



# MARYLAND STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

[www.msmta.org](http://www.msmta.org)

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

June 2021

## From the President

By the time you read this newsletter, we will be into the summer and hope you are taking a much needed break.



What a year we had! It wasn't always easy to make

certain decisions due to the pandemic but I truly appreciate the support I received from our board and membership. We offered as many events as possible and in some cases, we had record numbers of students participating in the events. I know there were a few glitches along the way, and appreciated your patience, but I am proud of what MSMTA accomplished this year. We really could not have done this without our dedicated Student Activity Chairs and our webmaster, John Ralph.

Looking to next year, we are hoping to offer in person events, but there is still uncertainty with availability/protocol of venues and safety due to the pandemic. So, we may not be able to give definite dates or formats for all the events at this point. But we will keep you updated with our progress and we will continue to offer as many events as possible for our students and teachers.

I would like to welcome Jeffery Beaudry as our new chair for the Ann S. Matteson Composer's Circle and thank Joanna Greenwood for chairing this event for almost 20 years. Jo did an amazing job running this unique event where students can present their own compositions. I know Jeffery will continue to make this event meaningful for students.

In addition, I would also like to welcome back Donna White as VP of Certification and Bonnie Kellert as Member-at-Large on to our board. They will follow Helen Weems and Joanna Greenwood's terms. I

thank Helen and Joanna for their outstanding service during their terms.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to reach out to me any time. Have a wonderful rest of the summer and plan to "see" you all at our Zoom conference on November 14!

Sincerely,

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Twenty-seven Board members attended our zoom board meeting on June 7th, and here are some of the items discussed:

### MSMTA Zoom Conference 2020-2021:

The board voted to offer free registration to our membership

### New Upper Level Theory Award:

Theory committee proposed a new award for upper level. It was discussed and approved by the board. (please see the details in Dmitri Nazarenko's announcement)

### Gail M. McDonald High School Piano Examination:

Due to the uncertainty of securing multiple venues and concerns from some of our center chairs, the board approved to have this event as a virtual event for one more year.

### Rules Governing All MSMTA Events:

Revisions will be made to update our current rules. We will consult with our legal adviser Randy and will present recommendations to the general membership after approval of the board.

*Dr. Junko Takahashi*  
*President, MSMTA*

President  
Junko Takahashi

VP Student Activities  
Yoon Huh

VP Membership  
Edwina Hunter

VP Publications  
Richard Hartzell

VP Certification  
Donna White

Treasurer  
Carol Wolfe-Ralph

Recording Secretary  
Matthew Palumbo

Corresponding Secretary  
Douglas Guiles

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Lori McCarthy

Member-at-Large  
Bonnie Kellert

Immediate Past-President  
Constance Fischel

**Local Association Presidents**

Anne Arundel MTA  
Helen Smith Tarchalski

MTA Greater Baltimore  
Kazuko Ikemoto

MTA Bowie  
Jeannine Case

Carroll County MTA  
Teresa Bliss  
David Kreider

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Krista Keysar

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Eastern Shore MTA  
Raymond Hobbs

Frederick County MTA  
Peggy Flickinger

Howard County MTA  
Christopher Hall

Greater Laurel MTA  
Jeffery Beaudry

Montgomery County MTA  
Sara Cronan

Prince Georges MTA  
Janice Kilgore Wood

MTA Southern Maryland  
Debra Smedley



# Maryland State Music Teachers Association



MSMTA Conference

11/14/2021

12:00-7:00

Chair - Deborah White-Bondhus

Co-Chair - Dr. Junko Takahashi

Conference Committee:

Constance Fischel, Richard Hartzell,

David Holmes, Sheila Jones, Matthew Palumbo

## Virtual on Zoom

<b>12:00</b>	<b>Registration and meet and greet</b>
<b>12:15</b>	<b>Athletes and Musicians, Commonalities - Yoon Huh</b>
<b>1:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>1:45</b>	<b>Presentation on African Diaspora music (intermediate level) and music show case - Dr. William Chapman Nyaho</b>
<b>3:15</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:30</b>	<b>General Meeting     Dr. Junko Takahashi - MSMTA President</b>
<b>4:15</b>	<b>Collaborative piano – Working with World class vocalists vs. Intermediate/advanced students - Joy Schreier</b>
<b>5:30</b>	<b>Real Kids — Real Solutions Teaching to the Unique Differences of Each Student - Diane Hidy</b>
<b>6:45 -7:00</b>	<b>End</b>

## Conference Presenters: Yoon Huh

**Yoon Huh**, a gifted teacher who passes down her passion and energy to her students, has been teaching for almost four decades. A graduate of Juilliard Pre-College and a scholarship student of Seymour Lipkin at the Manhattan School of Music (B.M.) holds double Masters degrees from Columbia University (M.A., M.Ed.). A noted adjudicator and workshop presenter, she is founder and director of PianoTeachers.com.



*Yoon Huh*

An active member of MTNA, MSMTA, MCMTA, WMTA and SMC, Huh has held over ten committee member and chair positions and is presently VP of Student Activities for MSMTA.

Huh has taught at the Columbia University Teachers College, Carnegie Studio and Yamaha Music School.

When Huh was an advisor for the National Federation of Music Clubs Festival Bulletin in the Concerto Division, she gave workshops and performances for Concerto judging. She led a panel of judges in adjudicating skills and improving critiques for students. Huh has also served as an adjudicator at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference Competition in Anaheim. She will also direct the International PianoTeachers.com Competition in October 2021.

Many performances were given with her brothers as the “Huh Trio” in the Metropolitan NYC area, including Steven Tech Institute, St. Patricks Church in NJ, Paul Hall Juilliard School, Hubbard Hall Manhattan School of Music, Carnegie Recital Hall, Carnegie Studio, and playing the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Glens Falls Symphony in NY.

Huh’s special way of teaching has become deeply rooted in many students’ hearts through understanding the beauty, grace and power of classical music. Students leave the studio with a deeper knowledge of how to express their thoughts and feelings into music. Teaching each student to be a poetic performer is one of the essential keys of becoming a fine musician. Teaching students the beauty of music is the most precious gift of all.

### **‘Athletes and Musicians, Commonalities’**

As a pianist, have you ever thought about the movements made by your ten fingers each day while teaching and performing? Our fingers move far more than any athletes moving their large body parts in 12 months.

Discover the commonalities between the pianist and any athlete and see what physical conditioning is necessary in order to stay in motion for a long period of time. Since pianists require delicate dexterity in all manners of speed and strength, it requires certain training.

*(continued on page 4)*

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising  
Matthew Palumbo

Bylaws/Parliamentarian  
David Holmes

Certification  
Donna White

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

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## Conference Presenters: Yoon Huh (continued)

Explore five-finger exercises that will help young students to become more flexible, and at the same time, increase playing speed. Explore repertoires that are fun and strength building.

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## Conference Presenters: Dr. William Chapman Nyaho



*Dr. William Chapman Nyaho*

**Dr. William Chapman Nyaho** grew up in Ghana, West Africa where he attended Achimota School. He later earned his degrees from St. Peter's College, Oxford University, the Eastman School of Music and the University of Texas at Austin. He also studied at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève, Switzerland. He currently serves on the piano faculty at Pacific Lutheran University and on the summer faculty of Interlochen Center for the Arts. He maintains a private piano studio in Seattle, Washington, where he teaches students of all levels and ages. His students have been prize winners at competitions and have been well-placed in universities and colleges.

