



# 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

February 2022

## From the President.....

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday, staying healthy and maybe enjoying the warm weather by now.

Since the last newsletter in the fall, we had a few events including our annual conference, Ann S. Matteson Composers circle and Gertrude S. Brown Piano concerto competition.

Our annual conference was presented virtually but was well attended and received good feedback from the members. At the recent board meeting, the board voted to continue a virtual conference for one more year and it will be on **Sunday, Jan. 22, 2022**. So please save the date! The committee will start working in April to plan for this conference. If you have any suggestions, please contact me or the conference co-chair, Debbie White-Bondhus.

Both Composers Circle and Brown Piano concerto competition were offered in person. With Covid restrictions, careful preparation was needed and I am thankful to our dedicated chairs, Jeffery Beaudry and Hyun Park, for managing the event beautifully. It was really great to see students perform in person at the Composers Circle and concerto competition winners concerts. We hope to have more live events in the spring.

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

*Dr. Junko Takahashi*  
*President, MSMTA*



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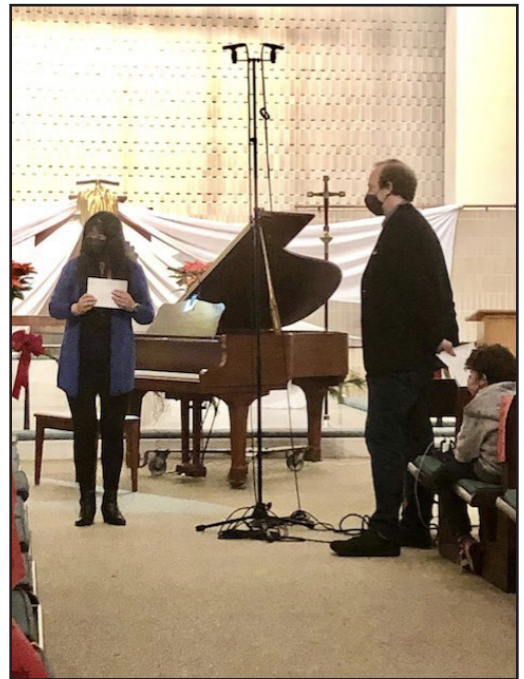
Southern Maryland MTA  
Debra Smedley

# COMPOSER COMMISSIONING

The 2021 MSMTA commissioning piece, Dr. Stephen Gorbos's *Vox Siderum* (Latin for 'Voice of Stars') for piano trio was premiered at the Ann S. Matteson Composers and Improvisers Circle, December 13, 2021. The piece was performed by the Contemporary Ensemble:

Sandy Choi, Violin  
Erin Snedecore, Cello  
Elizabeth Hill, Piano

Dr. Gorbos is Associate Professor of Music Composition and Theory Chair of the Department of Music Theory, History, and Composition at the Rome School of Music, Drama and Art at The Catholic University of America.



MSMTA president Junko Takahashi presents check to composer Stephen Gorbos

"I think of the form as a big wedge: similar to Ravel's *Bolero*," Dr. Gorbos writes. "It gradually speeds up and gets louder/more virtuosic through three main sections, with a short coda on the end. The harmonies are all drawn from that opening melody, and the "cosmic chords" that the piano plays 2x (once as unison chords ca. 1/3 of the way in, then again at the end with a fuller harmony). I thought of those piano chords (the ones that sound a little like Messiaen) as cosmic, in the sense that they have a weird voice-leading logic to them, but not tonal/modal/major/minor."



Dr. Stephen Gorbos (middle back) with young composers

The event also featured pieces by 17 young composers, and Dr. Gorbos gave constructive, encouraging comments to them about their works in terms of form, structure, texture, and color. He was very helpful, and personable. All enjoyed his talk, as well as his new composition. We all are looking forward to the next composer event. Happy Tiger Year and Happy Valentine to all!

