MONTANA MUSIC NEWS

A publication of Montana State Music Teachers Association | Fall 2025

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MONTANA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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2025 MSMTA STATE CONFERENCE
October 23-25, 2025, Fairmont Hot Springs
(800) 332-3272, Group ID: 30686
www.fairmontmontana.com

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Message from the President

Looking Ahead to our October Conference!

DR. MARGERY WHATLEY, NCTM

Greetings, everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are feeling energized for the year ahead! Our MSMTA State Conference, October 23–25, is just around the corner, and I hope you've already marked your calendars. This year's theme—*Music Springs Discovery*—perfectly captures what we'll experience at Fairmont Hot Springs: three days of inspiring sessions, exceptional performances, and the joy of connecting with colleagues in a beautiful setting. From Kevin Chance's teaching insights to Caroline Oltmanns' breathtaking recital, plus the world premiere of "Montana Vignettes" by Gregory Young, this is a conference you won't want to miss!

I'm especially excited about the rich lineup of sessions scheduled, including:

- *Guide to Successful Sight Reading*
- *Elevating Your Piano Studio – Enhancing Your Teaching Using the Internet*
- *The Three C's of Classicism: An Approach to Teaching Classical Style*
- *"Rare Recital Treasures" Showcase*
- *Give Us This Day Our Daily Bach*
- *Best Practices for Best Performances: How to Fight "Freakout"*
- *Road to Parnassus: A Suggested Technical Path from the Methods to Chopin*
- *Independent Music Teachers Forum Session: "Teaching and Learning Music Through the Use of Analogies"*

Our presenters include featured clinician Kevin Chance, guest artist Caroline Oltmanns, piano adjudicator Stephen Thomas, MSMTA president-elect Jordan Neiman, Missoula Music Teachers Association president Amelia Sears, and members of the University of Montana Collegiate Chapter.

A special highlight of the conference will be the premiere of "Montana Vignettes" for clarinet, alto saxophone, and piano, composed by our Commissioned Composer, Gregory Young. We're also planning a festive Reception and Awards Banquet, where we'll celebrate our time together and honor, among others, our beloved Foundation Fellow, Dorothy Beck Peterson.

And of course, you won't want to miss the gorgeous artistry of guest pianist Caroline Oltmanns, who will perform a stunning program of works by Debussy, Sinding, Wilding, and Brahms. We're deeply grateful to Ryan Crossette of Steinway Piano Gallery of Spokane for the generous loan of beautiful Steinways for our sessions, competitions, and performances.

Fairmont Hot Springs offers the perfect backdrop for "Music Springs Discovery" with its gorgeous views, relaxing hot springs, and excellent facilities and setup for our conference. We've reserved a block of rooms for those attending at discounted rates, available until noon on Tuesday, September 30th. To book, call 800-332-2372 and mention our MSMTA Group ID: 30686.

You'll find more conference details and updates in this newsletter.

Can't wait to see you October 23–25 at Fairmont!

Best!

Dr. Margery Whatley, NCTM

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Committee chairs are asked to submit a report summarizing the activities of your committee for fiscal year 2024-2025 by email to Carla Bell at cjpiano@gmail.com no later than October 16, 2025, for use during the annual meetings of the Executive Committee and State Board.

Montana Music News is searching for a new editor! If you have a keen eye for detail and love staying abreast of all the latest MSMTA happenings, this is a great position for you! Contact President Margery Whatley at mcduffm@gmail.com and Publications Chair Jess Olson at pianohearder@gmail.com for more information!

MSMTA thanks Office Depot and Staples for making our printed publications possible!

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort | Fairmont, MT

Resort Website/Information: FairmontMontana.com

Reservations By Phone only: 800.332.3272
Group ID: 30686 (*Montana State Music Teachers Association*)

Queen Room Rate (2 people): $222.12/night
(*inc. 8% MT Tax, $17 Resort Fee, $1 TBID fee*)

Rate Available: Check-in Wednesday 22 Oct - Check-out Saturday 25 Oct

[*Cut-off date for reservations : Noon, Tuesday, 30 September 2025*]

[*Other Room Types at regular rates are available on the website*]

Dining: Fairmont has 2 restaurants:
Springwater Café (casual) & Waters Edge Dining Room.
Menus are available online.

2025 PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 23

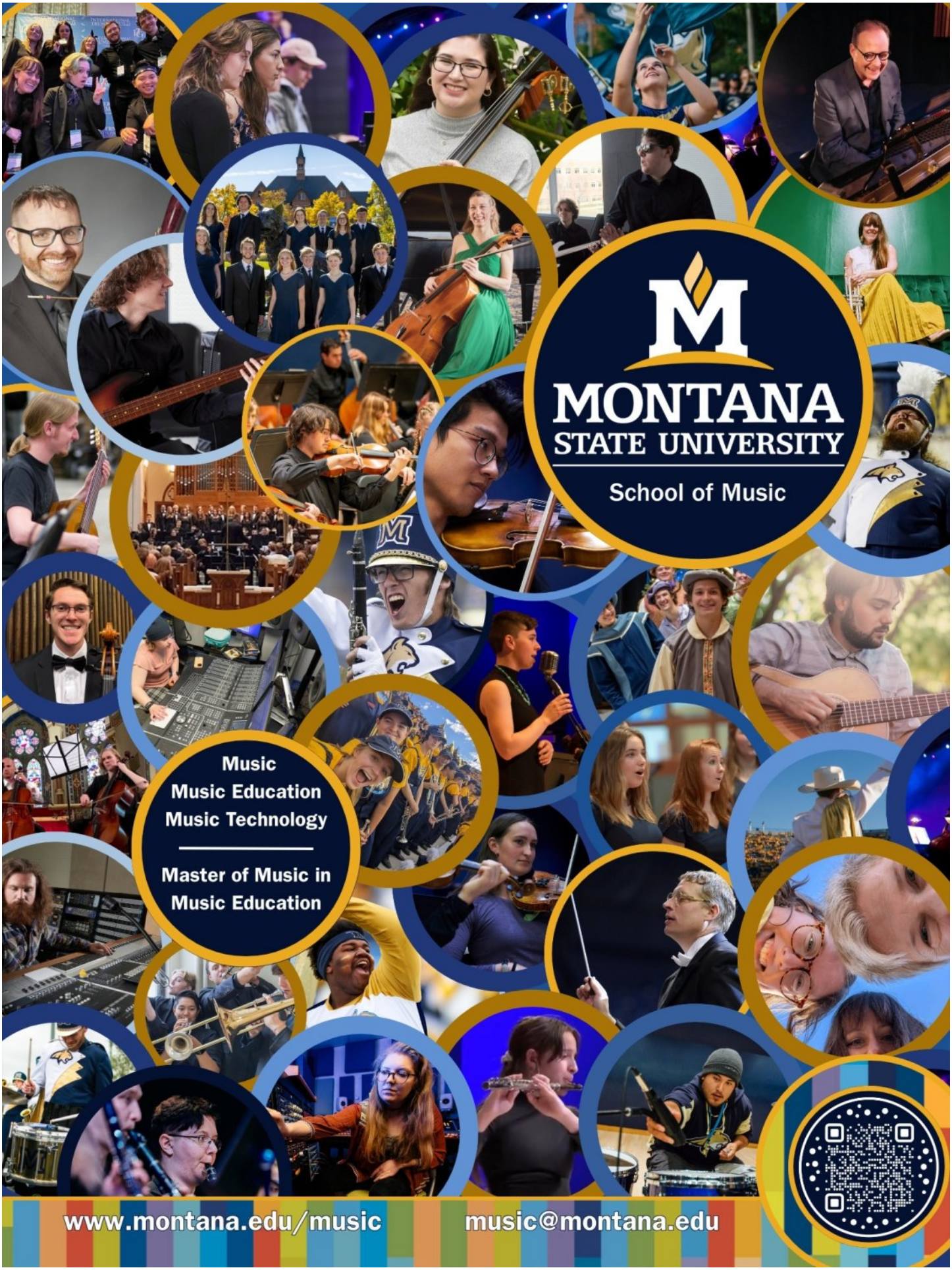
1:00 p.m.	Welcome
1:15 p.m.	Guide to Successful Sight Reading, *Kevin Chance*, *Featured Clinician, Presenter*
2:30 p.m.	IMTF: Teaching and Learning Music Through the Use of Analogies, *Amelia Thornton Sears*
3:30 p.m.	Elevating your Piano Studio—How to Enhance your Teaching Using the Internet *Caroline Oltmanns, Guest Artist, Presenter*
4:30 p.m.	The Three C's of Classicism: An Approach to Teaching Classical Style, *Kevin Chance, Featured Clinician, Presenter*
6:30 p.m.	Conference Reception
7:00 p.m.	Awards Banquet