Chapman Nyaho's professional experience includes being a North Carolina Visiting Artist and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he held the Heymann Endowed Professorship and was the recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award. He has served as Visiting Professor of Piano at Colby College, Maine, Artist-in-Residence at Willamette University, Oregon and piano professor at Adamant Music School, Vermont.

Chapman Nyaho is an active solo recitalist, duo pianist, and chamber musician, giving recitals and concerts in Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean and in cities across the United States where he advocates music by composers of African descent. He actively serves as a regular guest clinician at colleges and universities around the United States and has been an adjudicator for several national and international piano competitions. He has served on national committees for the College Music Society, Music Teachers' National Association and the National Endowment for the Arts. Chapman Nyaho also serves on the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy board of trustees.

As an advocate for the music of Africa and its diaspora, Chapman Nyaho's publications include a five-volume anthology: *Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora*, published by Oxford University Press. His recordings include [Aaron Copland: Music for Two Pianos](#), [Senku: Piano Music by Composers of African Descent](#), [Asa: Piano Music by Composers of African Descent](#) and [Kete: Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora](#).

### ***In and Out of Africa: Exploring Piano Music of Africa***

William Chapman Nyaho will discuss the diversity of styles of piano music, the influences of traditional musical forms, dance, jazz and blues as well as Western European compositional practices on compositions in Africa and the African diaspora.

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## Conference Presenters: Joy Schreier

Praised by Plácido Domingo as an “orchestra at the piano” and hailed by Opera News as a “superbly emotive pianist [that] wrings every nuance out,” **Joy Schreier** is acclaimed as an “ideal support” at the piano, “providing much of the evening’s musical nuance” (Washington Post) and “perfection itself...the dream accompanist.”



*Joy Schreier*

Schreier has been presented in recital at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, the White House, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Corcoran Gallery, the National Gallery of Art, the National Museum for Women in the Arts, the National Portrait Gallery, the Phillips Collection, the Cosmos Club, Strathmore Hall, numerous embassies and recital halls throughout the country. She has appeared with the Marilyn Horne Foundation, the Vocal Arts Society, Partners for the Arts, Philadelphia Lieder Society, and was a featured performer at the 2016 New Music Gathering.

Schreier works regularly as the rehearsal pianist and vocal coach for soprano Renée Fleming. She is the principal coach for YAA: Classical at the Strathmore Music Center. Confessions, her 2020 CD release with soprano Laura Strickling, celebrates women’s words in song. For that release, Schopera declared that Schreier is “an indispensable accompanist. She is either preternaturally intuitive or has achieved perfect communication...perhaps a bit of both.”

Schreier’s concert engagements include a sold-out Carnegie Hall debut with soprano Danielle Talamantes at Weill Recital Hall in 2007, a recital series with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard for the Marilyn Horne Foundation, and a nine-performance run of Carmina Burana performed with the Washington Ballet at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. In 2009, she and Talamantes were prize winners in Thomas Quasthoff’s Das Lied competition as well as grand prize winners in the Lotte Lehman Cybersing Competition. While at the Eastman School of Music, Schreier was recipient of the piano prize in the Jessie Kneisel German Lieder competition.

An avid chamber musician, Schreier performs as official pianist of the Washington International String & Voice Competitions at the Kennedy Center. She has served as official pianist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions as well as Assistant Conductor at the Washington National Opera and coach for the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. Schreier is the Assistant Conductor and Pianist of the Cathedral Choral Society. She received her Doctorate in Accompanying and Chamber Music in 2003 at the Eastman School of Music under Dr. Jean Barr where she was the recipient of the Barbara Koeng Award for Excellence in Vocal Accompanying. Former teachers include Ann Schein, Laurence Morton, and Douglas Guiles.

### ***The Collaborative Experience: Preparing pianists for a lifetime of music-making***

Collaborative experiences provide essential life lessons, but also serve to prepare pianists for a varied career far beyond the scope of a solo pianist. This session details the vast career opportunities afforded a collaborative pianist - from working as a vocal coach and recital pianist with world-class musicians, to working with opera companies, symphonies, and choruses. Schreier will discuss the technical foundation necessary, the many differences between collaborative and solo playing, and explore creative and contemporary ways to prepare young pianists for collaboration, even in their solo repertoire.

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## Conference Presenters: Diane Hidy



*Diane Hidy*

American pianist, teacher and composer **Diane Hidy** is the first woman to win the prestigious American Pianist Association fellowship. Drawing upon her experience as a top performer and a master teacher, she really understands how to compose appealing, imaginative piano music that also feels natural to play.

Each week thousands of piano teachers count on Diane Hidy's practical advice. Her Sight Reading Flashcards, innovative Smart Scales, as well as her compositions and recordings are used by teachers around the world.

She has contributed to the teaching of children with learning differences with her groundbreaking books *Attention Grabbers*, the first and only music written specifically for students with Attention Deficit Disorder.

She made her Carnegie Hall debut following her studies with John Perry and Leon Fleisher. Hidy won the national MTNA Collegiate Artist Award. She attended the Julliard School of Music and holds music degrees from the University of Southern California and the Peabody Conservatory of Music. She has more than 40 recordings of standard piano teaching repertoire available on the Neil A. Kjos label and now available on iTunes. She collaborated with Jane Bastien, recording all six volumes of *Bastien Piano Literature*.

With Keith Snell, she co-wrote *Piano Town*, a method for beginning piano students. The series features abundant supplementary materials: Christmas, Halloween books and sheet music solos.

Currently she publishes her music, including her beloved Month Songs and All Cooped Up pieces, at [composecreate.com](http://composecreate.com).

### ***Real Kids - Real Solutions: Teaching to the Unique Differences of Each Student***

Piano lessons can be a genuine life-saver for kids outside the norm. Weekly one-on-one mentoring through music is something we've each valued in our own lives and a crucial reason we have chosen to become piano teachers.

Drawing on her extensive experience teaching quirky and delightful children, Diane Hidy will examine a variety of the challenges she has seen. She will explore innovative ways to adapt and tailor your teaching to connect with each child and their specific needs.

*"We are in an almost unique position to change the lives of our students. Sometimes (nearly all the time) we lack the perfect set of skills to produce the perfect result, but nearly all the time we succeed in bringing light and love into our students' lives by sheer dint of honest engagement and deep humanity."*

— *Elissa Milne*

What special concerns present themselves in piano lessons with students with ADD, visual or auditory processing issues?

What are the best materials and methods for teaching a child with these issues? What helps a child with ADD? How does that differ from what might help a child with dyslexia?

With her wealth of personal and professional experience, Hidy will give teachers practical tips to help understand and teach these wonderfully challenging students.

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# MSMTA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## 2021-2023 NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS OF MSMTA

The MSMTA Nominating Committee sent out the slate of officers that they chose for 2021-2023. There were no nominations “from the floor” so the committee is happy to present the newly elected officers for 2021-2022. Members who did not have email were sent letters by the US Postal Service.