*Li-Ly Chang*  
*Chair of Composer Commissioning*

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP PROGRAM**

The Keyboard Program testing this year has run smoothly, using the new 2020 Syllabus for the second year. It has been primarily done by teachers testing their own students, due to the ongoing pandemic. The outlook for next year is looking better, so we may be able to go back to our usual gathering at local centers next year! (Fingers crossed.) I want to thank each of the Keyboard center chairs for their efforts to keep the program going for their group. This program could not run without you! Thank you also to Edwina Hunter for her help in gathering the checks and getting them deposited!

The last official deadline for nominating students for Keyboard Awards is June 1st. Please go to [msmta.org](http://msmta.org), then click on "Student Activities," scroll down to the Keyboard Musicianship Program, and click on "Award Nomination" for instructions. I'm hoping for an online form soon, so if it happens, it will be there.

Thank you so much for all the teachers who have participated in the program! All the best to you and your students!

*Laurel Carroll*  
*Keyboard Musicianship Chair*

## **BROWN MEMORIAL COMPETITION**

Due to the pandemic, 2020-2021 Competitions were held virtually for Junior I in February and in-person for the rest of the Divisions in June. Special thanks go to PianoCraft for their gracious support of allowing the hall for the competition. There were a total of 140 entries from 18 teachers. Since the Winners Concert was not feasible, cash awards were given to the winners instead.

We had better luck for this season to be able to return to normalcy despite lingering concerns of the pandemic, and of course with all necessary measures such as masks and limited gatherings inside the venue. The 2021-2022 Gertrude S. Brown Memorial Concerto Competition was held at UMBC on Sunday January 9, 2022 with a total of 161 entries from 22 teachers. All participants and award winners (24 Winners, 24 Alternates and 32 Honorable Mentions as shown on MSMTA website) deserve special congratulations. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the judges, accompanists and teachers - without their dedicated help the event would not have been as successful. Special thanks go to Dr. Junko Takahashi, MSMTA President and Dr. Bok Hwa Kim for their help throughout the competition. Our appreciation also goes to UMBC for their solid support for holding the event in their facilities despite the serious concerns.

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Daniel Lau

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# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## BROWN MEMORIAL COMPETITION (continued)

Winners of the competition performed their winning pieces as soloists with New England Youth Ensemble of Washington Adventist University (Dr. Preston Hawes and Dr. Brian Liu, co-conductors) on February 6th at Sligo Seventh Day Adventist Church in Takoma Park. Enclosed photos are the performers of the four concerts – four instead of the usual two so as to limit the number of attendees.



*Hyun Park  
Concerto Competition Chair*

# LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

I'm happy to report that performances by our MTASM students have warmed our hearts and inspired us during these cold winter months. We were so happy to have our Christmas Marathon return for the first time since Covid began. It was wonderful to have students from ages 4 to adult share their Christmas pieces in six recitals. We were also able to meet baby Meadow for the first time when she attended the last recital of the day with her mom, MTASM member Abby Di Marco. In February, we were also able to participate once again in the Kalnasy Concert Series with a recital day including solo and ensemble performances. We now look ahead to our Spring Festival for Piano in March and our Junior, Intermediate and Senior Honors recitals and Competitions in May. In the meantime, we are working hard to prepare for the MSMTA Theory Test, High School Exams, and other MSMTA performance events this spring. Despite our weariness with Covid, the music continues on in Southern Maryland.



Music Teachers' Association of  
Southern Maryland

*Debbie Smedley*  
MTASM President

## Music Teachers' Association of Greater Baltimore

The teachers and students of the MTA of Greater Baltimore have been active since the beginning of the school year even though we are still in the pandemic.



Student Events - We started with a Halloween piano party on Saturday, October 30th 4-6pm 2021 on the porch of the white house in Patterson Park in Baltimore. Teachers decorated the porch with a Halloween theme and a digital piano was brought in. The recital was divided into three groups and a total of 35 students performed. Most of them dressed in costumes that related to the titles of the pieces they performed! All the students did a great job and looked so cute/cool.