Friday, October 24

9:00 a.m.	"Rare Recital Treasures" Showcase, *Kevin Chance, Featured Clinician, Presenter*
10:30 a.m.	Give Us This Day Our Daily Bach, *Jordan Neiman, MSMTA President-Elect, Presenter*
11:30 a.m.	University of Montana Collegiate Chapter Presentation
12:00 p.m.	Lunch "on your own" for Conference Attendees, Local Presidents' Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	Piano Masterclass, *Kevin Chance, Featured Clinician*
2:30 p.m.	*Ryan Crossette*, Steinway Piano Gallery of Spokane
3:00 p.m.	Best Practices for Best Performances: How to Fight "Freakout," *Stephen Thomas, Piano Adjudicator, Presenter*
4:00 p.m.	Premier: "Montana Vignettes" for clarinet, alto saxophone & piano, *Gregory Young, Commissioned Composer*
4:30 p.m.	MTNA Foundation Raffle
5:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own
7:00 p.m.	Conference Recital: *Caroline Oltmanns, Piano*

Saturday, October 25

9:00 a.m.	General Meeting of the Association (All Members)
10:00 a.m.	Road to Parnassus: A Suggested Technical Path from the Methods to Chopin, *Kevin Chance, Featured Clinician, Presenter*
11:00 a.m.	Piano Masterclass, *Caroline Oltmanns, Guest Artist*
12:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks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Music Springs Discovery

Montana State Music Teachers Conference

Fairmont Hot Springs — **October 23-25, 2025**

2025 Conference Registration Form — Deadline: 1 October 2025

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

MOBILE _____ **PHONE** _____

E-MAIL _____

Are you willing to submit a session review for the Spring 2026 MT Music News? ☐ Yes ☐ No

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

++ *Full Registration includes all sessions, concert/recital, session materials, & awards banquet* ++

_____ $185 Full Registration

_____ **$150 MSMTA Member - Discounted**

_____ $125 First-time MSMTA Member

_____ $ 75 Collegiate Member

_____ $ 75 Daily Registration | *Does not include recital or awards banquet*

_____ $ 15 Late Fee | *Applies to Registrations Submitted/Postmarked after 1 October*

ADD-ONS:

_____ $ 45 Awards Banquet | *For Daily Attendees & Guests* [*Deadline 9 October*]

_____ **Total Registration**

Payment Method:

_____ Check <*payable to MSMTA*>

_____ PayPal < *'Pay Friends & Family' : paypal.me/msmta6* >

Conference Details @ Website - link below or QR Code >>

Send Registration Form to:

Carla Bell 2700 1st Ave N Great Falls, MT 59401

Or: Register & Pay Online at: MSMTA.com/2025-Conference

2025 CONFERENCE PRESENTERS AND ADJUDICATORS

Keynote presenter and clinician **Kevin Chance** serves as Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Alabama, where he coordinates the Gloria Narramore Moody Piano Area. As soloist and collaborator, Kevin has performed throughout the United States and abroad, and recent orchestral appearances have included Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, Grieg's Piano Concerto, Bernstein's "Age of Anxiety," Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini," Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, and Saint-Saëns's "Le Carnaval des animaux." Performing regularly as a chamber musician, Kevin has been a member of the Semplice Duo with flutist Cristina Ballatori for the past 24 years, and their performances have included world premiers at the National Flute Association Conference as well as recitals in Wisconsin, Texas, Colorado, Virginia, Alabama, and New York as well as Mexico and Europe.

Kevin has recently received a number of accolades for his teaching. Most recently, he was named a Leadership Board Faculty Fellow for the University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences, which recognizes excellence in teaching and research. In 2019, he was inducted into the inaugural class of the Steinway and Sons Music Teacher Hall of Fame in New York City and was named 2019 Music Educator of the Year by the Arts Council of Tuscaloosa. Additionally, he was named the 2015 Teacher of the Year by the Alabama Music Teachers Association. Kevin maintains an award-winning studio of college and pre-college students, and his students have garnered awards at the national and international levels. In demand as a clinician and adjudicator, he frequently presents at the MTNA National Conference as well as state and local music teacher organizations throughout the country. In January 2021, Kevin served as the headliner clinician for the University of Georgia Piano Symposium, and each summer, he serves on the faculty of the New Orleans Piano Institute each summer.

Kevin holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Louisiana State University, and Birmingham-Southern College, and his former teachers include Barry Snyder, Constance Knox Carroll, Anne Koscielny, Ann Schein, William DeVan, and Betty Sue Shepherd. Kevin has recently served as President of the American Matthay Association for Piano, and he currently serves as President of MTNA. He also recently joined the roster of Alfred Publishing, and his first three-volume series co-authored with Ingrid Clarfield, *Rare Recital Treasures*, will be released between October 2024 and Fall 2025.

Piano competition adjudicator **Stephen Thomas** has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, China, Europe, and Japan. His performances have been broadcast for Chinese television and for radio stations such as WQXR in New York City. He has recorded and performed with principal players of the San Francisco Symphony in Davies Hall and in concerts throughout the Bay Area.

