



# MARYLAND STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

www.msmta.org

a publication of the Maryland State Music Teachers Association

October 2022

## From the President

I hope you had a restful summer and the start of a new teaching year is going well for you.



Recently, I attended the MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati in which MTNA invites all the state presidents for two days of meetings. Some of the hot topics at these meetings were membership recruitment/retention and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

MSMTA membership committee met in early September to discuss options for increasing membership for the future of our organization. We recommended to the board that we offer one year free state membership starting 2023-2024 membership year to brand new MSMTA members. We will also be calling for volunteers to help mentoring/acclimate our new members. This was approved at our board meeting on Sept. 19th. If you are interested in helping our new members, please let me know.

We also have established a DEI committee, chaired by our president-elect, Edwina Hunter, to explore options to include Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into our activities. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to let us know.

Lastly, our annual conference is scheduled on Sunday, January 22, 2023. It is a virtual conference and will be free to everyone. Session descriptions are included in this newsletter. I will email you the registration information in November, but please mark your calendar. It will be great to "see" many of you via zoom.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me anytime.

*Dr. Junko Takahashi*  
President, MSMTA



Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

## MSMTA Conference

Sunday January 22, 2023 – 1:00pm–7:00pm

Virtual On Zoom

12:30 PM to 7:30 PM

**12:30 PM Meet and Greet**

**1:00 PM Chopin Nocturne, Op. 72 No. 1: A look at the musical and technical challenges using the Taubman Approach - Robert Durso**

**2:20 PM Embracing Innovation with an Entrepreneurial Mindset – Karen Thickestun, MTNA President**

**3:30 PM General Membership Meeting**

**4:30 PM Jeopardy: MTNA Resource Gems – Karen Thickestun, MTNA President**

**5:00 PM Break**

**5:15 PM Master Class for Intermediate/Advanced Students – Dr. Bok Hwa Kim**

**\*Audition information on next page**

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# MSMTA Conference Session Descriptions

***Chopin Nocturne in E minor, Op. 72 No. 1: A look at the musical and technical challenges using the Taubman Approach*** – Robert Durso

Mr. Durso will explore the musical and technical issues of Chopin's Nocturne Op. 72 No. 1. He will give practical solutions for teaching this piece using the Taubman Approach.

- How to play left-hand figurations musically and with ease
- Let's discuss different fingering options!
- Polyrythms... Is there a method to this madness?

***Embracing Innovation with an Entrepreneurial Mindset*** – Karen Thickstun, MTNA President

As we emerge from the pandemic and disrupted times, how will our studios (or associations) move forward to meet new challenges? How can we let our hopes, and not our fears, shape the future? Let's embrace innovation with an entrepreneurial mindset!

***Jeopardy: MTNA Resource Gems*** – Karen Thickstun, MTNA President

Do you know the full value of your national membership? Explore some of the lesser-known benefits, including inside tips on MTNA grants, new business resources, music discounts, and more!

## MSMTA Master Class Audition Information for Piano Students

***Master Class with Dr. Bok Hwa Kim***

Time: 5:15 PM – 6:45 PM

Location: Livestreamed from Junko Takahashi's Studio in Bethesda

Level of Students: Intermediate to Advanced

Length of piece: No more than 10 minutes

Please email Youtube Link or audio file to Junko Takahashi  
at [jutaka@verizon.net](mailto:jutaka@verizon.net) by December 18, 2022.

Teachers: Please include the student's name, email, and age.

## Presenters Information



**Robert Durso, MM Piano Performance and Pedagogy**, attended the Peabody Conservatory of Music; Indiana University, Bloomington, and Temple University in Philadelphia. Mr. Durso has performed extensively, including appearances at Carnegie Recital Hall. His engagements abroad have included concerts in Cagliari, Sardinia; the Palazzo Cenci in Rome; the Ehrbarsaal in Vienna; L'Atelier in Brussels, Castelfranc, France as well as concerts in Caracas, Zurich, Taiwan, and Oxford. Mr. Durso is Co-found of The Belmonte Trio and has collaborated in chamber music performances in San Francisco, CA; Tampa, FL; Hartford, CT, and Frederick, MD, and with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Mr. Durso is a Co-founder and Senior Director of the Golandsky Institute held annually at Princeton University. Robert has worked with Dorothy Taubman and Edna Golandsky for over 35 years and is one of the foremost authorities on the Taubman Approach. As an expert in the field of piano technique and injury prevention, he has been invited to teach in many of the leading cities of Europe, Great Britain, The Far East, South America, and in Universities and Conservatories across The United States of America. Mr. Durso has successfully coached over 80 First and Top Prize winners in National and International Competitions. [www.robertdurso.net](http://www.robertdurso.net)



**Karen Thickstun** teaches piano pedagogy at Butler University and co-advises the Butler MTNA Collegiate Chapter. Thickstun holds degrees in Piano Performance/Economics from Duke University, Business Administration from University of Virginia, and Piano Pedagogy from Butler University. Thickstun recently retired as founding director of the Butler Community Arts School. Serving 2,000 children through private lessons, group classes, and camps, instruction is provided by over a hundred Butler University students that Thickstun mentored in professional teaching practices. Working with afterschool programs, community centers, and United Way agencies, Thickstun developed a network of community partners to provide access to the arts for inner-city youth. To fund outreach classes and provide need-based scholarships, she wrote

and received grants for more than \$100,000 annually for the past eight years.

