



MARYLAND STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Our
66th
year

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

www.msmta.org

a publication of the Maryland State Music Teachers Association

Summer 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings:

Kudos to the Student Activities Chairs for a highly successful season of festivals, competitions, and examinations!



A highlight of this second semester was this year's MTNA conference in Atlanta, GA. MSMTA was well represented in roles as leaders, presenters, and awards recipients. **Helen SmithTacharlski** serves on the MTNA Nominating committee. **Nancy O'Neill Breth** chaired the Artistry Track for Pedagogy Saturday to great acclaim. **Dr. Leah Claiborne** presented the Ebony prize for Best Performance of a work by a Black composer to winners in the Junior, Senior, and Collegiate divisions. **Dr. Stephanie Bruning** presented a session on the piano students with dyslexia.

MSMTA immediate Past President **Junko Takahashi** was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Gary L. Ingle State Leadership Award. The nomination letter cited her courageous leadership during the COVID /19 pandemic.



Under her leadership student activities, events, and leadership meetings were uninterrupted as we switched immediately to a virtual format.

This set an inspirational example for other states.



Ann Matteson received her 50-year MTNA membership pin at the Awards Brunch. **Janice Puckett** and **Bradford Gowen** were also acknowledged as 50-year MTNA members.



Dr. Stephanie Bruning presenting *Outside the Box: Teaching Piano Students with Dyslexia*.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to announce that the revised Bylaws are now in the Library section of the MSMTA website.

As we celebrate this year's accomplishments and prepare for the next academic year, I hope we will all have time in between to have a renewing, restful summer.

Best regards,

Edwina



MSMTA members and guests at our dinner gathering

FROM THE BOARD

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We welcome Junko Takahashi as Student Activities Chair, Lori McCarthy as Vice President of Membership, and Yee-Ning Soong as Recording Secretary for the 2024-2026 term. The Board thanked outgoing Student Activities Chair Yoon Huh, VP Membership Helen Weems, and Recording Secretary Matthew Palumbo for their dedicated service.

New wording (in bold) was added to General Rules # 2 and #5.

In order to enter students into MSMTA student activities the teacher must have been an MSMTA member for a minimum of 30 days prior to the registration deadline. Students must have studied with the presenting teacher for at least six of the nine months preceding the event. Transfer students who wish to enter MSMTA events must obtain a letter of consent from their former teacher. In cases of teacher illness, sabbatical or a former teacher's move out of the area, an exception can be made if the new teacher presents authorization from the previous teacher.

Until students receive their assigned performing time from the event chair, they must be available during any time of the day of the event.

Teachers participating in MSMTA events must commit to working as required by the event

chair. Upon entering students into any event, teachers are obligated to contribute a minimum of four (4) hours of service, as determined by the Chair. Failure to meet this requirement will result in disqualification of all student entries associated with the teacher. There are no exemptions from this work requirement. **Even if a student withdraws from an event, the teacher is still obligated to fulfill their assigned work.**

Exceptions to this rule allow teachers to designate a substitute for up to two events per year, provided the substitute is an MTNA member with the allowance that a graduate music student may serve as a substitute monitor. The teacher is responsible for adequately training their substitutes and are accountable for financially compensating the substitute. Failure to do so will lead to disqualification of the teacher and their students from MSMTA events for the current and following school year. **Chairs have the authority to verify compliance with this rule by checking with Student Activities Chair. Work schedules must be retained until June 30 for potential verification. Individual Student Activities may have additional rules. Keyboard and Theory will have additional guidelines on their registration sheets.**

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FROM THE BOARD

The new DMA requirements that apply to students beginning First, Sixth, and Ninth grades in the 2024-2025 academic year and going forward will be posted on the DMA Application forms on the website.

The Board voted to accept the Memorandum of Agreement between MSMTA and UMBC Department of Music and the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The MOA guarantees MSMTA a 75% discount on facilities rentals at UMBC. In turn, MSMTA will provide UMBC a full-page ad in the newsletters, agree to allow UMBC admissions materials to be displayed at our competitions at UMBC, and provide student activities and conference chairs the names of UMBC music faculty for consideration as judges and clinicians.