Dr. Thomas frequently adjudicates piano competitions and presents master classes and lectures around the country and internationally. He served as President of Idaho Music Teachers Association from 2016-2018 and at the national committee level for

Music Teachers National Association. Dr. Thomas's students have won many competitions and awards and have been accepted into music festivals such as Aspen, Chautauqua, Brevard, and the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival. His students have also been accepted with scholarships into major music programs such as the Eastman School of Music, Indiana University, University of Southern California, University of Michigan, Northwestern University, Rice University, Arizona State University, and the Royal College of Music in London.

Dr. Thomas holds degrees in piano performance from Brigham Young University (B.M.), Yale University (M.M.), and the University of Michigan (D.M.A.), having studied with Irene Peery-Fox, Claude Frank, Peter Frankl, and Arthur Greene. He has undertaken additional studies with Ann Schein, with Anne Øland at the Royal Danish Conservatory in Copenhagen, Denmark, and with the faculty of the Moscow Conservatory.

Dr. Thomas is currently Coordinator of Keyboard Studies and has served as Associate Dean in the College of Performing and Visual Arts at Brigham Young University-Idaho. Previous to this appointment, he taught for 15 years at California State University, Stanislaus, where he also served as Chair of the Department of Music and as Acting Dean of the College of the Arts.

Guest artist and presenter **Caroline Oltmanns** is a pianist, presenter and pedagogue. 'A star in the piano world' (Donald Hunt, *Pianist Magazine*), she reveals in her playing a deep connectivity between music and culture. Her impeccable musical phrasing combined with an engaging stage presence have attracted audiences both in the U.S. and abroad.

Oltmanns has recorded seven solo CDs on the Filia Mundi label. Her newest concept album, *WIND*, was recorded in the prestigious Reitstadel in Germany. Event highlights of this concert season include appearances in the United States, in Switzerland, and in the U.K.

A Professor of Piano at Youngstown State University, Caroline Oltmanns has presented master classes and workshops in the United States, Switzerland, Germany, the U.K., South Africa, Canada, and China. She serves as a regular screening member of the Cleveland International Piano Competition, and she recently was appointed to the board of the documentary series *Living the Classical Life*.

Oltmanns received her early pianistic training in her native Germany based on the Walter Gieseking tradition. She is a Fulbright Scholar, an International Steinway Artist, a 2022 Steinway Top Teacher Awardee, and a Steinway Spirio Recording Artist. Her musical mentors were Robert Levin, John Perry, Vitaly Margulis, and Malcolm Frager.

Presenter **Jordan Neiman** is an active teacher and performer in the Flathead Valley. A graduate of Flathead High School, he received his BM at UNC School of the Arts, MM and GPD at the Boston Conservatory, and DMA at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, with a cognate in pedagogy. Primary teachers included: Kay Lund, Clifton Matthews, Jung-Ja Kim, and Awadagin Pratt.

At the Boston Conservatory, Neiman was the winner of the H. Wilfred Churchill Piano Competition in 2013 and attended Pianofest in the Hamptons 2014. Jordan has played concerts and recitals around Montana, the South, New England, New York, Canada and Switzerland.

A former professor at Northern Kentucky University School of the Arts, Jordan keeps busy through teaching, performing, and collaborating. Jordan is the music director at Bigfork Community United Methodist Church, performs keyboard with the Glacier Symphony and Chorale, serves as the current president of the Kalispell Area Music Teacher's Association, and will begin teaching at Flathead Valley Community College this fall.

IMTF Facilitator **Amelia R. T. Sears**, M.A., M.M., B.M. is a multi-genre violin and viola instructor, freelance performer, and recording artist. She founded Artwork Music Studio in Missoula in 2015 and provides music lessons and performance opportunities for middle school and high school students. She is passionate about supporting others as they define and enact their life goals, which fuels her career as a teacher and as a real

estate agent. Amelia is proud to serve her Western Montana community as a Realtor® with Glacier Sotheby's International Realty.

An active member of the western Montana arts community, Amelia performs with String Orchestra of the Rockies and is featured as a guest artist with the John Floridis band and other incredible local talent. As President of the Missoula Music Teachers Association, she works with her colleagues to create educational meetings for teachers and to promote the many incredible music performance opportunities for students across the state.

In 2023, Amelia completed a Master of Arts in Music Psychology in Education, Performance and Wellbeing from University of Sheffield, UK. She also holds a Master of Music in Violin Performance from Ohio University and earned her Bachelor of Music Business degree at University of Puget Sound.

She and her husband Adam are now learning every day what it means to be parents, as they dote on their new baby boy, Eamon.

Woodwind competition adjudicator **Joanna Berg** is principal flute of the Missoula Symphony, teaches at the University of Montana, and is a member of the Montana Woodwind Quintet. As a soloist, she was winner of the Byron Hester Competition and a prizewinner in the Myrna Brown Competition. Joanna has performed with the San Antonio Symphony, Austin Symphony, San Francisco Opera Merola Orchestra, Abilene Philharmonic, Aspen Music Festival and orchestras throughout Montana.

Joanna is passionate about contemporary music and has performed at numerous

festivals and alternative performance spaces, including the Other Minds festival in San Francisco, de Young Museum, Blanton Museum of Art, and the Midwest Composers Symposium. She can be heard on recordings including *Roscoe Mitchell Orchestra and Space Trio at the Fault Zone Festival, Distant Radio Transmission, Stations of My Life,* and the film soundtrack to Terrence Malick's *To the Wonder.*

Joanna has taught at Montana State University and throughout the country at various clinics, masterclasses and privately. Joanna completed her doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin. Her former teachers include Jonathan Keeble, Marianne Gedigian, and Mark Sparks. Joanna spends her free time exploring the mountains with her twin daughters and dog Butters, cooking and baking.

Composition competition adjudicator **Richard Pearson Thomas** has had works performed by the Boston Pops, Covent Garden Festival, Houston Grand Opera, Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, Chautauqua Opera, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Banff Centre, Portland Opera, Skylight Opera, and Encompass Opera. His songs have been sung in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Merkin Concert Hall, Wigmore Hall, Joe's Pub, and before the U.S. Congress.

He has received commissions from the Mirror Visions Ensemble, American Composers' Forum, Great Falls Symphony Orchestra, Empire State Youth Orchestra, Lebanon Valley College Orchestra, United States Air Force Band of the Golden West, Cal State Fullerton Opera, and Riverside Philharmonic Orchestra. His work *Race for the Sky*, commissioned as a commemoration of the events of 9/11, has been performed by the Westchester Philharmonic Orchestra and in recitals nationwide and abroad including in the Sydney Opera House.

Chamber music by Mr. Thomas has been performed by Sybarite 5, Five Boroughs Music Festival, Duo Terlano, Trillium Ensemble, South Country Concerts, and recorded by Music of the Spheres Society for broadcast on NPR. *Singing like the larks,* for mezzo-soprano and piano quintet, was awarded Honorable Mention in the 2014 MTNA Distinguished Composers competition.

As pianist, Mr. Thomas has concertized with singers and chamber musicians worldwide. Mr. Thomas is currently on faculty at Columbia University Teachers College. He has taught at Yale and the University of Central Florida. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the University of Southern California, and is a native of Montana.