**President:** Junko Takahashi – (2nd term of office)

**Vice President, Certification:** Donna White – (1st term of office)

**Vice President, Publications:** Richard Hartzell – (2nd term of office)

**Recording Secretary:** Matthew Pulumbo - (2nd term of office)

**Treasurer:** Carol Wolfe-Ralph – (2nd term of office)

**Historian:** Lori McCarthy – (2nd term of office)

**Member-at-Large:** Bonnie Kellert – (1st term of office)

For Your Information:

Other officers besides the ones listed above are:

**Vice President, Student Activities:** Yoon Huh (second year of her 1st term in office)

**Vice President, Membership:** Edwina Hunter (second year of her 1st term in office)

**Immediate Past President:** Constance Fischel

Many thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee: Douglas Guiles, Constance Fischel, Yoon Huh, and Lori McCarthy.

*Ann Matteson,  
Chair, MSMTA Nominating Committee*

## CERTIFICATION

During my two terms as MSMTA’s Vice President for Certification, quite a few members have earned certification through MTNA: Stephanie Bruning (administrative track), Katie Ostrovsky (teacher profile projects track), John Horst (teacher profile projects track), Matthew Palumbo (administrative track), Matthew Brower (administrative track), Li-ly

Chang (administrative track), Yee-chen Pao (teacher profile projects track). In process: Alice Ma, Lauren Di, Patricia Blanchard (all using teacher profile projects track).

My congratulations and encouragement to all these members. Although the process for independent teachers seems complex, the regular meetings of the Certification Study Group have provided an opportunity to break down the steps into workable segments, and to share tips and ideas and revelations regarding the technical and writing segments of the process. I have been honored to work with the teachers who went through this process with me, and I hope Donna White, MSMTA’s new Vice President for Certification, will find the same satisfaction in this leadership as I have. My best wishes to everyone, and especially to Donna!

*Helen R. Weems  
Previous VP for Certification, NCTM*

## COMPOSERS COMMISSIONING

American composer Stephen Gorbos, MSMTA composer commissioning 2021, will have his “Piano Trio” premiered by the Washington DC contemporary ensemble. He composes concert music for a range of ensembles and soloists. His music, described by The Washington Post as “lyrical...warm and richly drawn,” and by Chicagomusic.org as “pulsating with a sense of urban life,” navigates a wide palette of disparate traditions, creating a synthesis between styles as diverse as American rhythm & blues, western classical music, and Javanese gamelan. Whether composing for traditional ensembles, electronic media, or a mixture of both, Dr Gorbos tries to find and exploit the unique variables at play: this can be the technical abilities of his collaborators, or distinct features in communities with which he might be engaging on a particular project .

Active as an educator, Stephen also teaches composition, theory, and music technology as an Associate Professor of Music Composition and Theory at The Catholic University of America in the Rome School of Music, Drama and Art. He is Chair of the Department of Music Theory, History, and Composition.

*Li-Ly Chang  
MSMTA Composition Commissioning*

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# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## 2021 MSMTA THEORY HONORS AWARDS

MSMTA congratulates the students and teachers who have received the 2021 MSMTA **Intermediate Theory Award**. 73 students received the MSMTA Intermediate Theory Award for passing five levels with a score of 90 percent or higher from the studios of Lorri Yawney, Donghee Kwon, Irina Koulikova, Jeff Doenges, Mei-Yu Lin, Miri Frenkel –Yacubovich, Irina Gurevich, Svetlana Volkova, Carol Edison, Bok Hwa Kim, Bonnie Pausic, Patricia Blanchard, Karen Skelly, Yeechen Pao, Ruth Peng, Olga Soukhoveev, Chin-Yi Lee, Katia Merchant, Anne H. Chen, Deborah White-Bondhus, Chieh-Ming Lee, Yie-Chen Tsau, Jeongseon Choi, Elena Eliseeva, Helen Smith Tarchalski, Bonnie Kellert, Junko Takahashi, Fiona Moody, Adriana Schueckler, Alice Ma, Hui-Yen Chang, Christopher Hall.

Twenty nine students received the 2021 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, Edwina Hunter, Bok Hwa Kim, Irina Koulikova, Olga Soukhoveev, Katya Merchant, Deborah White-Bondhus, Chieh-Ming Lee, Yie-Chien Tsau, Helen Smith Tarchalski, Bonnie Kellert, Junko Takahashi, Tzi – Ming Yang.

Special congratulations to 5 students who received the 2021 MSMTA **Distinguished Theory Award** for passing level 11 with a score of 90 percent or above: Chelsea Tu, Una Mekic, Austin Zhu, Andy Wang, Cindy Wang from the studios of Svetlana Volkova, Yevgeniya Oleshkevich, Tzi-Ming Yang, Hui-Yen Chang. 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.

The MSMTA Board has approved adding a new award to the Theory Testing program. The Advanced Theory Award will be given to students who achieve scores of 90 or above on any 2 levels from Levels 8 through 10. To qualify for the award in 2022, at least one of the tests must be taken in 2022.

*Dr. Dmitri Nazarenko*  
*Chair, MSMTA Theory Testing Program*

## SPRING FESTIVAL - PIANO ENSEMBLE

The COVID-19 pandemic does not stop us, both students and teachers, from our passionate loving and playing of piano. Impressively, we have had 139 ensembles via video submission, from 32 teachers, and we are excited about the persistent effort and enthusiasm from our student and music community.

Ensembles have presented various formats: some players performed together, while others played with state-of-art software. Different from prior events, some players enlisted their family members to play together, bonding as a stronger community.

For this non-competitive event, students received valuable and constructive feedback from judges. Below is the list of teachers who participated. Thanks to all of YOU who have made this event memorable and wonderful: Amanda Ambrose-Brown; Audrey Andrist; Maja Blagojevic; Patricia Blanchard; Nancy Breth; Jeannine Case; Anne Chen; Irina Dvoynoy; Elena Eliseeva; Kathryn Evans-Santiago; Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich; Meri Gugushvili; Georgia Harvey; Edwina Hunter; Shwu-Ching Jeng; Hai Jin; Bonnie Kellert; Olga Kuperstein; Daniel Lau; Chieh-Ming Lee; Jaewon Lee; Alice Ma; Lori McCarthy; Marina Ovtcharenko; Hyun Park; Lara Parris; Debra Smedley; Olga Soukhoveeva; Junko Takahashi; Helen Weems; Deborah White-Bondhus; and Ya-Ling Yeh.

*Olga Soukhoveeva*  
*Chair of MSMTA Piano Ensemble*



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# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## 2021-2022 GERTRUDE BROWN MEMORIAL COMPETITION

Teachers are encouraged to enter their students for the Concerto Competition to be held early January next year. We hope to return to a full in-person competition this time. In order to minimize the risk, however, certain restrictions such as mask-wearing may still be in place. And we will do our best to make winners' concerts happen with an orchestra.

### Competition Repertoire:

Junior I: (5th grade and under): J. Haydn, Concertino in G Major, Hob. XIV:13, Henle ed.

Junior II: (8th grade and under): W.A. Mozart, Concerto in G Major, K.41, EveryNote ed. (available at <https://everynote.com/piano.show/1644.note>. If there is an issue with downloading, please send the payment receipt to Chair to receive a scanned copy.).

Intermediate: (10th grade and under) W.A. Mozart, Concerto in D Major, K.451, Schirmer ed.

Senior: (12th grade and under) L. v. Beethoven, Concerto in C Minor, Op. 37, No.3. Schirmer ed.