*The Board of Directors will meet virtually on Mondays
September 16, 2024, January 27, 2025, and June 9, 2025.*

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP

Thank you to all of the teachers and students who participated in the Keyboard Musicianship Program this year! All students performed in person for the first time in four years, and thanks to the hard work of each local chair, everything ran smoothly. Chairing a local Keyboard Program is a lot of work, so I especially want to thank the following chairs who dedicated a great deal of time to the event:

Michele Avrick, Jeannine Case, Anne Chen, Joanna Greenwood, Christopher Hall, Edwina Hunter, Olga Kuperstein, Kim Roberts, Mary Stevens, Svetlana Volkova, and Janice Wood.

Jeannine Case, who has chaired the Bowie Center for 20 years, is moving and will no longer be able to chair this center. Unless someone steps forward to chair the Bowie Center, it will be closed next year.

FYI: Any local group who is interested in having a presentation given to their group about the Keyboard Musicianship Program is welcome to contact Laurel Carroll (msmta.kmp@yahoo.com) for more information. We want to make sure that all MSMTA teachers are aware of the benefits of participating in this well-rounded program!

The Keyboard Awards listed below were earned by the following students:

Keyboard Musicianship Award:

Kevin Chen, Brooke Cheung, Elana Dioguardi, Angelina Dong, Abigail Fong, Suen Foo, Jayden Gao, Davis Gordon, Winston Gu, Kelly He, Wynn Kuo, Nathan Leitan, Lawrence Liao, Yuzhi Liu, Linda Liu, Joanna Luo, Nyla Mensah, Nathan Nilsson, Krisha Passi, Ethan Quach, Braedon Ramsey, Liam Slattery, Lleyton Tan, Katie Thai, Marie Trusov, Allison Wang, Elena Wu, Peter Wu, Zhuyue Xiao, Brandon Yiu, David Yoo, Matthew Yoon, Jenny Yu, Nathan Zhang, Jeremy Zhang, Elvis Zhang, Nicole Zheng

Intermediate Honors:

Victoria An, Adison Cai, Nicholas Cao, Claire Chang, Boyce Chen, Gioia D'Arista, Makayla Davis, Yun-Pei Deng, Elodie Dolfin, Alfred Dolfin, Charlene Drennen, Olivia Dziasek, Candice Fan, Avery Fisher, Charles Golden, Mahilan Guha, Kareena Gupta, Lewei He, Emily Hu, Serena Huang, McKayla Jie, Zechariah Ko, Yunbo Li, Joy Liang, Anna Lin, Camie Nguyen, Susie Nilsson, James Pang, Madeleine Pettit, Ana Lucia San Juan, Katia San Juan, Ayushi Sarkar, Alexander Schreiber, David Shao, Hailey Tam, Terrence Tam, Emma Ta-Zhou, Hailey Wang, Eliana Wang, Anthony Wei, Olivia Wu, Alice Xue, Masataka Yamaguchi, Violet Yang, Lorraine Zaborsky, Seeyen Zeng, Sean Zhang, Jesse Zhao, Yongniu Zhao

High Honors:

Kevin He, Lucas He, Yunbo Li, Kevin Shen, Sebrina Tseng, Sophie Wen, Harrison Wong, Isaac Yoo, Eric Zhang, Queenie Zhou

Advanced Honors:

Aditya Bhandari, Rui Feng, Audrey Gu, Amy Gu, Ethan Huang, Chase Hunter, Bryan Li, Mark Li, Gregory Nicklaus, Alexander Nicklaus, Virginia Plunk, Lillian Robinson-Cheung, Sophie Su, Daisy Wong, Alison Xu, Emily Zhang

Distinguished Honors:

Lyle Erickson, Sean Kim, Angela Lei, Michelle Wang, Annie Yuan

KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP

Teachers of Students receiving awards:

Patricia Blanchard, Jeannine Case, Hui-Yen Chang, Yuri Chayama, Anne Chen, Elena Dubovitsky, Irina Dvoynoy, Elena Eliseeva, Kathryn Evans-Santiago, Constance Fischel, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Christopher Hall, Edwina Hunter, Bonnie Kellert, Bok Hwa Kim, Beatrice Ko, David Kuperstein, Olga Kuperstein, Debra Smedley, Olga Soukhoveeva, Shisa Suskey, Janet Swaney, Junko Takahashi, Chenli Tzeng, Svetlana Volkova, Helen Weems, Deborah White-Bondhus, Carol Wolfe-Ralph

Finally, I want to remind teachers to always download the award forms each year from the msmta.org website, as any updated instructions and deadlines will be listed there.