For more info: richardpearsonthomas.com

A mail-in registration form for the 2025 State Conference can be found on page 9. For information on lodging at Fairmont Hot Springs, see page 6. The group hotel rate will be available until noon on September 30, 2025, using group ID 30686.

For a summary of sessions planned for the 2025 fall conference, see pages 19-20. Fall Festival guidelines and applications are available on pages 21-27, and information on entering students in the 2025 State MTNA Competitions can be found on page 29.

2025 COMMISSIONED COMPOSER AND PERFORMERS

Gregory Young joined the music faculty at Montana State University in 1988 and was the founding director of the Undergraduate Scholars Program.

In 2009 he got a U.S. Department of Education grant to start the MSU McNair Scholars Program. He has served as Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts & Architecture, and Director of the School of Music. Currently clarinetist with the Intermountain Opera and Bozeman Symphony Orchestras, he received a bachelors degree in music education from the University of Western Ontario, and masters and doctoral degrees in music from the University of Michigan. Young has taught at the University of Prince Edward Island, Memorial University of Newfoundland, the University of Western Ontario, and has lectured or performed on five continents. The United States Information Agency sponsored his concert tour of Brazil with the Kreutzer Trio and soprano Elizabeth Croy, and he has toured as soloist and conductor of the MSU Cello Ensemble throughout Europe and China.

His book, *Creative Inquiry in the Arts & Humanities: Models of Undergraduate Research*, with co-editors Shanahan and Yavneh, was published in 2011 by the Council on Undergraduate Research. In 2017 Routledge Press released Shanahan and Young's textbook, *Undergraduate Research in Music*, the first in the Undergraduate Research Series, now part of a ten-book series on the arts and humanities. The MSU Wind Symphony recently performed "Rocky Mountain Elk Suite" at the Kennedy Center, and in 2022 Routledge published *Insights into Music Composition*, co-authored by Steve Roens.

Multi-instrumentalist **Nate Deuel** regularly performs across the Mountain West in solo, chamber, and ensemble settings. Recognized for his musicianship, Deuel has performed in the MHSA All-State Band and UM All-Star Band, received "Superior" ratings at the Montana District 1 and State Music Festivals, and won the John Philip Sousa Band Award in 2020. Nate is also an avid arranger and orchestrator, creating several adaptations of standard saxophone repertoire. Recent accomplishments include winning the 2024 Montana MTNA Competition, and being named runner-up in the 2025 MASO Young Artist Competition.

Nate is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music at Montana State University, where he studies saxophone with Dr. Wonki Lee. He performs alto saxophone in the MSU Wind Symphony and the MSU Saxophone Quartet and has experience playing lead tenor saxophone and clarinet with the MSU One O'Clock Jazz Band, and clarinet in the Palisade Wind Quintet.

Praised by the New York Concert Review as having "played with astonishing maturity and flair," **Er-Hsuan Li** is a highly accomplished pianist. A native of Taiwan, Li has performed across Europe, Asia, and the United States on the stages of renowned venues including Carnegie Hall, Harris Theater in Chicago, Mozarteum in Salzburg, and the Taiwan National Concert Hall. He attained a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance at the University of Colorado Boulder, a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University, and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music. He currently serves as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Pacific Lutheran University.

Dr. Li is an esteemed saxophone accompaniment specialist, who has performed in multiple faculty and guest recitals at Montana State University, Tennessee State University, Austin Peay State University, Oklahoma Baptist University, and Oklahoma Christian University. He has presented and performed at the biennial conference of the North American Saxophone Alliance and at Oklahoma State University. In recognition of Li's remarkable artistic contributions, he received several national scholarship awards, leading to the creation of an upcoming album with saxophonist Lucas Hopkins, a concerto concert performing Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1, and the world premiere of John Clay Allen's concerto, *The Stone Harp*. He was a prize winner in various competitions in the United States and Taiwan, including the Bruce Ekstrand Memorial Performance Competition and the Rondo Forma Competition.

Li specializes in contemporary music and has premiered numerous new works as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and ensemble keyboardist. His most notable experiences include working on Boulez's *Douze Notations* with Pierre-Laurent Aimard, performing Steve Reich's *City Life*, *Tehillim*, and "Clapping Music," alongside Reich himself, and receiving coaching from Chinese Canadian composer Alexina Louie on her well-known work, S*cenes From A Jade Terrace*. Li currently has recordings on Spotify and Apple Music showcasing works by Nelson Walker, Jordan Holloway, and Brian Lambert.

In recent years, Li has taught a number of masterclasses and held appointments as a lecturer, graduate assistant instructor, and youth piano program instructor, where he has taught teaching applied lessons and keyboard musicianship courses to music majors and non-music majors. He has extensive experience as a collaborative pianist in vocal and instrumental studios, symphonic bands, contemporary music ensembles, and opera and musical productions.

As a researcher and scholar, Li has authored articles and recorded Jacqueline Hairston's "'Great Day' Ode" and Philippa Duke Schuyler's "Rumpelstiltsken." As an officer of the CU Boulder Collegiate Chapter of MTNA, he has delivered several sessions at MTNA national conferences. A seasoned lecturer, Li has given a variety of insightful presentations, including "Approaching New Music with Confidence," "How to Work with a Pianist," "Voice of Taiwan: Ma, Shui-Long," "Strategies for Performing Pierre Boulez's *Douze Notations*," "Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges' Violin Sonatas," and "A Decade in the US: Stories of Studying Abroad."

This season, Li's professional engagements will bring him to Xalapa, Mexico, the International Horn Competition of America, and the Colorado State Music Teachers Association Conference at Colorado State University Pueblo. He will professionally record John Clay Allen's Piano Concerto, *The Stone Harp,* with Boulder Symphony under the baton of maestro Devin Hughes.

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2025 PIANO MASTER CLASS APPLICATION

Entry Deadline: October 1, 2025

Dr. Kevin Chance, Friday, October 23, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Caroline Oltmanns, Saturday, October 24, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Please print:

Student's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade in school: _____ Length of piano study: _____ yrs

Please check one: o Beginner/Intermediate o Advanced

Parent's Name(s): _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

One movement of a multi-movement piece or shorter works recommended.
Selection to be performed for Master Class:

Title: _____

Composer: _____ Time: _____ min _____ sec

Teacher's Name: _____

Email _____ Phone/Cell: _____

Student Fees: $35 Beginner/Intermediate $45 Advanced

Students of MSMTA Member teachers receive a $5.00 discount [$30 Beg/Int | $40 Advanced]

Beginner/Intermediate students are scheduled for 15 minutes.

Advanced students are scheduled for 20 minutes.