In 2019, Thickstun was recognized by Butler University with the "Woman of Distinction" award, annually given to one staff/faculty recipient. In 2018, she was selected by United Way of Central Indiana as one of its "100 Heroes" to recognize the positive impact she has made in the community. For 2017-19, Thickstun received a Creative Arts Renewal Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis, funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Thickstun authors a tri-annual column "The Everyday Entrepreneur" (formerly "It's All Your Business") for *American Music Teacher*. Her articles have also appeared in *Keyboard Companion* and *Clavier Companion*. She has presented numerous pedagogy and business sessions at MTNA National Conferences and other local, state, and national conferences.

Thickstun is active in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), currently serving as national president for 2021-23. She previously served as MTNA President-Elect (2019-21), MTNA Vice President from 2015-17, and MTNA Secretary-Treasurer from 2013-2015. Recent national appointments include grants and awards task force chair, MTNA Teacher of the Year committee chair, and strategic planning committee. She served as director of East Central Division director on the MTNA Board of Directors from 2008-2010 and chaired the Local Associations Forum. Thickstun is a nationally-certified teacher of music (NCTM) through MTNA.

Thickstun has been active in the Indiana Music Teachers Association (IMTA) as president, trustee chair, newsletter editor, syllabus chair, conference chair, commissioning chair, arts advocacy chair, and bylaws revision chair. She received the Distinguished Service Award in 2002 and the Teacher of the Year award in 2008.

Born in Korea, pianist Bok Hwa Kim made her solo debut at the age of six in Seoul. Later she and her family followed her American piano teacher, Mrs. Josephine Flexner, a pupil of Nadia Boulanger and Olga Samaroff, to the United States and, at the age of eleven, gave her orchestral debut in Memphis, playing Beethoven's First Piano Concerto.



She has since won top placements in numerous competitions and has been a semi-finalist in the Washington International Competition, the Louise D. McMahan Competition, and the Robert Casaesus International Piano Competition. As a student in the Peabody Conservatory, she studied piano with Lillian Freundlich, Leon Fleisher, and Julian Martin, and harpsichord/fortepiano with Shirley Mathews, before earning her Doctorate in Musical Arts.

Her training in the early keyboard instruments, though minor compared to that of piano, figured prominently in her doctoral research in the evolution of idiomatic fortepiano style in Haydn's keyboard sonatas. She also holds a master's degree from the Juilliard School, under the tutelage of Bartók's protégé György Sándor. Dr. Bok Hwa Kim has been an assistant to Julian Martin and had taught in Howard Community College, the Levine School of Music, and the Peabody Conservatory. She has been an active member in the MSMTA organization for more than two decades.

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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## Announcements

### E R Davis Special Composer Prize

To promote the inclusion of music by underrepresented composers in competition repertoire, anonymous donors have offered a prize of \$100 in each division for the best performance of a work by an underrepresented composer. This special composer prize will be given for the E.R. Davis Competition beginning in April, 2023.

In addition to the required Sonata movement by Beethoven, Clementi, Haydn, or Mozart, students may select a composition by a Black, Woman, or Asian composer from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionist, or Contemporary eras as one of their two remaining pieces. At the request of the donors, for 2023, the groups identified as "Underrepresented" are Black, Women, and Asian composers. In future years, as we gain experience and receive feedback from this initial undertaking, we expect to expand the groups of underrepresented composers.

# Student Activities

## Keyboard Musicianship Program

“What is the Keyboard Musicianship Program?” you might ask. For those who have not explored the program, it consists of 12 levels of foundational keyboard skills: scales, chords, arpeggios, transposition, sight-reading, harmonization, lead sheet realization, and improvisation. The scales, chords, and arpeggios module is required, and the student must choose at least two other modules to take. Information about the program is in the 2020 Keyboard Syllabus, which can be downloaded from the MSMTA website (MSMTA.org). Click on “Members Only,” “Keyboard Musicianship,” then click on "Syllabus-2020" to see an outline of the program and information for each level. Appendix 1 through 5 have notated examples with “answers” for some modules! Do not forget to look in the back! The Teachers Resource Info Guide 2020 gives helpful resources for each module, as well as suggestions for teaching.