The teachers provided candies for the performers. Students, parents, guests and teachers had a great time. Thank you, Joshua Espinoza, for organizing the event. Participating teachers were Joshua Espinoza, Kazuko Ikemoto, Yoshie Kubota, Ann McCandliss, Yuka Stein and Betsy Stocksdales.

The fall student recital was held in the concert hall at CCBC (Community College in Baltimore County) in Essex on Sunday, November 7th. Due to Covid-19, everyone wore masks. Students were allowed to invite only one person per family. 17 students played and they performed so beautifully. Thank you, Betsy Stocksdales and Pat Graham, for organizing it. Participating teachers were Kay Ikemoto, Yoshie Kubota, Catherine Renggli, Yuka Stein and Betsy Stocksdales.



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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS - MTAGB (cont.)

Matinee Meetings - Our meetings were held in person at Steinway Gallery in Hunt Valley in November and December. The members had a great time seeing each other in person, because they had been meeting by zoom since the pandemic started. Thank you, Matthew Bachman, for allowing us to use the Gallery. Due to Omicron, we returned to meeting by zoom after the holidays, but hope to meet in person soon. The performers and listeners always have a great time hearing their colleagues perform. Programs have included works such as Schumann *Canonic Etudes*, Brahms *Intermezzos*, Scriabin *Etudes*, Chopin *Mazurkas*, Christmas pieces, narrated pieces from the musical *Facade* by William Walton, Handel *Fantasia*, Debussy *L'isle Joyeuse*, Mozart sonatas, Faure *Impromptu*, Beethoven sonatas and pieces that Yoshie composed. Thank you to Catherine Renggli for organizing the matinees.

We are looking forward to upcoming events- Student recital/middle school competition on Sunday, February 27th and student recital/high school competition on Sunday, May 15th.

*Kazuko (Kay) Ikemoto*  
*MTAGB President*



Our 1st General Meeting on September 15 was followed by a program featuring an expressive and technically masterful performance by new member Sarah Young. After that, we prepared for and presented our 1st student event of the season, the Autumn Harvest Festival, on Saturday, October 30, at Village Baptist Church. The festival was chaired by Liuba Pupo-Ortega and dedicated to the memory of our

recently deceased member, Barbara Kornreich. There were three recitals with 50 students (many in costumes – see the enclosed pictures), from the studios of six teachers. At the conclusion of each recital, the students chose a snack bag, and a large candy bar, courtesy of the Kornreich Fund. Our December 11 Ensemble Festival was chaired by Katya Merchant, whose husband, Terry, created beautiful certificates with snowmen wearing “MTAB” masks! Three recitals were again presented, with 50 participating students from the studios of five teachers. Many instruments were featured, including piano, violin, trumpet, clarinet, guitar and a variety of percussion instruments. Afterward, the students received their certificates and large candy canes filled with a variety of chocolates, again courtesy of the Kornreich Memorial Fund.

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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS - MTAB (cont.)



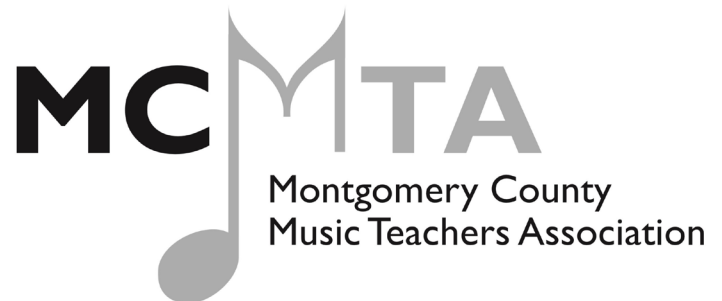
Our next student event, the Classical Competition, will be held on Saturday, February 26, and is chaired by Katya Merchant and judged by Dr. Christine Kim. There will be six groups with money prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd, plus a special monetary award for the “best Classical” piece on the younger two levels. The 1st place winners will perform at our March 2 General Meeting and receive their certificate and monetary award at that time. The remaining student events are the March 26 Keyboard Musicianship Exams (MSMTA), the Senior Awards competition on April 30, and the May 14 Spring Competition (LIVE) and Spring Evaluation (VIRTUAL) chaired by Jeannine Case and Owen Adams, respectively. As with last year, all events are held at Village Baptist Church in Bowie.