Fees will be paid upon notification that a student has been selected. Master classes are open to students of all ages. Selected performers will be contacted by email. Please submit a digital audio file and teacher's letter of recommendation along with application to:

Dr. Jordan Nieman, Master Class Coordinator

Email: jordan.neiman@gmail.com

Deadline: October 1, 2025

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2025 CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Guide to Successful Sight Reading

Dr. Kevin Chance

Lack of reading fluency is perhaps the most common issue teachers identify among their students, and it is one of the most common problems encountered among incoming piano majors. By examining reading statistics, approaches, and theories in this 60-minute lecture, we can thoughtfully reconsider the approaches we are using in our studios. Additionally, a wealth of excellent materials for fostering more fluent reading will be presented.

"Rare Recital Treasures" Showcase

Dr. Kevin Chance

Rare Recital Treasures, selected and edited by Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield and Kevin Chance, is a three-book anthology showcasing lesser-known piano repertoire from all style periods. This series features works by both renowned and newly discovered composers, enriching the standard teaching literature with a diverse array of hidden gems. Volume 1 covers early intermediate to intermediate levels. Volume 2 is intermediate to late intermediate, and Volume 3 is late intermediate to early advanced. Each volume covers all five style periods, and Impressionistic works were commissioned from Dennis Alexander and Jennifer Linn for the earlier levels to enhance the amount of early intermediate impressionistic repertoire available. A modern work has also been commissioned by a recent MTNA Young Artist Composition winner for Volume 3. Each volume includes works by women as well as BIPOC composers, as these collections were developed from an inclusive viewpoint. In each volume, practice and performance tips have been provided for each piece, as well as brief biographical information about the composers. Alternate fingerings and clear editing will assist students and teachers with creating stylish, artistic performances. While the hope is that most of the pieces will be new to teachers, a few familiar works have been included in each volume to provide teachers with a sense of where the level of each book falls.

The Three C's of Classicism: An Approach to Teaching Classical Style

Dr. Kevin Chance

Every year, our studios are filled with the sounds of Clementi, Kuhlau, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. However, three basic elements can ensure a strong stylistic presentation of classical-style works. In this 60-minute lecture, Dr. Chance explores each of these components, along with pedagogical strategies for implementing them with students of all ages.

Elevating Your Piano Studio: How to Enhance Your Teaching Using the Internet

Dr. Caroline Oltmanns

This session explores how to build a studio website and what its benefits are, how to use internet platforms like YouTube, and how a newsletter can enhance a studio presence. This

45-50 minute session will allow plenty of time for questions and additional exploration.

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bach

Dr. Jordan Neiman

"My former teacher, Kay Lund, used to say this. She was well known to many of the current MSMTA members. She encouraged me to 'play Bach every day' when I left for college, so in honor of her, I will play Bach for an hour and share what I love about each piece." -Jordan

Steinway Gallery of Spokane

Ryan Crossette

Learn about Steinway Spokane's ability to sell pianos long-distance to your students, along with more about the gallery's referral program.

Best Practices for Best Performances: How to Fight "Freakout"

Dr. Stephen Thomas

This presentation addresses how to help students prepare mentally and physically for a positive performance experience and how we can help them avoid psychological self-sabotage. It includes an overview of detailed practice strategies for confidence in performance as well as ideas for how to use positive self-talk, self-awareness, expressive writing interventions, meditation, and visualization to assist in creating the best performance outcomes.

Road to Parnassus: A Suggested Technical Path from the Methods to Chopin

Dr. Kevin Chance

The road to virtuosity is one that must be carefully paved from the earliest lessons. This lecture will suggest a sequence and structure of technical exercises and resources to assist with securing a solid technical foundation from the earliest lessons through advanced repertoire.

Additional conference highlights will include the Independent Music Teachers Forum, facilitated by Amelia Thornton Sears, the UM Collegiate Chapter Presentation (a perpetual favorite), and the debut of "Montana Vignettes" by 2025 Commissioned Composer Dr. Gregory Young.

MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL:
Single Piece Piano Competition

SINGLE-PIECE
PIANO ONLY

Dates: October 23-25, 2025
Location: Fairmont Hot Springs, Fairmont, Montana
Application and Fee Deadline: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Entry Forms are available for download at www.msmta.com (click on *Fall Festival* or *For Students)* and must be mailed to the MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinator; there will be no online application available.

This competition is offered for piano only. *Students will perform only ONE piece of repertoire. Students who enter Single-Piece Competition, either as individuals or as a duet, may also enter the Fall Festival Short Program Competition; however, they may not play the same piece for both competitions.*

PIANO SOLO: There will be three Piano Solo Divisions: Elementary, Junior, and Senior. Memorization is required.

PIANO DUET: There will be three Piano Duet Divisions: Elementary, Junior, and Senior. Students must perform on **ONE** piano. Music does not have to be memorized, and page turners are allowed.

The Entry Form is on the next page.

The Single-Piece Piano Competition has the following age-group divisions:

Elementary:	Ages 9-12* as of Jan. 1, 2026
Junior:	Ages 12*-15** as of Jan. 1, 2026
Senior:	Ages 15**-19 as of Jan. 1, 2026

*** The teacher may elect to enter a 12-year-old student in either the Elementary Division or the Junior Division but must meet the program requirements of the chosen division.**

**** The teacher may elect to enter a 15-year-old student in either the Junior Division or the Senior Division but must meet the program requirements of the chosen division.**

FALL FESTIVAL FEES FOR SINGLE PIECE COMPETITION (NO REFUNDS):

Students: O Solo - $20 O Duet - $20 (per team)

Teachers: O MSMTA Member ** or Non-Member registered for conference - $0
O MSMTA Member ** not registered for conference - $20
O Non-Member not registered for conference - $40
O Subsequent Student - $0 (Teacher fee is paid only once with the first student's application.)
** MSMTA Membership dues must be paid by 10/1/2025.

Send entry forms and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) postmarked no later than September 24, 2025, to:

Landon Kleeman, MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinator
5318 Elyn Loop, Apt. 104, Missoula, MT 59808
Phone: (406) 459-5668
Email: landospianos@yahoo.com

2025 MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL APPLICATION

Application Deadline: POSTMARKED by September 24, 2025

Name(s) _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ Student's or Parent's Cell Phone _____

Student's Age as of Jan. 1, 2025 _____ Date of Birth _____

Teacher's Name _____ Teacher's E-mail _____

Teacher's Mailing Address _____ Teacher's Phone _____

I grant permission to MSMTA to use photos and/or videos taken during this event. Please initial _____

Choice of Entry: O Competition O Comments Only

Division: O Elementary O Junior O Senior

Performance Type: O Duet O Solo performer

Repertoire to be performed (Please refer to *Repertoire Selection Guidelines* under "MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL: Short Program Competition")

Please be very detailed: Include tempo marking, Opus #, and any other title of a movement, as well as the number of the movement.

Title _____

Movement(s) _____

Composer's Full Name _____

Performance Time (min./sec.) _____

FALL FESTIVAL FEES FOR SINGLE PIECE COMPETITION (NO REFUNDS):

Students: O Solo - $20 O Duet - $20 (per team)

Teachers: O MSMTA Member ** or Non-Member registered for conference - $0
O MSMTA Member ** not registered for conference - $20
O Non-Member not registered for conference - $40
O Subsequent Student - $0 (Teacher fee is paid only once with the first student's application.)
** MSMTA Membership dues must be paid by 10/1/2024.