Wishing everyone a peaceful summer,

Laurel Carroll, Keyboard Musicianship Program Chair

DISTINGUISHED MUSIC AWARD

This year's Distinguished Music Achievement Awards were given to 50 students in the Elementary division, 29 students in the Junior division and 30 in the Senior division, from the studios of 31 MSMTA teachers.

As the chairperson of the DMA Awards, I would like to express my gratitude to all the participating teachers, and my congratulations to all the recipients for their outstanding accomplishments over the years. And for future applications, I would like to remind all again, that ONLY MSMTA and local MTA sponsored events qualify for these awards. Also, please remember that all communication should be conducted through the teacher ONLY.

Elementary DMA Recipients

Paige Bankston (Patricia Blanchard)

Daniella Cha (Patricia Blanchard)

Zoe Thomas (Patricia Blanchard)

David Yoo (Huiyen Chang)

Matthew Zhou (Huiyen Chang)

Madeline Chao (Anne Hsueh Chen)

Mia Lin (Anne Hsueh Chen)

Nina Han (Elena Eliseeva)

Mason Bloomquist (Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich)

Wynn Kuo (Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich)

Reef Nimri (Meri Gugushvili)

Makenzie Davis (Edwina E. Hunter)

Alex Godin (Edwina E. Hunter)

Semra Solomon (Edwina E. Hunter)

Brooke Cheung (Bonnie Kellert)

Dimo Zhu (Bonnie Kellert)

Yun-Pei Deng (Bok Hwa Kim)

Lucas He (Bok Hwa Kim)

Kate Rhee (Bok Hwa Kim)

Gyrwen Xie (Bok Hwa Kim)

Maggie Yu (Bok Hwa Kim)

Vincent Zhang (Bok Hwa Kim)

Giselle Quach (Beatrice Ko)

Joseph Chen (Yao Lin)

Timothy Yang (Yao Lin)

Mason Young (Yao Lin)

Kaylee Zhu (Yao Lin)

Rebecca Yan (Dmitri Nazarenko)

Melania Rykova (Lara Parris)

Alain David Carpio-Duhart (Olga Soukhoveev)

Bella Kaplunovich (Olga Soukhoveev)

Gregory Kaplunovich (Olga Soukhoveev)

DISTINGUISHED MUSIC AWARD

Elementary DMA Recipients, cont.

Zoe Alonso-Tao (Junko Takahashi)
Claire Chang (Junko Takahashi)
Michael Sicora (Junko Takahashi)
Alexander Schreiber (Junko Takahashi)
Khelen Kuo (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Andrew Sun (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Erin Sun (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Andrew Xia (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Grace Guo (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Maya Guo (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Jenny Hu (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Hailey Hua (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Sara Su (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Serena Wang (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Grace Yue (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Liya Zhao (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Sophia Cao (Deborah White-Bondhus)
James Pang (Deborah White-Bondhus)

Junior DMA Recipients

Simon Bowling (Patricia Blanchard)
Nate Corbin (Patricia Blanchard)
Saleem Habeebullah (Patricia Blanchard)
Wyatt McDonald (Patricia Blanchard)
Katherine Morgan (Patricia Blanchard)
Chaya Thomas (Patricia Blanchard)
Enlin Liu (Anne Hsueh Chen)
Violet Yang (Anne Hsueh Chen)
Samuel Lu (Lauren Di)
Angelina Dong (Elena Dubovitsky)
Iris Lin (Elena Dubovitsky)
Anika Paranjape (Meri Gugushvili)
Jane Chen (Cheire Jeng)
Rosie Lee (Cheire Jeng)
Allison Cheung (Bonnie Kellert)
Annabelle Liang (Bok Hwa Kim)
Kevin Chen (Beatrice Ko)
Ella Hertz (Alla Merport)
Julian Chen (Dmitri Nazarenko)