Have a nice Spring, and hope all stay safe, with no more Covid infected students or teachers!!

*Jeannine Case*  
*MTAB President*

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Greetings from Montgomery County MTA!  
It has been a successful first half of the year for MCMTA, even with the pandemic still creating chaos. All of meetings for the year, have been, and will continue to be online only. We are currently in the midst of securing a new Membership Meeting place and are hopeful to be starting back to in-person meetings in September.



MCMTA Membership has been slowly, but steadily increasing throughout the school year. We currently have 152 members, several of which are brand new! I am hopeful that we will continue to grow our ranks to serve a wider community in Montgomery County.

We held several virtual events since the start of the school year: 2 Elementary Recitals, 3 Intermediate/Advanced Recitals, and 2 Judged Recitals. We are very pleased that our events have been running smoothly due to the dedication of the event chairs: Olga Soukhoveev, Elena Eliseeva, and Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich. We still have the Intermediate/Advanced Recital (April 3rd), Elementary “Spring Fling” Recital (April 23rd) and a Judged Recital (April 24th ) upcoming.

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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS - MCMTA (cont.)

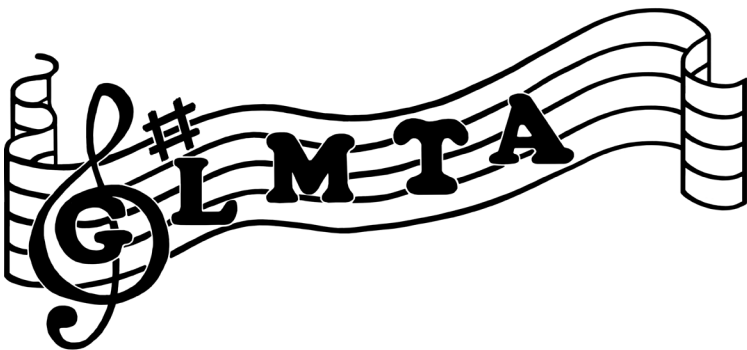
The final weekend in February we have the Festival of Music, chaired by Guity Adjoodani, and the Ensemble Recital headed by Alice Ma and Co-chair Hai Jin. Both events have reported they had high registration rates this year! These events are in good hands, and I am confident they will be wonderful experiences for the participants thanks to the Chairs!

MCMTA is excited to host our only in-person event on April 3rd, the Swarthout/Hayes Piano Competition Chaired by Bonnie Kellert and Co-chaired by Junko Takahashi, at Piano Craft in Gaithersburg. This event is an audition style competition--it was even able to run a successful in-person event the previous year during a spike in the pandemic. We know that teachers and students alike are grateful for any opportunities to perform in-person during this troublesome time. We are proud to offer such a great experience to our students thanks to the dedication of the Chairs!

This year has kept us on our toes, and MCMTA will continue to provide the best it can to the membership. It is so inspiring to know that Maryland is full of dedicated and creative teachers!

May you all stay healthy and safe!