Mail entry forms and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) postmarked no later than September 24, 2025, to:

Landon Kleeman, MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinator
5318 Elyn Loop, Apt. 104, Missoula, MT 59808
Phone: (406) 459-5668
Email: landospianos@yahoo.com

Student Fee: $20.00

Teacher Fee: _____

Total: _____

2025 MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL: Short Program Competition

Dates: October 23-25, 2025
Location: Fairmont Hot Springs, Fairmont, Montana
Application and Fee Deadline: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Entry Forms are available for download on www.msmta.com (click on *Fall Festival* or *For Students*) and must be mailed to the Fall Festival Coordinator; there will be no online application available.

Students who are entered in the MTNA competition may not be entered in the Fall Festival competition in the same category (such as Short Program Piano Solo in MSMTA Fall Festival and Piano Solo in MTNA).

A student may enter both the Single-Piece Category and the Short Program Category in the Fall Festival but may not play the same selection in both categories.

Once an application has been submitted and the application entry deadline has passed, repertoire choices may not be changed. The selections to be performed must be what are listed on the application. Contestants may choose the performance order of their programs.

The Fall Festival may be entered for comments only or for competition. Judges' decisions are final.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ENTRY CATEGORIES:

I. SOLO

A. Elementary: Ages 9 – 12* as of January 1, 2026

*** The teacher may elect to enter a 12-year-old student in either the Elementary Division or the Junior Division but must meet the program requirements of the chosen division.**

- Maximum performance time: 10 minutes
- Open to all instrumentalists; **no voice**

1. Pianists:
   a. Memorization is required
   b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) pieces from contrasting style periods; **quality** pedagogical material is encouraged (See "Repertoire Selection Guidelines")
2. Instrumentalists:
   a. Memorization is not required
   b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) selections representing contrasting style periods

B. Junior: Ages 12* – 15 as of January 1, 2026**

**** The teacher may elect to enter a 15-year-old student in either the Junior Division or the Senior Division but must meet the program requirements of the chosen division.**

- Maximum performance time: 15 minutes
- Open to all instrumentalists and vocalists

1. Pianists:
   a. Memorization is required
   b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) works from contrasting style periods of the following:
      (1) Baroque

(2) Classical (including Beethoven)
(3) Romantic
(4) Contemporary (including Impressionism)
(5) Educational Composers

2. Vocalists:
   a. Memorization is required
   b. Repertoire requirement: Program must be made up of three art songs (one non-English and two English)
   c. Include the name of any identifying work from which a song is taken
   d. Difficult arias are discouraged
3. Instrumentalists:
   a. Memorization is not required
   b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) selections representing contrasting style periods

C. Senior: Ages 15 – 19 as of January 1, 2026**

**** The teacher may elect to enter a 15-year-old student in either the Junior Division or the Senior Division but must meet the program requirements of the chosen division.**

- Maximum performance time: 20 minutes
- Open to all instrumentalists and vocalists

1. Pianists:
   a. Memorization is required
   b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least three (3) works from contrasting style periods of the following:
      (1) Baroque
      (2) Classical (including Beethoven)
      (3) Romantic
      (4) Contemporary (including Impressionism)
      (5) Educational Composers
2. Vocalists:
   a. Memorization is required
   b. Repertoire requirement: Program should include four (4) selections (two non-English art songs, one English art song, and one song of the entrant's choice)
   c. Include the name of any identifying work from which a song is taken
   d. Difficult arias are discouraged
3. Instrumentalists:
   a. Memorization is not required
   b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) selections representing contrasting style periods

II. PIANO DUET

All Levels (Age classifications are the same as for Solo Elementary, Junior and Senior)

1. Students must be able to perform on **ONE PIANO**
2. Music **does not have to be memorized**
3. Repertoire requirement: Same as listed for solos (Also see "Repertoire Selection Guidelines")
4. Students entering the duet competition may also enter the solo competition in Fall Festival
5. Teachers may jointly enter a duet team
6. Page turners are allowed

TEACHERS, PLEASE NOTE:

- **If your student has won the MSMTA (state) Fall Festival in a previous year, he/she cannot compete a subsequent year in the same category or age division. Options are to perform "For Comments Only" or to enter the MTNA (national) competition.**
- **If your student has won MTNA in a previous year but wants to perform in Fall Festival, he/she may only perform "For Comments Only" in the same category or age division.**
- **The teacher is responsible for correctly selecting classifications and music. The teacher is responsible for complying with the above directives and meeting all deadlines.**

REPERTOIRE SELECTION GUIDELINES:

Only commercially published works are permitted, and the score must be provided for the adjudicator. Jane Magrath's *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance* is an excellent resource for repertoire selection and level of difficulty. Entrants may use legally-produced scores from vendors such as CD Sheet Music, provided the letter of permission that accompanies this music is included. Music downloaded from the Internet (music in the public domain) may be used; however, the teacher should be certain that such music is an original edition and not an arrangement or transcription. No photocopied music is allowed unless accompanied by written permission from the publisher, stating that the selection is out of print.

No arrangements, abridgements or transcriptions may be used. Hymns, American folk songs, and "pop" songs (from radio, TV, movies, videos, etc.) are not acceptable. Songs from method books (such as Lesson, Theory, Technic, Top Hits Solos) are not acceptable. Quality pedagogical material (recital or performance pieces) by composers such as Dennis Alexander, Melody Bober, Jennifer Linn, Eugenie Rocherolle, Catherine Rollin, and other similar contemporary composers may be used.

FALL FESTIVAL FEES FOR SHORT PROGRAM (NO REFUNDS):

Students:

Elementary - $35
Junior - $40
Senior - $45
Piano Duet - $40 (per team)

Teachers:

- MSMTA Member ** or Non-Member registered for Conference - $0
- MSMTA Member ** not registered for Conference - $20
- Non-Member not registered for conference - $40
- Subsequent Student - $0 (Teacher fee is paid only once with the first student's application)

** MSMTA Membership dues must be paid by 10/1/2024.

Send entry forms and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) postmarked no later than September 24, 2025, to:

Landon Kleeman, MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinator

5318 Elyn Loop, Apt. 104, Missoula, MT 59808

Phone: (406) 459-5668

Email: landospianos@yahoo.com

2025 MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL SHORT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Dates: October 23-25, 2025
Location: Fairmont Hot Springs, Fairmont, Montana
Application and Fee Deadline: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Name(s) _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Telephone (home)_____ Student's or Parent's Cell Phone _____

Student's Age as of Jan. 1, 2025 _____ Date of Birth _____

Teacher's Name _____ Teacher's E-mail _____

Teacher's Mailing Address _____ Teacher's Phone _____

Accompanist's Name (if applicable) _____
(An accompanist is required for vocalists and instrumentalists. Teachers may accompany their own students.)