Junior DMA Recipients

Elizaveta Kaloshina (Lara Parris)
Jessica Seow (Debra Smedley)
Avin Mayer (Olga Soukhoveev)
Yunbo Li (Junko Takahashi)
Matthew Boyce (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Sophia Wang (Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng)
Amanda Dai (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Suen Foo (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Allison Tang (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Yongniu Zhao (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)

Senior DMA Recipients

Jeremiah Sharo (Jeannine Case)
Sebrina Tseng (Anne Hsueh Chen)
Benjamin Li (Irina Dvoynoy)
Chloe Ng (Irina Dvoynoy)
Allison Xu (Irina Dvoynoy)
Alice Yacubovich (Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich)
Jeanine Johnson (Georgia M. Harvey)
Michael Chen (Bok Hwa Kim)
Gregory Park (Bok Hwa Kim)
Arthur Yang (Olga Kuperstein)
Nathan Zhong (Olga Kuperstein)
James Chen (Jane Oleshkevich)
Carolyn Fu (Hyun Park)
Alvin Guo (Hyun Park)
Joelle Lee (Hyun Park)
Lela Skopec (Lara Parris)
Maximilian Belyantsev (Lara Parris)
Ksenia Antipova (Olga Soukhoveev)
Prisha Emmanuel (Olga Soukhoveev)
Nicole Schwartz (Olga Soukhoveev)
Alexandra Soukhoveev (Olga Soukhoveev)
Lyle Erickson (Junko Takahashi)
Angie Chen (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Mandy Guo (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Bentham Hu (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Bernard Jin (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Ryan Qi (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Katie Xiang (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
Matthew Yoon (Helen Weems)

2024 MSMTA THEORY HONORS AWARDS

MSMTA congratulates the students and teachers who have received MSMTA Theory Awards.

44 students received the Intermediate Theory Award for passing five levels with a score of 90 percent or higher. From the studios of Chen-Li Tzeng, Chin- Yi Lee, Bok Hwa Kim, Shisa Suskey, Dmitri Nazarenko, David Holmes, Miri Frenkel -Yacubovich, Lori McCarthy, Svetlana Volkova, Yie-Chien Tsau, Sheila Jones, Donghee Kwon, Olga Soukhoveeva, Deborah White-Bondhus, Edwina Hunter, Chieh-Ming Lee, Katya Merchant, Junko Takahashi, Elena Eliseeva, Hui-Yen Chang.

23 students received the Senior Theory Award for passing five levels including level 7 or above with a score of 90 percent or higher. From the studios of Irina Koulikova, Beatrice Ko, Svetlana Volkova, Dmitri Nazarenko, Christopher Hall, Jeannine Case, Yie-Chien Tsau, Donghee Kwon, Olga Soukhoveeva, Bonnie Pausic, Katya Merchant, Junko Takahashi, Elena Eliseeva, Bonnie Kellert, Hui-Yen Chang, Tzi-Ming Yang.

3 students received the Advanced Theory Award for passing any two from levels 8-10 (with a score of 90 or above; one level has to be passed in 2024). They are from the studios of Junko Takahashi and Hui-Yen Chang.

Special congratulations to the 3 students who received the 2024 MSMTA Distinguished Theory Award for passing level 11 with a score of 90 percent or above: Kyle Cho, Alex Jiao, Sophia Chen from the studios of Jeongseon Choi, Bok Hwa Kim, Yie-Chien Tsau. 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.

Jeffrey J. Doenges

MSMTA Theory Awards Program

GAIL F. McDONALD HIGH SCHOOL PIANO EXAMINATIONS

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 44th 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. Mary Jane Schaeffer, Gary Dinn, Dr. Stewart Gordon, and Ruth Weinberg worked with the Maryland State Legislature and the Maryland State Department of Education's Directors and 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. 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.