Application deadline: December 1, 2021

Competition date (tentative): Sunday, Jan 9, 2022

(See the website for further details and rules, though the website may not have been updated with the new information yet.)

*Hyun Park, Concerto Competition Chair*

## E.R. DAVIS MEMORIAL PIANO COMPETITION - HIGH SCHOOL

This year for the first time, this competition was held by video submissions. We had a high number of participations from 20 studios with 50 students (22 in 9-10th grade Division and 28 in 11-12th grade Division). All the judges were impressed with high levels of our students' performance.

Congratulation to all the performers and teachers!

### 9-10 Grade Division Result

**1st Place** Madeline Xu (Lu Bennaman)

**2nd Place** Lucy Chen (Mang)

**3rd Place** Rebecca Fan (Lu Bennaman)

**HM** Elizabeth Vinokurov (Arseniev)

**HM** Aiden Seo (Emenheiser Sarratt)

**HM** Qi Wei Chen (Emenheiser Sarratt)

**HM** Nathan Zhong (O. Kuperstein)

Judges: Dr. Rhoda Jeng and Soyoung Ryoo

### 11-12 Grade Division Result

**1st Place** Alena Lu (E. Arseniev)

**2nd Place** Madelyn Dwyer (B. Kim)

**3rd Place** Shuming Mao (Hyun-sook Park)

**HM** Jude Giddens (J. Litzelman)

**HM** Matthew Zhou (D. Kupeerstein)

**HM** Connie Chen (B. Kim)

**HM** Tan Nguyễn (M. Lee)

Judges: Dr. Martin Jones and Dr. Clara Park

*Dr. Junko Takahashi and Dr. Bok Hwa Kim – Chairs*

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# KEYBOARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

In spite of the pandemic, the Keyboard Program was able to test 765 students in 2020-2021. Most tests were done virtually by the teacher so that the logistics were manageable. This was the first year in which we used the new 2020 Syllabus, and many teachers had favorable impressions of the changes. This year of flexible testing was a good way for teachers to become acquainted with the new syllabus. For 2021-2022, the msmta.org website will list an addendum of clarifications or typo corrections by mid-summer. I want to thank all the teachers who used the program this year. It was a year that will go down in the history books!

*(continued on page 10)*

# **STUDENT ACTIVITIES** KEYBOARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Congratulations to the following 146 students, who received awards this year:

## **Keyboard Musicianship Award**

Jesse Zhao, Chelsea Sun, Claire Sun, Eli Becker, Madison Butler, Makayla Davis, Alec Sun, Emily Oh, Liz Frisbie, George Frisbie, Allan Ying, Jeremy Luo, Lucas He, Regan Fauzie-Wang, Aiden Zhang, Yun-Lin Deng, Ella Maruszewski, Alexandra Yaen, Nicole Schwartz, Ksenia Antipova, Prisha Emmanuel, Akhil Emmanuel, Kayla Young, Patrick Young, Ashley Liu, Brandon Liu, Kevin Shen, Anthony Wei, Amy Ye, Ann Zhu, Maddie Chao, Ellie Xu, Ella Wu, Beirui Zhang, Katherine Zhang, Jonathan Cao, Jacob Shin, Ethan Srivatjanapong, Kristoff Kurtz, Bella Konrad, Hali Duong, Allison Cheung, Nia George, Aidan Jamerson, Emma Ta-Zhou, Olivia Wu, Winnie Chen, Eric Nguyen, Jason Riedel, Kathy Wang, Julian Freisinger, Angela Wang, Yuchu Li, Olivia Bovell, Alex Doan, Alice Yacubovich, Leo Du, Elise Chen

## **Intermediate Honors Award**

Pranav Boreddy, Nathan Lu, Emily Ma, Sean Qin, Chelsea Sun, Claire Sun, James Li, Olivia Wu, David Liu, Grace Li, Andrew Liu, Alexandra Soukhoveeva, Sophia Zeng, Katie Xiang, Ryan Qi, Bentham Hu, Sunny Zhang, Angie Chen, Sophie Wen, Bernard Jin, Zachary Edenbaum, Mira Hotait, Sophia Mistry, Shaylee Huang, Chelsea Shimou, Kelvin Baldwin, Zorianna Chorney, Isadora Chorney, Jared Werner, Clara Wilson, Evan Chang, Sofia Marin, Andrea Marin, Elli Jacobs, Maja Gelvanovska, Zoe Cheng, Jonathan Cao, Ivy Guo, Olivia Guo, Sofia Vacin, Claire Lee, Hanna Zheng, Anthony Cao, Caitlin Liu, Brent Sare, Amelia Schreiber, Ellen Johns, Emily Johns, Haohan SiMa, Ertan Dogan, Frank Lin, Alissa Ge, Isaac Yoo, Jacob Zhang, Leah Zhang, Queenie Zhou

## **High Honors**

Olesia Soukhoveeva, Julia Yue, Vladimir Volkov, Mandy Guo, Jessica Hoang, Ryan Qi, Katie Xiang, Sebastian Tseng, Nina Wang, Ilayda Dogan, Hannah Sickel, Brianna Lan, Amy Zhou, Richard Zhou

## **Advanced Honors**

Vivian Yao, Eulalia Voo, Christopher Gunning, Emily Wang, Nathan Zhong, Abigail Ko, Claire Huang, Emily Liu, William Lu, Chelsea Tu, Jana Liu, Amanda Chin, Christopher Adams, Evan Wang

## **Distinguished Honors**

Emily Wang, Nathan Zhong, Abigail Ko, Claire Huang

## **Congratulations to the teachers of the above students:**

Patricia Blanchard, Jeannine Case, Hui-yen Chang, Anne Chen, Irina Dvoynoy, Elena Eliseeva, Kathy Evans-Santiago, Constance Fischel, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Meri Gugushvilli, Christopher Hall, Edwina Hunter, Bonnie Kellert, Bok Hwa Kim, Olga Kuperstein, David Kuperstein, Lori McCarthy, Kim Roberts, Olga Soukhoveeva, Junko Takahashi, Svetlana Volkova, Hsiu-Hui Wang, Helen Weems, Debbie White-Bondus

And finally, thank you so much to the chairs of each center for all your efforts running the program, and especially Edwina Hunter for co-chairing the Keyboard Musicianship Program!

Sincerely,

Laurel Carroll

Keyboard Musicianship Program Chair

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# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## GAIL F. McDONALD HIGH SCHOOL PIANO EXAMINATIONS - 2021

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, Dr. James W. Lathan and Mr. James L. Tucker, Jr., Chief, Aesthetic and Gifted Programs, the examinations are unique in that they are open not only to MSMTA teachers' students, but to any Maryland student in grades 9 through 12 who study piano privately. 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 205 students take the examination for recognition plus 1 student for credit. We are pleased to see this valuable program continue for the benefit of the students.

