible in person). Another innovation has been the advent of student ratings and “Audience Favorite” awards, which engage our online student audiences for our events, (hopefully) keeping them more engaged and listening more carefully to the performances of their peers. Other events held this year, like the Halloween Festival and our local center of MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship, experienced enrollment comparable to that of last year.

We are looking forward to some events in late Winter 2020 and Spring 2021, which also will be altered in format due to the pandemic. Our February themed festival this year, entitled “Elements of the American Melting Pot,” invites each participant to play one composition from a composer hailing from the student's genealogical or cultural background. We look forward to sharing how this event turned out, at the June MSMTA meeting. Instead of offering the Ensemble Chamber Music Composition in March, we will offer a second Ensemble and Chamber Music Festival, with fewer competitive aspects due to the challenging logistics that would be required. The remainder of the upcoming 2020-21 events will all be held online, including the local MSMTA Theory center, Young Musicians Competition and Evaluation, the newly renamed Lisa Bussing Memorial Competition (three-piece competition featuring French literature), Kirchhoff, and Mirabella. And even though we have successfully stretched ourselves to accommodate the new virtual world of music events, we also look forward to resuming in-person events in the not-too-distant future.

Jeffery Beaudry,
President, GLMATA

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 **Richard Hartzell** at:

rlhartzell@verizon.net

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please email all notices and copy for inclusion in the June 2021 MSMTA Newsletter by **Monday, June 7, 2021**, to:

rlhartzell@verizon.net

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Ann Matteson and Jane McIlvain Dennis,
Contributing editors

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