This year we had 96 students take the examination for recognition. 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, PATRICIA BLANCHARD, ARIEL DECHOSA, WENDY DENGLER,
IRINA DVONOVY, ELENA ELISEEVA, CONSTANCE FISCHER, CHRISTOPHER HALL,
DAVID HOLMES, JAN HULBERT, EDWINA HUNTER, BONNIE KELLERT, HEESUN KIM,
BEATRICE KO, DAVID KUPERSTEIN, OLGA KUPERSTEIN, CHIEH HSUAN LEE,
CHIEH MING LEE, ALLA MERPORT, DMITRI NAZARENKO, YENGENIYA OLESHKEVICH, YEE CHEN
PAO, HYUN PARK, LAURA PARRIS, EVELYN (YE-LING) SHIH,
OLGA SOUKHOVEEVA, JUNKO TAKAHASHI, YI-CHIEN TSAU, ZIONA TUCHLER,
CHENLI TZENG, ROSEANNE WHITE, DEBORAH WHITE-BONDHUS.

I would like to thank the following teachers who were judges for the examination.

HEDY BANNON, PATRICIA BLANCHARD, WENDY DENGLER, IRINA DVONOVY,
CONSTANCE FISCHER, DAVID HOLMES, EDWINA HUNER, BONNIE KELLERT, HEESUN KIM
BEATRICE KO, DAVID KUPERSTEIN, OLGA KUPERSTEIN, CHIEH HSUAN LEE, CHIEH MING LEE,
JAEWON LEE, ALLA MERPORT, DMITRI NAZARENKO, YENGENIYA OLESHKEVICH,
YEE CHEN PAO, LAURA PARRIS, JUNKO TAKAHASHI, YI-CHIEN TSAU,
CHENLI TZENG, HELEN WEEMS

The examinations were virtual this year. I would like to thank John Ralph who set up our online protocol and video submissions. We will remain virtual again next year.

DEBORAH WHITE-BONDHUS, CHAIR RECOGNITION/CREDIT

MSMTA CONFERENCE

We have a great conference planned for October 20, 2024!

12:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Be sure to put it on your calendar

Virtual Conference on Zoom

We have a fabulous lineup of presenters!

Lorena Brougher

More Than Distraction: A Peek into the ADHD Brain

Andrew Rosenblum

Baroque Music at the Piano:

How Understanding Harpsichord Techniques Influences Interpretation

Brian Ganz

Masterclass and Mini-Recital

Co-Chairs: Junko Takahashi, Deborah White-Bondhus

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



Montgomery County MTA's 2024 started with a couple of video submitted Recitals – the Intermediate/Advanced Recital and the Judged Recital, with a combined total of 92 participants. The Dance-themed Festival of Music was held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Silver Spring in February, and also in Silver Spring. The Ensemble Recitals were held at the Korean Baptist Church of Washington. This two-day event had an amazing turnout of 81 collaborations.

April held a handful of different types of recitals, more Intermediate/Advanced, Judged and Elementary Recitals, all located at Calvary Lutheran Church, as well as the Evelyn Swarthout and Patrick Hayes Piano Competition, which was held at PianoCraft in Gaithersburg.

The final two events of our school year were held at a couple of Montgomery County Libraries. The Gaithersburg Public Library was the location for the Senior Recognition Awards Ceremony, and after an exhaustive location search, the Marilyn Praisner Branch Library was where our Adult Piano Recital occurred.



Class of 2024 Seniors Recognized for at least six years of study with an MCMTA teacher.



Adult Recital 2024, Marilyn Praisner Library, Burtonsville, MD



For our general membership meetings this spring, we had the pleasure of learning about and hearing the sounds of didgeridoos through a presentation by Sara Cronan – this included an instrument of her own making! She also shared her video interview with her didgeridoo teacher, Pablo Sebastian (Sebas) Meza, who lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He not only talked about his musical upbringing, his discovery of the didgeridoo, and his pathway to teaching, but also the healing power of music.

Then in April we had a wonderful Zoom presentation from Dr. Curtis Pavey, from the University of Missouri, entitled *Empowering Expression: Teaching Improvisation in Baroque Styles*. This delightfully informative session walked us through the various improvisatory techniques utilized in the 17th and 18th centuries, such as measured and unmeasured preludes, and variations based over a ground bass.

MCMTA awarded grants to two students this year as they enter college as Music Majors. A teacher grant for continuing education was also awarded.

All of our events would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our chairpersons, teachers, adjudicators, parents, and students. Thank you.