Instrument or Voice Classification (ex: piano, violin, soprano, etc.) _____
List repertoire on the second page

Piano: O Duet O Solo Performer
Division: O Elementary (Ages 9-12* as of Jan. 1, 2026)
O Junior (Ages 12*-15**as of Jan. 1, 2026)
O Senior (Ages 15**-19 as of Jan. 1, 2026)

*** The teacher may elect to enter a 12-year-old student in either the Elementary Division or the Junior Division but must meet the program requirements of the chosen division.**
**** The teacher may elect to enter a 15-year-old student in either the Junior Division or the Senior Division but must meet the program requirements of the chosen division.**

Choice of Entry: O Competition O Comments Only

Fall Festival Student Fees for Short Program (No refunds)

Elementary	$35
Junior	$40
Senior	$45
Piano Duet	$40 (per team)

Teacher Fees:
O MSMTA Member ** or Non-Member registered for conference - $0
O MSMTA Member ** not registered for conference - $20
O Non-Member not registered for conference - $40
O Subsequent Student - $0 (Teacher fee is paid only once, with the first student's application.)
** MSMTA Membership dues must be paid by 10/1/2025.

Mail this completed form, including second page, with payment by September 24, 2025, (checks payable to MSMTA) to:

Landon Kleeman, MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinator
5318 Elyn Loop, Apt. 104
Missoula, MT 59808

Student Fee: _____
Teacher Fee: _____
Total: _____

2025 MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL SHORT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Application Deadline: POSTMARKED by September 24, 2025

Student's Name _____ Division _____

Instrument or Voice Classification _____

Repertoire to be performed (For piano, please refer to *Repertoire Selection Guidelines* under "MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL – Short Program Competition")

Please be very detailed*:* Include tempo marking, Opus #, and any other title of a movement, as well as the number of the movement. **Please type or print.**

I. Title _____

Movement(s) _____

Composer's Full Name _____

Performance Time (min./sec .) _____ Style/Period _____

II. Title _____

Movement(s) _____

Composer's Full Name _____

Performance Time (min./sec .) _____ Style/Period _____

III. Title _____

Movement(s) _____

Composer's Full Name _____

Performance Time (min./sec .) _____ Style/Period _____

IV. Title _____

Movement(s) _____

Composer's Full Name _____

Performance Time (min./sec .) _____ Style/Period _____

Landon Kleeman, MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinator
5318 Elyn Loop, Apt. 104
Missoula, MT 59808

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2025 MTNA STATE COMPETITIONS

The 2025 Montana State Competitions will be held at the MSMTA Conference on Thursday, October 23 at Fairmont Hot Springs. Composition, Piano, Piano Duet, Strings, and Woodwind Performance compete at the state level in a 3-tiered competition involving State, Divisional (video submission), and National levels.

Brass, Voice, Chamber Music and the Stecher/Horowitz Two Piano Competition are part of a 2-tiered competition involving a preliminary round by video submission and the final round, live at the MTNA National Conference.

New This Year

- For all categories, entrants may only enter 10 minutes over the maximum time allowed at the National Final Round.
- Young Artist voice repertoire requirements have changed.
- Young Artist category has been expanded to ages 19-29.

Key Deadlines

Composition, Piano, Piano Duet, Strings and Woodwind Performance:

- Registration opens: Monday, August 4, 2025
- Registration deadline: Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time (1:00 p.m. Mountain Time)

Brass and Voice Performance and Chamber Music:

- Registration opens on Acceptd: Saturday, November 1, 2025
- Registration deadline: Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

MTNA-Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition:

- Registration opens on Acceptd: Tuesday, September 2, 2025
- Registration deadline: Monday, January 5, 2026, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

View the Competition Guidelines at mtna.org. Click Engage, then Competitions. For further information, contact the state competition chairs or the MTNA Director of Competitions listed below.

Performance Competition Chair and Coordinator:

Dorothy Beck Peterson, NCTM
Email: dbeckp@gmail.com
Phone: (406) 274-3388

Composition Competition Chair:

Laura Detrick
Email: laurainmt@gmail.com
Phone: (406) 750-7402

MTNA Director of Competitions:

Terri Hlubek, NCTM
Email: competitions@mtna.org
Phone: (405) 659-6548

Room Reservations at Fairmont Hot Springs:
Call 800-332-3272, Group ID: 30686
(Montana State Music Teachers Association)

Foundation Raffle

Our 2025 Foundation Raffle will be held at the MSMTA conference at Fairmont Hot Springs this October!

We are asking local associations and interested members to donate something you think an attendee might like to WIN! (e.g. a large, wrapped basket of goodies, a gift certificate for music, or a beautiful piece of art.)

During the Conference, the raffle chair will sell tickets for a drawing to be held on Friday evening. Proceeds are divided equally between the state association and the MTNA Foundation.

MAGIC.

Viardot

Cinderella

2025

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Bozeman | The Ellen Theatre

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OCT 11-12
Missoula | The Westside Theatre

MUSIC.

Flaherty & Ahrens

RAGTIME

2026

JAN 23-25
JAN 30-FEB 1
Bozeman | The Ellen Theatre

MURDER.

Puccini

TOSCA

2026

MAY 7-10
Bozeman | The Ellen Theatre

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BILLINGS MTA

Billings Music Teachers Association is in a member transition phase as we bring on new members and are slowly saying "Good-bye" to some of our long-term members, including retirees Sandra Subotnick and Charlene Waddingham. Two of our members who will continue as members moved out of state: Stephanie Stevens and Jackie Shanahan. We will truly miss them. On the bright side, we are excited to welcome Janell McKenney back to Billings!

Our member get-togethers included a highly participated member recital in January, a presentation in March by Stephanie Stevens on how to creatively use scales and theory in lessons and a presentation by mentors Margaret McGillvray, Charlene Waddingham, and Sherlon Orth, who shared their memories of being mentored in their earlier days and giving guidance to newer members. We finished the year off with a business meeting/potluck in May.

Student events included February's Duets & Donuts recital with over 100 audience members. On February 22, we had our annual Sonatina Festival with adjudicators Charlene Waddingham and Jacquelyn Weitz. Forty-five students of nine teachers participated. Twelve students were chosen for the Honors Recital. Our Spring Festival involved nearly 50 students, including strings and piano, with 12 teachers represented. Our piano adjudicators were Tim Schoessler and Stephanie Stevens, NCTM; our string adjudicator was Ken Gilstrap.

Adeline Warneke, student of Charlene Waddingham, was the recipient of the BMTA 2025 Undergraduate Scholarship and presented a touching performance for the Board Members at our July meeting. She will be majoring in Worship Ministry at Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, ND.

As requested by some of our younger members, we will be adding a Member and Student Recital Committee, a Music Camp committee, and a Social Gatherings Committee during the 2025-26 school year. We will be looking forward to the new student and member events!

At this point, it appears that there will be at least seven BMTA members attending the MSMTA Conference at Fairmont! We are looking forward to seeing you there!