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

*Hedy Bannon, Maja Blagojevic, Patricia Blanchard, Kristin Butler, Jeannine Case, Anne Chen, Sara Cronan, Ariel Dechosa, Wendy Dengler, Irina Dvoynoy, Elena Eliseeva, Sima Elkis, Constance Fischel, Immanuela Gruenberg, Georgia Harvey, David Holmes, Conchita Jan, Bonnie Kellert, Heesun Kim, Olga Kuperstein, Carolyn Lamb Booth, Chieh Ming Lee, Mei-Yu Lin, Yao Lin, Ann Matteson, Alla Merport, Hesien Ann Meng, Dmitri Nazarenko, Cathy Donovan, Yengeniya Oleshkevich, Marina Ovtcharenko, Bonnie Pausic, Linda Pio Roda, Yee Chen Pao, Hyun Park, Laura Parris, Ruth Peng, Evelyn (Ye-Ling) Shih, Olga Soukhoveeva, Dr. Joan Spicknall, Junko Takahashi, Ziona Tuchler, Svetlana Volkova, Helen Weems, Roseanne White, Deborah White-Bondhus, Janice Wood, Cecelia Wyatt, Mei-Fen Yen, Ka Nyoungh Yoo.*

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

*Patricia Blanchard, Jeffery Beaudry, Wendy Dengler, Jeffery Doenges, Constance Fischel, Douglas Guiles, David Holmes, Yoon Huh, Edwina Hunter, Conchita Jan, Shwu-Ching Jeng, Carolyn Lamb Booth, Mei-Yu Lin, Bonnie Kellert, Ann Matteson, Ann McCandliss, Lori McCarthy, Matthew Palumbo, Janice Puckett, Debra Smeldley, Helen Smith Tarchalski, Yee Ning Soong Mary Stevens, Betsy Stockdale, Dr. Chen – Li Tzeng, Dr. Junko Takahashi, Helen Weems, Dr. Janice Wood, Dr. Carol Wolfe-Ralph, Cecilia Wyatt*

A special thanks to our webmaster John Ralph, who spent hours setting up the programming for this difficult program and helped iron out issues as they came up. Our students benefited from all his hard work. I would also like to thank Junko Takahashi with helping me to navigate the online program this year.

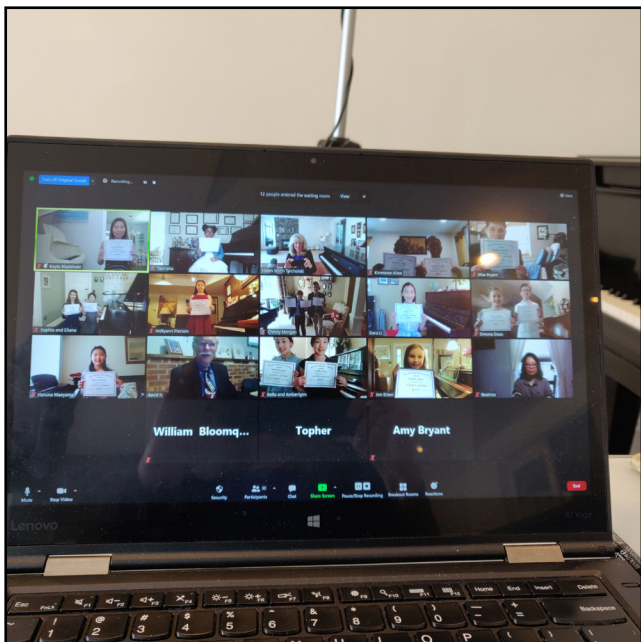
*Deborah White-Bondhus  
MSMTA High School Examination Chair*

# MEMBER NEWS

Helen Smith Tarchalski performed a livestream concert for the Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church Classical Concert Series on April 29th. Helen's program included works by João de Sousa Carvalho, J.S. Bach, Rachmaninoff, and Liszt.

## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

### *Anne Arundel Music Teachers Association*



Anne Arundel Music Teachers Association continued with all events on Zoom through the end of the academic year. Students performed in two recitals for our Spring Solo Festival. Bill Bloomquist, AAMTA treasurer, served as chair of the Solo Festival. We were pleased to welcome David Holmes as adjudicator. We again had a large international audience thanks to the virtual format, and we will continue to livestream even after we return to live performances. We will continue online for our summer Water Music Festival, an activity we hope to return to Truxtun Park in 2022.

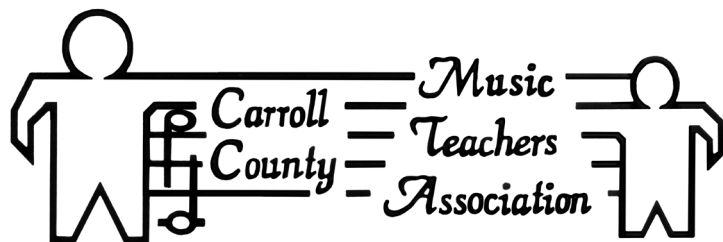
Twenty-five students have earned the 2021 AAMTA medals, and five are receiving plaques. A student can receive a medal after successful participation (defined by specific scoring and other criteria) in a minimum of five events, including the MSMTA theory test, across two years. A student

qualifies for the plaque after earning three medals.

The association worked together on a set of guidelines for the safe reopening of physical studios, which includes parent signatures on the Hold Harmless Agreement prepared by the MTNA attorney.

We are very happy to welcome new members Sonya Knussen and Woobin Park. AAMTA continues to grow and thrive, and we look forward to expanding opportunities for students and teachers in the new academic year.

*Helen Smith Tarchalski*  
AAMTA President



March was a busy and successful month for us! On Saturday, March 6, 2021 we presented two recitals in our annual Solo & Ensemble Festival at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Westminster. A 2:00 and a 4:00 recital featured 40 students total (37 piano and three guitar students) from the studios of six of our teachers: Teresa Bliss, Arlene Bullock, Cynthia Hoover, David Kreider, Karen Mihalko, and Sandy Naugle. This number of students was as many as we have had to date at our Solo & Ensemble Recital event! Each recital gathering consisted of 76 and 67 individuals at under 40% capacity, and we were still able to maintain social distancing, maskwearing, and wipe down piano keys between students. I think we had a good system in place that enabled us to present these recitals under CDC approved guidelines. It was a very enjoyable afternoon of fine performances and quite interesting programs! Thanks to our recital chairperson, Cindy Hoover.

On Saturday, March 27, 2021 at St. Paul's Church we had our annual Masterclass with seven students  
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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

performing pieces for our clinician, Dr. John Wickelgren. These students were from the studios of Teresa Bliss, Cynthia Hoover, and David Kreider. We all benefited greatly and learned so much from John working with these students who played selections by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Debussy, and Gershwin. Many thanks to Dr. Wickelgren, Jane Dennis, our masterclass chairperson, and great job, students!

On Monday, April 12, 2021 we held a general membership meeting at St. Paul's UCC in Westminster at 10:00am. We began with the usual business portion followed by a presentation by Sandy Naugle on teaching virtually. Sandy has been teaching online since before the pandemic and had much to share with us, teach, and encourage us in this new realm of music instruction.

In May, David Kreider and Teresa Bliss met with officers of the Community Foundation of Carroll County where funds from CCMTA/CAMTO were presented to establish our organization as a non-profit 501(c)(3), enabling our association to earn a much better return on funds that had been kept in a dormant savings account, and creating a source for scholarships to be funded for future competitions and programs. Information may be found at [carrollcommunityfoundation.org](http://carrollcommunityfoundation.org).

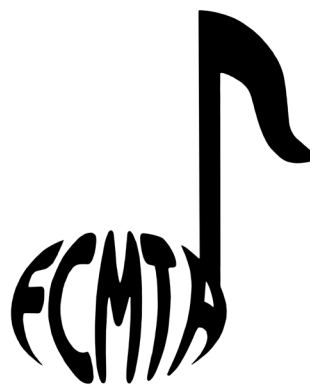
Also, in May the CCMTA Executive Committee met several times to work on updating and amending our CCMTA/CAMTO Bylaws. Hopefully, the bylaws and new document will serve us well for many years to come.