Last but not least, I'd like to inform those who may not know that I received information in January that Ingrid Mongini plans to step down as MCMTA's Corresponding Secretary, Chair of the Weissenfluh Committee, Bylaws Chair and Parliamentarian. She has served on the Weissenfluh Committee for over twenty years, and chaired it for approximately fifteen of those years. We are very fortunate and grateful for her many years of service to MCMTA.

Hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Debra E. Merritt
President, MCMTA



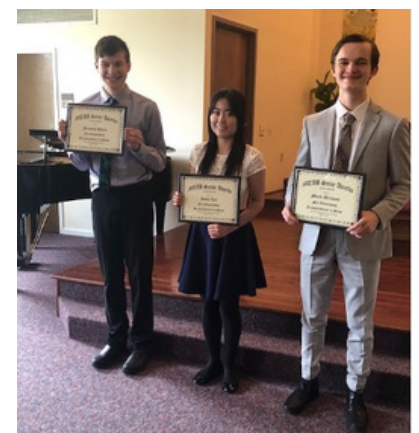
During the second half of the year, MTAB presented our Classical Competition on March 2. We had more than 40 students participate at six different levels. Students performed one piece from a classical-era composer and one contrasting piece. The event was chaired by Jeannine Case with support from Hui Yen Chang. Winners performed at the MTAB General meeting on March 8. (*Winners in Picture, bottom left*)

Our annual Senior Awards event featured outstanding seniors performing some extremely difficult repertoire, including pieces by Liszt, Ravel, Beethoven, and Kapustin. The students performed for the MTAB General meeting on April 26 as a dress rehearsal ahead of the competition on April 27. First place winner was Mark Merchant (student of Katya Merchant), with second place going to Jeremiah Sharo (student of Jeannine Case), and third going to Emily Liu (student of Katya Merchant). (*pictures, bottom middle and right*)

Our final event of the year was our virtual, non-competitive judged evaluation. Students submitted video performances for critique by member and judge Owen Adams. We had fewer participants this year than previously, but teachers have indicated that they would like to enroll more next year.

At our general meeting on April 27, we swore in new officers Brian Gorman (President), Owen Adams (Treasurer), and Sarah Young (Recording Secretary). Our first board meeting took place on May 24, where we finalized plans to continue with the same 4 events as this year: our fall Autumn Festival, December Ensemble Festival, winter Mirabella competition featuring Post-Soviet composers, and spring non-competitive evaluation. We hope to see our chapter grow as we find ways to sustain what has been a wonderful organization for so long.

Finally, MTAB expresses its deep gratitude for outgoing President Jeannine Case and her decades of hard work and service to MTAB, keep it going and thriving especially in recent years. She has been and continues to be a model of excellence as a pedagogue and colleague. We wish her all the best as she finds new rhythms of teaching and rest outside of MTAB presidential duties!



Music Teachers' Association of Greater Baltimore

The Greater Baltimore chapter was busy in the spring from late April through mid-May: The Spring Recital was held on April 21st at CCBC Essex and organized by Yoshie Kubota. The students ranged from very young students to a group of teenagers who played very sophisticated literature at a high level.

A new competition was created for college students at the urging of members teaching at the college level. Matthew Palumbo and Teodora Adzharova organized this event. It was held on May 5th at the Steinway Gallery in Lutherville thanks to its director, Matt Bachman. Nicole Johnson, a senior at UMBC and student of Teodora Adzharova, won the competition playing Prokofiev's 3rd Sonata and Ravel's "Sad bird." The adjudicator was the long-time member of MTAGB Patti Crossman.

The last event for the year was the High School competition on May 19th adjudicated by Audrey Andrist. It was organized by Teodora Adzharova and also held at the Steinway Gallery. The competition was won by Deborah Slack, a pupil of Kay Ikemoto. She played Chopin's Etude Op, 10, No. 1 and Debussy's Les collines d'Anacapri. Back in March, Patricia Graham ran the Theory Testing Program for the chapter. There were 7 students who took levels Prep through Level 6.

MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Greetings from Southern Maryland, where MTASM has had a very musical and productive spring. We began in late February, when MTASM was once again honored to participate in the annual Kalnasy Concert Series remembering a beloved music minister for her long and faithful service to our community. Students and teachers performed a wide variety of pieces in four back-to-back recitals at Saint Aloysius Church in Leonardtown.