*Sara Cronan*  
MCMTA President



GLMTA has been proceeding with its usual activities this winter in modified form, due to the ongoing Covid/Omicron crisis. This past weekend, our Theme Festival was held in an online format. This year, the theme was "Composers Born in 1900 or After." In March, we will present the Ensemble and Chamber Music Competition as well as the Young Musicians Competition and Evaluation. In order to maintain social distancing and safety of our judges and participants, only the Two Piano

Duo and Chamber Music portions of the Ensemble and Chamber Music Competition will be held in person; the other portions, including our many piano duet entries, will be held online again this year. The Young Musicians Competition will be held in person, but in an audition format rather than a recital format, again to minimize contact between participants, judges, etc.; however, the smaller Young Musicians Evaluation will be held online. Also in March, GLMTA members will participate in the MSMTA Theory program as part of the GLMTA/GCMTA center. We are taking a wait-and-see approach before deciding how to handle the remainder of the year's events, including April's Lisa Bussing Memorial French Competition and May's Kirchhof, Mirabella, Wardall and MSMTA Performance Awards. We hope that hygienic conditions will improve so that we can offer as many of these as possible in person. Finally, we were one of those local MSMTA associations who received a questionable Form 1099-K, allegedly from Stripe, Inc., although this has yet to be determined. We are working with MSMTA and with knowledgeable CPAs and attorneys in our community, so we can figure out how to proceed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeffery Beaudry*  
President, GLMTA



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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

# Greater Columbia Music Teachers Association

January 22nd brought GCMTA's popular festivals, both of which take place on the same day each year ... Music Tells the Story and Friends & Family. Participation was great in spite of the fact that these recitals were held virtually. We had a total of four recitals, three Music Tells the Story and one Friends & Family (it was no small feat getting teams together to practice during this unusual time).

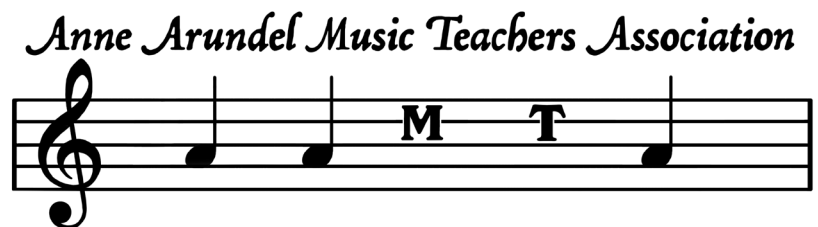
Our next Outreach Recital will be held virtually on Sunday, February 20th. Although we miss going into the assisted living homes and, hopefully, brightening the spirits of the senior citizens living there, we are pleased that we can still reach out to them in this manner and, additionally, give our students yet another performance opportunity.

We are looking forward to our Judged Recitals on Saturday, February 26th. As in our festivals, participation in this event is outstanding with 50 students (8 teachers) represented. We are currently planning to have an in person event given the fact that our venue allows nicely for social distancing.

*Janice Puckett*  
GCMTA President

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Anne Arundel Music Teachers Association was happy to resume in-person student performances this year, beginning with our November Fall Festival at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park. Students filled two recitals as we gathered for the first



time in nearly two years. Chairperson Wendy Poole's leadership skills and welcoming personality produced this safe and joyful event. Everyone wore masks, used hand sanitizer, and at the recommendation of the Piano Manufacturers Association, the keys were cleaned with peroxide between performances. In December, students again gathered to fill two recitals for the AAMTA Holiday Festival. Performances in this theme recital included repertoire with Christmas, Hanukkah, or winter as the theme. While we are grateful for online technology that allowed us to continue live performances during the pandemic and recognize it is possible we may have to return to that format from time to time, nothing replaces the live music experience. We are grateful that our students can again participate in live music, and that Woods has welcomed us back to their building!



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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS - AAMTA (cont.)



New member Lorena Brouger is heading up our newly created technology committee. Along with Lorena, committee members Fiona Moodie, Bill Bloomquist, and Helen Smith Tarchalski are making plans to develop and host a new independent website for AAMTA.

*Helen Smith Tarchalski*  
AAMTA President

### 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 July 2022 MSMTA Newsletter by **Monday, June 13, 2022**, to:

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

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Ann Matteson and Jane McIlvain Dennis,  
Contributing editors

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