On Saturday, June 5, 2021 our annual CCMTA Scholarship For Performance Piano Competition took place at St. Paul's UCC in Westminster, MD. Nine students competed for First, Second, and Third Place in three age group divisions: 4-6th grade, 7-9th grade, and 10-12th grade. Students were from the piano studios of Teresa Bliss, David Kreider, and Sandy Naugle. Student Lanie Lilly (David Kreider's student) won the MSMTA Scholarship for Performance award. Diane Jones and Kathryn Harsha adjudicated with Jane Dennis and David Kreider, chairpersons. It's always amazing and delightful to hear these students perform, and this year did not disappoint!

Finally, we will conclude our busy year with a luncheon meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021 on the lovely new deck at the Kreider's home with "Covid-friendly" boxed lunches from the Blue Bistro Cafe in Westminster.

In Carroll County Music Teachers Association we are proud of our long history (1983-present) and so appreciate our members and enjoy working and serving together.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Teresa Bliss*  
*Co-President, CCMTA*

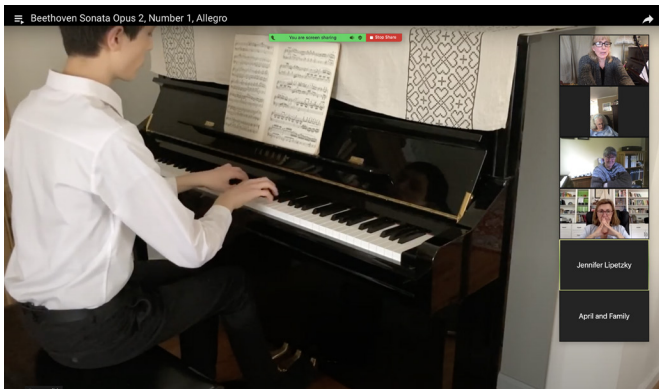
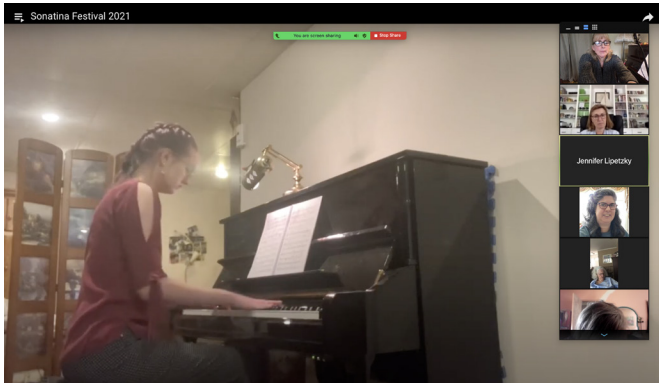


Greetings from the FCMTA! We just completed another busy year of music even during these unusual times! During our March remote meeting, Laurel Carroll presented a class on "Imitation v. Audiation: Why, When, What and How I Teach Students 'By Rote' ". This event prompted much discussion about the process in teaching rote and the many resources available. In April, we had a class on "Teaching Piano to the Very Young" presented by Jennifer Lipetsky. We had lots of discussion and learned about new ideas on how to use simple songs and games to teach rhythm concepts, keyboard identification, understanding skips and steps, and development of aural connections between the songs and notes on the piano. Our last teacher enrichment event was in May, "Distraction, Disorder, Dysfunction: 21st c. Childhood in the Piano Lesson" by Diane Hidy. We discussed many practical ways to deal with the normal difficulties that students present in lessons. This was a great way to end the year!

We were able to hold our planned student Spring events including the Keyboard Musicianship and Music Theory testing by using technologies. We held our 15th annual Sonatina Festival on April 24th. Forty-eight students participated in four Zoom Recitals (see pictures). It was a success, and the students were happy to participate. Teachers are now busy planning their end of year studio recitals.

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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



Our final business meeting of the year was held on June 8th in-person in an outside gathering. It was nice to finally see everyone in-person! We planned out the 2021-2022 year and elected the following officers:

**President** - Peggy Flickinger  
**Vice-President** - Christine Pappas  
**Secretary** - Karen Skelly  
**Treasurer** - Cindy Taylor

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! Despite everything, FCMTA teachers thrived because of their dedication and because their students made music a priority even during a pandemic. We always met monthly by ZOOM for 'breakfast'. This was a great way to gain support and help during this crazy year!

Have a safe and happy summer!

*Sheila Jones*  
FCMTA President

## GREATER COLUMBIA MTA

Although our **Outreach Recitals** were virtual for 2020-21, the participation was excellent! We had a total of four recitals ... two in December, one each in February and March. We are currently looking into whether or not Senior Centers will allow live performances this coming school year. If not, we are hoping to hold these events via zoom!

Our annual theme festivals, **Friends & Family** and **Music Tells a Story** had excellent participation in spite of the fact that both were held via zoom. **Friends & Family** featured 14 ensemble teams. There were 58 entries for **Music Tells a Story**!

Like all other activities, our **Judged Recitals** were held via zoom. There were 40 performers, 7 teachers, and 4 recitals. Our judges were Esti Prabowo (from Jakarta, Indonesia) and Helen Smith-Tarchalski.

Our **Spring Solo Competition** was a success, although challenging. Sixty one students were enrolled resulting in 8 recitals (6-8 students per group). Our judge this year was Stephanie Bruning.

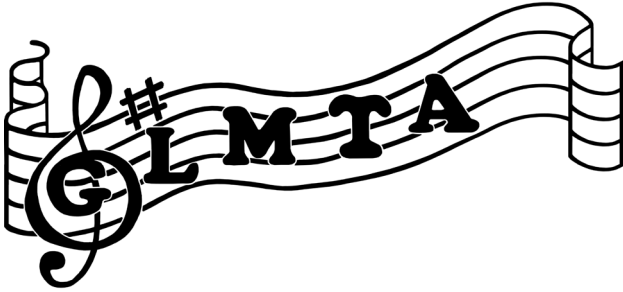
This year, for the first time, GCMTA voted to include instruments other than piano in our **High School awards**. We also changed our requirements from four periods to three periods of music and added a junior division (9th & 10th grades). We had a total of 10 entries at senior level (11th & 12th grades) and 6 at the Junior level. Our judges were Alexander and Lou Ann Peskanov. The MSMTA winner was Madelyn Dwyer, (Bok Hwa Kim's student).

We were thrilled to meet together IN PERSON for our final meeting/potluck in early June. We actually had a combined meeting ... in person for those comfortable with getting together, zoom for those who are not yet ready for in person meetings. We have decided that we will continue these combined meetings into this coming school year.