The MSMTA Theory Test followed soon after, with students participating in 8 testing levels. Southern Maryland was well represented in the MSMTA Ensemble Festival, the Piano Solo Festival, and the Gottlieb Competition, and students of two teachers participated in an MTNA Studio Festival. Since a number of our teachers belong to both MTASM and MTACC, several students also competed in the Sonatina Festival and Scholarship Performance Day hosted by Charles County.

As the year drew to a close, nineteen students were chosen by their teachers to perform in an Honors recital, with each student receiving a trophy after the program. Finally, our MSMTA Scholarship for Performance competition for high school students, was held on May 18th in the beautiful new Dodge Performing Arts Center on the campus of Saint Mary's College. Our judge was Louis Orphanos from Washington, D.C., and our 2024 winner is Zorianna Chorney, student of Patricia Blanchard. Congratulations also to Jeanine Johnson, who after many years of participating in our recitals and other events, performed her senior recital in early May, and to her teacher, Georgia Harvey.

Thank you to our MSMTA board for their support, to our friends in the MTA of Charles County for their collaboration, for our parents and students, and for our wonderful MTASM colleagues who make our joyful music making possible. Happy Summer, everyone!

Patricia Blanchard and Mary Stevens, MTASM Co-Presidents

Carroll County Music Teachers Association

On Saturday, October 21, 2023 CCMTA held our annual DRESSED FOR THE MUSIC: A COSTUMED RECITAL at Carroll Lutheran Village, Krug Chapel. 23 piano students and one guitar student performed pieces from folk, traditional, seasonal holiday, spiritual, and classical music, from the studios of five CCMTA teachers. It's always fun seeing the variety of costumes students appear in and perform. Not all students come in costume, but that's okay. Yummy treats followed the recital! We are so excited to return to Carroll Lutheran Village to present our recitals. We enjoy seeing and visiting with the many residents who attend. The recital chairperson for this event each year is Teresa Bliss.

CCMTA held a general meeting and presentation on Monday, November 13, 2023 at Menchey Music in Westminster. A presentation was given by Teresa Bliss entitled "Breaking Bad: Piano Students Playing Idiosyncrasies" with a discussion about student playing habits that "can drive a teacher crazy, and other common quirks." Cindy Hoover also contributed with her "Piano Student Playing Idiosyncrasies and Remedies." It was a very interesting discussion and a worthwhile effort in sharing ideas.

Our next general meeting took place on Monday, February 5, 2024 again at Menchey Music in Westminster. Cindy Hoover gave a presentation about the why, what, and how of teaching a new piece to a student. Phillip Keveren's "Quick Spin in a Fast Car" was used as the example. It was a very enlightening and informative discussion, and always so helpful hearing ideas from the expert teachers in our group!

The CCMTA annual Solo & Ensemble Festival recitals were held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at Carroll Lutheran Village, Krug Chapel. Two recitals were scheduled at 2:00 and 4:00pm with a total of 25 students from the studios of six CCMTA teachers. The recitals featured music of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Vivaldi, Grieg, Mozart, Joplin, as well as Faber, Bastien, Goldston, J. Thompson, Taylor Swift, Menken & Ashman, and others. These recitals are always delightful and so enjoyable to hear the variety and caliber of performances by all the students! Special thanks to Cindy Hoover who chairs this event each year, for many years.

Winter finally came to a close and Spring began to unfold and blossom, and with it our annual CCMTA Spring Recital: A Bouquet of Sound on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at Carroll Lutheran Village, Krug Chapel, 3:00pm. Four CCMTA teachers presented 13 students performing works of Chopin, Debussy, various traditional, spiritual, folk, and pop songwriters Alex North and John Kander, as well as pieces by Faber and Bastien. Kathy Novalis, recital chairperson, always does an excellent job of researching each piece and its composers, then sharing it in a very interesting and thoughtful way with our audience. We come away uplifted and enlightened!

