

MSMTA HISTORY

The Montana State Music Teachers Association (MSMTA) is a non-profit organization of independent music teachers whose mission is to advance the value of music in society and to support the professionalism of its members. Since 1927 MSMTA has been furthering the art of music and promoting growth and professional development by providing programs that support teaching, performing, composing and research. Our membership of about 150 includes teachers of voice, piano, organ, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion and composition. We have six local associations throughout the state, including Butte-Anaconda, Billings, Great Falls, Kalispell, Missoula and a Southwest Montana group in Bozeman. We also have three district representatives through which rural teachers in the North Central, Northeast and Southeast regions stay connected.

One of our primary events which provides continuing education, professional development and artistic inspiration for our members is our yearly State Conference. This conference combines workshops for teachers, masterclasses for our students, guest artist recitals, members' recitals and adjudicated competitions for our students. The public and non-member teachers are also encouraged to attend these workshops and recitals.

Another vital yearly project that is sponsored by each of our local associations is our Spring Music Festival, which involves 800 - 1,000 students statewide. Students are adjudicated with written comments and given a mini-lesson by a master teacher in a non-competitive setting.

At local association monthly meetings, educational programs are presented to encourage and stimulate excellent teaching, professional business practices and continued growth as artists. Since 1966, through affiliation with Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), MSMTA members, who have not acquired music degrees can work towards professional certification.

We offer scholarships to students continuing their music studies in Montana universities and fund travel grants for students participating in MTNA competitions. Every other year in collaboration with MTNA we sponsor a commissioned work by a Montana composer.

Our state newsletter is published three times yearly and we have recently developed a state website (www.msmta.com) to make our organization more visible and accessible to the broader public. We focus on bringing in nationally known artists and teachers to constantly refresh and broaden our membership.