*Janice Puckett*  
GCMTA President

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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



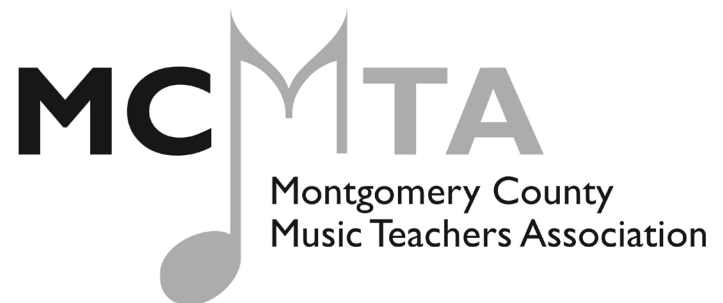
This spring at GLMTA, all events remained online for safety's sake. In February, our annual Theme Festival was a "family heritage" event, in which students played music by composers hailing from their own country of origin! This Theme Festival was very popular and approximately 100 students participated. Our annual March Ensemble/Chamber Music Competition was also unusual in that parents and siblings of participating students comprised the performing ensembles (it being too difficult to coordinate rehearsals

between multiple households in most cases). Our Greater Laurel/Columbia theory center teachers were active in this year's theory exams; in this pandemic year, most of the work was done by the state chairs and the individual studio teachers themselves, rather than the local chair. The year's final competitions (French, Kirchof and Mirabella) were all held online, as was the Young Musicians Competition and Evaluation. This summer, our own Doug Guiles is chairing both online and in-person solo and ensemble recitals -- assuming that our local venue, Laurel Presbyterian Church, is able to host the in-person events in mid-August. (The virtual events will take place in late July.) We are all looking forward to being able to do more in-person events in the 2021-22 term, including the return of our Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jeffery Beaudry,*  
*GLMTA President*

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Hello Maryland! My name is Sara Cronan and I have just stepped into the Presidency of Montgomery County MTA and am happy to have Carol Edison as my new First Vice President. (Carol, I hope you are ready for a lot of questions!) I want to extend a THANK YOU to our outgoing President, Alice Ma, for being supportive during this hectic time. Honestly, everyone has been super helpful and understanding, and I look forward to have a successful 2021-2022 year!



I know we have all had to adjust how our Local Associations have operated this year, and I am sure many of you are breathing a sigh of relief as our Student Events have closed out successfully. As a teacher, I am extremely proud of all the hard work that Chairs, Teachers (and spouses!), Students and Parents have put into organizing and executing a nearly full schedule of events-- for the County and for the State! I believe it shows us that our Association can accomplish anything it puts its mind to.

We have had an extremely busy end of the year, with our Elementary "Spring Fling" Recital, Intermediate/Advanced Recital, Judged Recital, Swarthout/Hayes Piano Competition, Senior Recognition Day and Adult Recital! Thank you to all the hardworking Chairs, not just from the latest events, but from throughout the year!

### **March, April, and May Membership meetings**

One of the best parts of being virtual, is that our VP of Publications, Immanuela Gruenberg, has been able to book presenters from most anywhere! In March, Dr. Peter Mack, presented "The Art of the Phrase" from the Pacific Northwest. Then, for the April meeting, Helen Smith Tarchalski presented "Taking All Students to Talent-Plus" from her home studio in Maryland. I thought the May meeting was really fun! We had a virtual piano recital from seven of our members! Thanks again to all those who played!

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# LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

## Next Membership Meetings

Due to planning difficulties and safety considerations, Sept 14 and Oct 12 general membership meetings will still be virtual. We will confirm in September whether or not we can resume congregating in person at Jordan Kitts, in Rockville, MD.

## Mini-Grants to help cover event fees

Due to the Pandemic, MCMTA was able to offer Mini grants to families struggling financially. It was decided that by helping cover the cost of MCMTA Event Registration Fees, we would broaden our reach. Ultimately, we gave out 89 grants for children to participate in various MCMTA recitals, competitions and festivals. Seventy five grants covered 100% of the student fees and 14 covered 50%.

## Weissenfluh Foundation

This is a grant-in-aid program established by the late John Weissenfluh in memory of his wife Margaret E. Weissenfluh. MCMTA was able to award \$6,000 over the last two years to musically inclined children who otherwise could not afford to learn an instrument.

I hope that we can all take a break, catch our breath, and start to build a plan for this upcoming year. While we all have a clear idea of how and why in person lessons are important, I have slowly come to realize that there is a place for internet based events and learning, and perhaps hybrid events as well. It will be interesting to see how our "crash course" in technology will affect how we utilize it in the future. For instance, I have a hard time imagining getting a "Snow Day". It will now be a "Zoom Day"!

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the MSMTA Conference!

*Sara Cronan*  
*MCMTA President*



Surprisingly, MTAB was able to present all scheduled events during this second half of the season, all of them LIVE, at Village Baptist Church, while enforcing the protocols of the time. On February 27, we held our Mirabella Awards Competition in audition format, with 42 entries, and judged by Dr. Stephanie Bruning and Yee Ning Soong. There were 6 events, with one tie for first

place, so seven first place winners performed at the March 3 general meeting and received their money prizes and certificates then. second and third place winners also received money prizes. The MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Exams were held virtually (or in person at the teachers' studio) on or near March 27, and there were 70 students entered from 7 teachers' studios. Our annual Senior Awards Competition was held on April 24, with 4 outstanding students who received monetary prizes from MTAB and also received the Gottlieb Scholarship, an annual award established by the Gottlieb Family in memory of their parents, Sylma and Bob Gottlieb. This was the last year for this award, and over eight years, MTAB presented 35 students with monetary awards, primarily based on their participation in MTAB events. Over the years, awards ranged from \$100 to \$1000, with the highest amounts going to students who had participated in 45+ events over the years. These senior students performed at our MTAB meeting on April 28. Our last student event for the season was the Spring Competition/Evaluation on Saturday, May 15. The Competition, which included a small number of 28 students from the studios of 5 teachers was presented LIVE, in recital format, at Village Baptist Church, and judged by Brian Gorman (a former student of Jeannine Case, who has a Masters Degree in Piano Pedagogy from Catholic University, having studied there with Jim Litzelman). The place winners of this event received trophies of varying sizes and the honorable mentions received attractive medals, and everyone received

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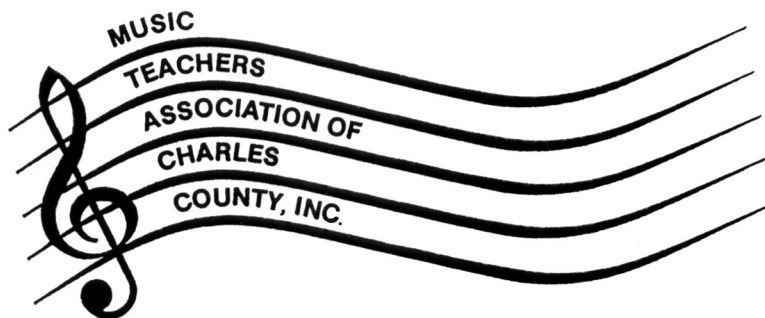
## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

their critique plus a lovely certificate designed by Terry Merchant. The Evaluation portion was held virtually and was implemented and judged by MTAB member Owen Adams (another former student of Jeannine Case, who has a Bachelor's degree in Piano Composition/ Performance from the University of Maryland.) The participating students also received critiques and certificates, plus a lapel medal for a "Superior" rating. MTAB's final Board/ Planning meeting and lunch will be held on Wednesday, June 16, at the home of Jeannine Case. We look forward to continuing our LIVE events, with larger participation now since the pandemic is behind us and the venues are opening up to half or full capacity. Have a nice summer!