Finally, the CCMTA annual luncheon and year-end meeting was held at Illiano's J & P Restaurant in Westminster on Monday, June 3, 2024 at 11:00am. Eight members gathered, one who is a new friend, Kt Allenbaugh, piano specialist at Menchey Music in Timonium. We always enjoy visiting with each other and catching up, while completing end-of-year business. At this meeting we began discussing activities and events for the 2024-2025 year.

Carroll County Music Teachers Association, cont.

Then on Monday, June 17, 2024 we met at the home of David Kreider to continue planning our upcoming year in CCMTA.

The Carroll County Music Teachers Association has had a very productive, enjoyable, and successful year. We are proud of all our students and their accomplishments, and find great satisfaction and pleasure in teaching each one.

Special note: We would like to honor the memory of our friend and fellow musician, Jack Dennis, who passed away in late January of this year. Jack was the husband of our CCMTA colleague and dear friend Jane Dennis. Jane has served in CCMTA for many years, currently as secretary, past-president (several times), and past vice-president, as well as chairing the annual MSMTA Scholarship For Performance Piano Competition for the Carroll County Music Teachers Association and the annual Masterclass for a number of years. Our deepest condolences to Jane and her family.

Teresa Bliss
President, CCMTA

Frederick County Music Teachers Association **Spring 2024 Report**

FCMTA successfully held several events this Spring, including the MSMTA Theory and Keyboard Exams, multiple recitals at Homewood Senior Living Community in February, and our adjudicated event, the Sonatina/Sonata Festival, at Frederick Community College, in March.

We also offered a new event in May, the Mixed Studio Recital Day. We had some excellent professional development meetings, with member Jay DeWire presenting, “The Meaning in the Markings,” and guest presenter, Sadie Hoyt, on “Cultivating Appreciation of Classical Music in the Home” over Zoom. Our final event, “Double Your Fun: Teacher Duets” was held on June 11th, with multiple pairs of teachers performing for each other and sharing a potluck. This is fast becoming a fun tradition to end our year.

FCMTA has gained several new members this year, including a vocal instructor, one specializing in group piano, and two violinists. We are pleased to be expanding our offerings in the local community.

Karen Skelly
President

Greater Columbia Music Teachers Association

Greater Columbia Music Teachers Association, started the year with a fabulous Masterclass hosted by Bok Hwa Kim, the masterclass was held on Sunday, November 19, 2023 with clinician with Ernie Baretta. Performing students for the Master Class students were Emma Lu (Grant McCullen), Pranav Kittane (H. Weems), Caitlin Liu (D. White Bondhus), Clark Hu (Bok Hwa Kim)

After an extremely active year: Keyboard Exam (Anne Chen), Friends and Family Festival (Janice Puckett), Music Tells the Story (Helen Weems), Judged Recital (David Holmes), MSMTA Theory Exam (Grant McMullan), Outreach recitals (Constance Fischel), Spring Solo Competition (Helen Weems) and High School Awards: David Holmes and Constance Fischel--we ended the performance year with a wonderful Spring Solo Competition and High School Awards chaired by Helen Weems.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS

Clark Hu (Bok Hwa Kim) was the recipient of the MSMTA High School Award – Columbia

David Holmes will receive an award on August 25, at the 100th anniversary celebration of the College of Maasin, Maasin, Southern Leyte, in the Philippines. David has contributed to the college every year since 1965. The College was started by the parents of a friend of David's. When David started contributing money \$25.00 covered an entire year's tuition for the high school. Now that the high school has closed his contribution is attached to a scholarship in his name at the College.

Deborah White-Bondhus has been selected to receive the Legacy in the Arts Howie Award for the 27th Anniversary Celebration of the Arts in Howard County, Maryland. This special award is given at the discretion of Howie Committee to an individual for lifetime achievements in the Arts in Howard County. Deborah will be presented with the award at a black-tie event on November 2, 2024, at the Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center.

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	\$30
1/4 page	\$40	\$50
1/2 page	\$80	\$90
Full page	\$135	\$150

For more information, contact Wendy Johnston at:

wendyj piano@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please email all notices and copy for inclusion in the next MSMTA Newsletter by Friday, Sept. 20 to

wendyj piano@gmail.com

The MSMTA newsletter is published three times annually by the Maryland State Music Teachers Association. It is available for viewing at msmta.org.

Wendy Johnston
VP for Publications