Information on registration and testing is also at MSMTA.org. Go to “Student Activities,” “Calendar,” and then scroll down to the “Exam” section and look for “Keyboard Musicianship Exam.” The link called “Dates vary by center” will give you the dates, locations and registration deadline for each local center. **WRITE DOWN THE DEADLINES NOW**, as there will be **NO LATE REGISTRATIONS ALLOWED** for any reason. Checks must be mailed and postmarked the next business day after the registration deadline.

We continue to have to be flexible this year, due to ongoing issues with covid-19. Some centers are planning to test in-person in a given location, and others will have teachers test their own students. Contact your local chair if you have questions on how testing will take place, or other questions about the program.

I hope teachers will consider the value in having a carefully leveled technique and musicianship program for their students' musical development.

Sincerely,

*Laurel Carroll*

*Chair, Keyboard Musicianship Program*

## Local Associations

This season, MTAB will hold most events LIVE at Village Baptist Church in Bowie, with the exception of the MAY 13 VIRTUAL EVALUATION, which will be held virtually, and administered and judged by Owen Adams, our online learning specialist, and our 1st mini meeting at the studio of Jeannine Case. We very much appreciate that Village Baptist Church has allowed us to use their facility during the time when the total amount of people was restricted (at its lowest point, the number was 10!!) and masks were required as well as sanitation of the keys.



Music Teachers Association of Bowie

*Continued on page 5...*

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## Local Associations

Currently, we do not have Covid restrictions, but of course if they return, we will observe them as needed. Our first “mini-meeting” will occur on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, at 10:30 AM, at the studio of Jeannine Case, and followed at 11 AM by a two-piano recital presented by former member STEPHEN GIBSON and his two-piano partner, KATE WOTRING. Program details are not available yet, and members and guests are invited. Our Student Activities Handbook, expertly prepared by our Recording Secretary, Kathy Hunt, will be sent digitally to members by October 1.

Our first student event of the season will be the AUTUMN HARVEST FESTIVAL on SATURDAY, OCT 29 at Village Baptist Church, chaired by Liuba-Pupo-Ortega and dedicated to the memory of our former member, Barbara Kornreich, who passed away on June 22, 2021. We will have pumpkin and scarecrow decorations, and the students may dress in costume and will receive extra treats this year (larger snack bags and a larger candy bar!). This will be followed by our annual December Ensemble Festival, chaired by one of our newer and younger members, Sarah Young, again dedicated to the memory of Barbara Kornreich, and also featuring Christmas treats for the students, as well as ensembles of piano, violin and viola. Lastly, we will be holding our annual holiday luncheon on Friday, December 9, location TBA. Our student events for the 2nd half of the year will include the Mirabella Spanish Competition in late February, the MSMTA Theory Exams and the MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Exams in March, the Senior Awards performance and competition in April and the May 13 Virtual Piano Evaluation.

Have a wonderful and healthy start to the 2022-2023 teaching year!

*Jeannine Case*

*President, MTAB*



Frederick County Music Teachers Association is excited about the 2022-2023 offering for our students and teachers!

FCMTA is exploring music related field trips for our students to experience music through other avenues as well as offering the following opportunities:

- Annual Halloween Recital
- The Bardin-Niskala student master class
- High School Student Pizza and Music
- Ensemble Festival
- MSMTA Keyboard & Musicianship Test
- Senior Living Recital
- MSMTA Theory Exam
- Sonatina Festival
- Student Master Class with Jay DeWire of Frostburg University
- Mixed Studio Recital Day
- Hopeful to have a community stage during the Festival of the Arts

We are so grateful for the teachers who are offering their leadership skills to organize and plan events for our students. It takes all of us working together to make these events fun learning opportunities.

FCMTA teacher enrichment opportunities include:

- The Bardin-Niskala Duo: Celebrating Identity Through Music
- MSMTA Conference
- John Wickelgren: Use of the Taubman approach in teaching.
- Music Resources: What works for you? Teachable music? Why use a tablet?
- Jay DeWire: Technique and preparing students for recitals and college music study.
- End of the year: Duet Musicale

It looks to be an exciting year for FCMTA.

*Peggy Flickinger*

*President, FCMTA*

## Local Associations



Welcome back to MCMTA!

We are pleased to start the year with our first IN PERSON meeting since the lockdown in 2020. We have a lovely new home at the Korean Baptist Church, 310 Randolph Road, Silver Spring 20904. Our meetings are (generally) the first Tuesday of each Month, 9:30-12. Immanuela Gruenberg arranges for a wonderful presenter for each meeting. We are starting the year with a healthy count of 153 Members. We look forward to continuing to grow.