*Jeannine Case*  
MTAB President

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The Music Teachers Association of Charles County had a very eventful spring! We are very thankful to have been able to hold in-person concerts, indoors, in some of our usual venues for our spring events. Our first event of the semester was a Winter General Recital, held on Valentine's Day. A lovely way to spend a "Love-ly" day! MTACC held another general recital (spring-themed) on April 17, and our flagship event, the Sonatina and Sonata Festival, went off without a hitch on April 24.



Although much smaller in scope than in previous years (and without a concert of winners), we had students competing across 9 levels and demonstrating beautiful musicianship and excellent preparation. The annual Scholarship Competition Day was held on May 8. This event was also smaller than in previous years, but was still a wonderful success. To close out our year, MTACC was very pleased to host guest-speaker Chiara Selby at our year-end General Membership Meeting. We look forward to a restful summer, as we prepare for another year of musical excellence!

Thank you so much,

*Krista Keysar*  
MTACC President

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## Music Teachers' Association of Greater Baltimore

The teachers and students of the MTA of Greater Baltimore have been active this school year, even though we were in the pandemic.

**Student Recitals** – We had three virtual Recitals in December 2020 and in March and May 2021. Student performances were pre-recorded and assembled into a recital format, and performers and their families and friends tuned into the virtual recital at the scheduled times. Most students videotaped their performances at their own home or their teacher's home. CCBC in Essex gave permission for students to videotape performances in the recital hall if they preferred that venue.

Participation was good - 22 performers in December, 31 in March and 25 in May. All students prepared so well and performed wonderfully at each recital. Teachers are Wendy Balder, Nicholas Bavani, Christopher Dillon, Kay Ikemoto, Yoshie Kubota, Jacqueline Okoh, Lisa Rehwoldt, Yuka Stein and Betsy Stocksdale.

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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

The May Honors Recital included the middle school scholarship competition. We invited Dr. Teodora Adzharova as adjudicator for the recital. Thank you, Teodora for your time, excellent feedback, and comments to our students. Congratulations to Terence Huang, recipient of the scholarship! He is the student of Betsy Stocksdale.

Triple Crown trophies were awarded to 16 students from the Greater Baltimore chapter. To receive a trophy a student participates in three or more events during the year. Congratulations! Teachers of the award winners are Nicholas Bavani, Kay Ikemoto, Yoshie Kubota, Jacqueline Okoh and Yuka Stein. The Adult Recitals were also virtual events, held in November 2020, with four participants, and in April 2021, with five performers. All performers played so beautifully! The teachers are Kay Ikemoto, Ann McCandliss and Catherine Renggli.

**Theory Test** – Due to coronavirus, all theory tests were administered virtually on March 6, 2021. Participation for Greater Baltimore was greatly reduced this year. Nine students participated, and all earned a grade higher than 90 points. Participating teachers were Joanna Greenwood, Chin-Yi Lee and Jacqueline Okoh.

Musicianhip Test Participating teachers were Joanna Greenwood, Kay Ikemoto, Ann McCandliss and Jacqueline Okoh. There were about 15 students altogether. Due to Covid, each teacher judged their own students.

**Matinee** – Due to coronavirus, all the meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of each month, were held on Zoom, chaired by Catherine Renggli. Even virtually, the participants enjoyed performing, listening, encouraging and motivating each other. About 7-9 teachers attended each month.

It has been 8 months since I became the president of the MTAGB. It was my first experience, and there was a pandemic that had started so sometimes I felt unsure for some decisions, but everything went well, and I really appreciate the members' support. I am looking forward to the events next year!

Sincerely,  
Kazuko (Kay) Ikemoto  
MTAGB President

There has been music in the air throughout Southern Maryland this spring as we have joyously started our return to normalcy. Our wonderful and determined teachers, hardworking young musicians, dedicated families and generous church members who have donated their worship space for our recitals have joined together to hold events that followed strict covid guidelines and still allowed our performances and activities to continue.



We held a performance day in February with three general recitals, March brought our annual adjudicated Spring Festival for Piano, and May featured honors recitals for nominated students in grades 4 through 12. All students received trophies for being selected to perform, and winners were chosen for each age group.

We are also proud to announce that Joseph Smoot, student of Patricia Blanchard, was the winner of the MSMTA Scholarship for Performance award. Our students and teachers also took part in the MSMTA theory test, the keyboard musicianship test, the solo piano festival, the ensemble festival, and the high school exams.

I would like to publicly thank and honor our MTASM Board members by name: Patricia Blanchard, Georgia Harvey, Donna C. White, Mary Stevens and Joan Chovanes for their wisdom, advice and incredible commitment to our association and our young musicians and their families during this unprecedented year.

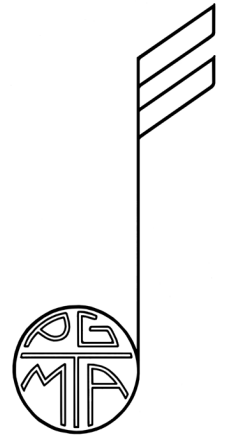
Our association would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to MSMTA and the event chairpersons for finding creative ways to keep events going for our students. Best wishes from MTASM for a wonderful summer and an epic 2021-22 year ahead.

Debbie Smedley  
MTASM President

# LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

On April 24, 2021, PGMATA held one combined competition for MSMTA Student Scholarship for Performance Award, PGMATA Eunice Wilson Greene Scholarship and Gail McDonald Memorial Scholarship. The competition was held virtually as last year, because of the Covid-19 pandemic. All students made performance videos and emailed them directly to the judge. The judge then made decisions based on the music while ignoring the quality of pianos and recordings.

Ms. Mei-Yu Lin was the chairperson of this combined competition. There were two studios participating: studio of Dr. Hui-Yen Chang and of Mei-Yu Lin. The winner of the MSMTA Student Scholarship for Performance Award was Amy Zhou, a student of Dr. Hui-Yen Chang. The winner of the Eunice Wilson Greene Scholarship went to Grace Hu, a student of Mei-Yu Lin. The recipient of Gail McDonald Memorial Scholarship was Grace Hu, who played the best romantic piece. We deeply appreciate our judge, Li-Ly Chang from the Montgomery County Music Teachers Association, in the midst of this pandemic.



The last event of the season PGMATA held was the Spring Recital, chaired by Dr. Harmony Yang, with participating studios of Ms. Catherine Pruet, Ms. Ann Mattesson, and Ms. Mary K. Traver. The recital was conducted in the form of a live Zoom meeting, and it was successfully attended by students, teachers, and their families.

PGMATA's Spring Meeting happened June 5th, 2021, and the pieces for the Saul Roas Competition were presented that day. PGMATA also held elections for the new officers on that day. The new slate of officers for 2021-2023 include Dr. Janice Kilgore Wood as the president, Ms. Ellen Sakai as the vice president, Ms. Meghan Shanley as the secretary, Ms. Mei-Yu Lin as the treasurer, and Ms. Seana Cranston as the historian. We thank the nominating committee for their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dr. Harmony Yang*  
PGMATA President 2017-2021

## 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](mailto:rlhartzell@verizon.net)**

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please email all notices and copy for inclusion in the September 2021 MSMTA Newsletter by **Monday, September 13, 2021**, to:

**[rlhartzell@verizon.net](mailto:rlhartzell@verizon.net)**

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Ann Matteson and Jane McIlvain Dennis,  
Contributing editors

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