- Therese Bertrand, NCTM, Billings MTA President

MSMTA wants to hear from you! To share photos of local association events or member accomplishments in Montana Music News, please email submissions to President Margery Whatley at mcduffm@gmail.com in advance of MMN's January 15 spring newsletter deadline.

2026-2028 Foundation Fellow Dorothy Beck Peterson, NCTM

DR. MARGERY WHATLEY, NCTM

It gives me great pleasure to announce MSMTA's 2026-2028 Foundation Fellow, Dorothy Beck Peterson! Dorothy has been very active as a pianist and private piano teacher in the Missoula area since 1983. She has performed in student, faculty, and guest artist recitals at the University of Montana and has played for countless local events. Dorothy has spent many summers teaching at the UM Piano Camps and is currently the accompanist for the Missoula Symphony Chorale, under the direction of her husband, Dean Peterson.

As a devoted member of MTNA, Dorothy has served as local association secretary, vice president and president, and was the Chair of the Missoula Music Teachers Spring Festival for over 20 years. She has been MSMTA secretary, Mentorship Chair, and Local Associations Chair. She currently serves as the Montana MTNA Performance Competitions Chair.

Dorothy attended Whitworth College and completed degrees in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Montana and Wichita State University. She is so grateful for everything she learned from her talented, inspiring teachers, from her very first teacher and neighbor, Alice Burgess, continuing to Evelyn Lindblad Folland in Anaconda, Margaret Ott, Dennis Alexander, Steven Hesla, Robert Hamilton, and Andrew Trechak.

Steven Hesla, Professor Emeritus at UM, writes: "Dorothy is a great colleague to all: a superb teacher, a kind person, and a helpful and capable volunteer! Whenever I hear or work with her students, I'm always impressed with their preparation and perfomances—everything has been addressed! Dorothy is a gem, and MSMTA is privileged to benefit from her many contributions!"

Dennis Alexander, Professor Emeritus (1972-1996), writes: "As a teacher/performer and composer for the past 54 years, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to see former students excel as pianists and teachers themselves. Dorothy Peterson has always been in the top echelon of former students whom I've admired over these many years for dedication to the art of music making and nurturing the lives of young people through exceptional teaching & performing. ... CONGRATULATIONS, Dorothy!! I could not be more proud of you."

Her students, both past and present, are consistent in their high praise and immense respect for Dorothy as teacher and mentor. She was the perfect teacher for my twin daughters, providing them an impeccable foundation and instilling in them a love for music in a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment. Former student Adam Sears, who received his M.M. in piano performance, writes: "Dorothy is a great source for inspiration! Her dedicated, perceptive, and

imaginative teaching, along with her impressive piano performance skills, helped me build an essential part of the piano framework I continue to rely on today. I am grateful for her reliable presence through my countless youthful lessons. She naturally maintains a perfect balance between her serious, down-to-earth direction, and that swift smile of encouragement we all appreciate!!"

Dorothy's sister, pianist and teacher Barbara Beck Miller, writes: "Dorothy Beck Peterson is someone I have looked up to and been inspired by since I can remember. She was always so talented but also the most diligent and committed student of the piano during all levels of her education. She went on to become an extremely accomplished and dedicated pianist, teacher, accompanist and giving member of MTNA as well as the musical community at large. So many successful pianists have come from Dorothy's studio, and she continues that tradition of excellence to this day with her current students. As a colleague, I have often benefited from her musical insight, creativity and wisdom. She is so deserving of this honor, and I am lucky to call her my sister!"

In order to honor Dorothy by naming her Montana's 2026-2028 Foundation Fellow, MSMTA must raise $1,500 by January 15, 2026. When named a Foundation Fellow, Dorothy will be honored at the 2026 MTNA National Conference in Chicago. Donations can be submitted online at www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/. If you prefer to mail your donation, checks made out to the MTNA Foundation may be sent to Carla Bell at 2700 1st Ave.N., Great Falls, MT 59401 - MEMO: Dorothy Beck Peterson.

(Continued on page 37)

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MTNA FOUNDATION FUND

Endowment funds allow MTNA to build assets to ensure its future, and earnings from these investments fund MTNA's programs for the creation, performance, study and teaching of music. Contributions also may be made to the general endowment fund, the annual fund and to any Fellow fund or endowment fund in progress.

Please Use My Gift For:

- ❑ Joyce B. Andersen Endowment
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Dorothy Beck Peterson

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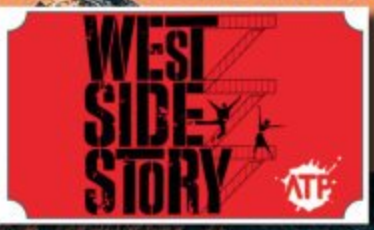

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Margery Whatley is looking forward to a dynamic year of teaching, performing, and serving as president of MSMTA. In addition to preparing for our upcoming State Conference at Fairmont Hot Springs (October 23–25), Margery is also planning visits to local chapters across the state and is eager to connect with teachers, hear their stories, and learn more about the exciting work happening in their communities. On the performance front, she's currently preparing a new recital program for Spring concerts, with scheduled appearances at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia; Montana State University in Bozeman; and the University of Montana in Missoula. It promises to be a full and inspiring year!

Christopher Hahn will share additional updates from UM in the spring edition of MMN.

- Margery Whatley, NCTM

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Greetings MSMTA! There is a lot happening in the piano area at Montana State University this academic year. Last spring our wonderful professor of piano, Julie Gosswiller, retired from a twenty-five-year career at Montana State University. She will be deeply missed, and we wish her well in her new life in retirement!

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our new piano faculty, Dr. Er-Hsuan Li. You can read his full bio in this newsletter. We are thrilled to have Dr. Li join our team!

Both Dr. Er-Hsuan Li and Professor Kenneth Christensen will be busy this semester with participation in collaborative recitals. Dr. Li is collaborating with two guest artists: Gail Robertson, euphonium, and Daniel Cosio, trombone. Both performances are this September. In October Professor Kenneth Christensen will be collaborating in recital with Dr. Beth Antonopulos, oboe and english horn, along with other MSU School of Music Faculty. As well, this November Professor Christensen will be a guest soloist with the Gallatin Wind Symphony in a performance of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

Both Dr. Er-Hsuan Li and Professor Kenneth Christensen will be attending the MSMTA conference in October. Dr. Li will be one of the performers in the premier of MSMTA Commissioned Composer Dr. Greg Young's Trio for clarinet, saxophone, and piano. We look forward to seeing everyone at the conference!

- Kenneth Christensen, NCTM

(Foundation Fellow, continued from page 33)

Be sure Dorothy's name appears in the FELLOW box. Donations from across the nation help to support the $250,000 that MTNA distributes in awards and grants each year.

Please keep in mind that in addition to our individual gifts, local associations are also needed to reach our goal! Local treasurers may send donations to Carla as stated above. The suggested amount from our local associations is $200 and from individuals is $50, however, all contributions in any amount are gratefully appreciated!

Congratulations, Dorothy, from all of us!

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