We are excited to announce a variety of formats for our Student Activities. In the spirit of supporting a wide range of students and families, we have in-person traditional recitals and competitions, one competition that requires the use of the score, as well as ZOOM recitals and video submission events.

MCMTA offers Elementary Recitals, Intermediate/Advanced Recitals, Judged Recitals, Festival of Music (French Theme), Ensemble Recital, Swarthout/Hayes Piano Competition, as well as grants for teachers and graduating Seniors! Through the year, we have events for all levels and ages.

Do you have students that play well, but just can't seem to play from memory? Check out our NEW competition, "Celebrating Music Festival" Chaired by Bonnie Kellert and Miri Frenkel-Yacobich.

This is a competition that REQUIRES the use of the score during performance. November 6 at Piano Craft in Gaithersburg Maryland. Navigate to our Registration page for more event information.

Kris Butler, our esteemed Treasurer for an amazing 33 years, has stepped down. The MCMTA board is grateful for all of her hard work and dedication to our organization. We are also honored she is helping our new Treasurer, Cynthia Cathcart with this transition. Thank you, Kris, for all of your years of service!

I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meetings and conferences!  
Good luck to all of you and your members!

*Sara Cronan*  
*President, MCMTA*

Greater Laurel Music Teachers' Association celebrated the beginning of the new teaching year by welcoming two new members—Grant McMullan and Clarence Hawley—and hosting Nancy Breth's lecture "Go Home and Practice" for our Continuing Education series. The lecture was full of practical and creative ideas about how to practice effectively, which was augmented by Nancy's in-person demonstrations about how to implement them. We were happy to see many faces from other organizations attend this lecture. Special thanks to Richard Dengler for his technology support which kept things running smoothly.



Our past few summers during the pandemic have given us the opportunity to introduce a new event during the summer months which has now gained traction with the membership. Doug Guiles' brainchild of holding Summer Recitals (which include a virtual date and live date) has now officially been institutionalized into GLMATA events, and will be a permanent and welcome addition to our slate of events through the year.



Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:30am at Laurel Presbyterian Church. We will have a teacher-led lecture on "Teaching the Intermediate Student." Many thanks to Wendy Johnston and David Holmes for always working so hard to provide these educational ideas for the association members to mull over!

Many wishes for a healthy, happy, and musical Autumn to everyone!

*Yee-Ning Soong*  
*President, GLMATA*

## Local Associations

### Music Teachers' Association of Greater Baltimore

Music Teacher Association of Greater Baltimore met on Saturday, August 27 to finalize plans for activities during the coming school year. Present were Kay Ikemoto, Teodora Adzharova, Catherine Renggli, Yoshie Kubota, Betsy Stocksdale, and Patricia Graham.

Schedule of Events for 2022-23 are:

- Matinee – First Wednesday of each month 10:00 a.m.
- Halloween Concert – Saturday, October 29
- Students Recital – Saturday, November 5
- Adult Recital – Saturday, November 12
- Keyboard Musicianship – November, TBA
- Master class for Intermediate level students – Saturday, Jan 21 (Presenter: Ben Steinhart)
- Student Recital and Middle School Scholarship Competition – Sunday, February 26
- Theory Testing - Saturday and Sunday, March 11-12
- Adult Recital – Saturday, April 22
- Student Recital. and High School Scholarship Competition – Sunday, May 21

We are excited and look forward to having a great new musical year!

Kazuko (Kay) Ikemoto  
President, MTAGB

Music Teachers Association of Southern Maryland began its first meeting of our happy new year by welcoming our new co-presidents, Patricia Blanchard and Mary Stevens, as they led us through a review of our 2022-23 handbook. Following the meeting we joined with the Charles County Music Teachers Association for fellowship and a talk on “Music as a Mirror of History” led by member Debbie Smedley. As always, our first performance is a Traditional Hymn Festival in which students, families, and friends join to perform hymns from their faith traditions.



Our October Fall Recital Day will include a sports theme in which students are invited to show their team spirit by dressing in team attire and performing sports-themed pieces with their other repertoire.

Our students are also busy preparing for the MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Test in November, and looking ahead to practicing their favorite Christmas pieces for our Christmas Marathon, involving over 100 students. (Note: The most-performed pieces last year were Carol of the Bells and God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen).

The new year will bring a warm-up for the MSMTA Piano Ensemble Festival with our own day of ensemble recitals. It will indeed be a busy few months of joyful music-making (together at last!) before the spring competition season and MSMTA Theory Test.

MTASM wishes all teachers and students a wonderful and successful new year.

Debbie Smedley  
Immediate Past President, MTASM

## 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 next MSMTA Newsletter by **Sunday, January 22, 2023**, to:

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

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Ann Matteson and Jane McIlvain Dennis,  
Contributing editors

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