

MONTANA MUSIC NEWS

MONTANA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

FALL 2021



IN THIS ISSUE ...

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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2021 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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2021 MSMTA STATE CONFERENCE

October 28-30, 2021

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Great Falls, MT

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NCTM, (804) 852-7191

peachykeys38@gmail.com

Kalispell Area: Ginny Reese

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ginnyreese10@gmail.com

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www.msmta.com



MSMTA STANDING COMMITTEES

2020-2022

<u>College Faculty</u>	Ken Christensen, NCTM, and Julie Gosswiller
<u>Conference</u>	Laura Detrick
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<u>Festivals</u>	Carole Hatley
<u>Certificates</u>	Stephanie Davis, NCTM
<u>Finance</u>	Carla Bell
<u>Grants</u>	To be appointed
<u>Historian</u>	Linda Holden
<u>Legislative</u>	Sharon Marble
<u>Membership</u>	Ginny Reese
<u>Membership Secretary</u>	To be appointed
<u>Local Associations</u>	Ginny Reese
<u>Marketing</u>	Tammie Nelson
<u>MSMTA Scholarships</u>	Judy O'Dell
<u>Cinda Tompkins</u>	Linda Holden
<u>June Werner/Legacy Fund</u>	Judy O'Dell
<u>MTNA Competitions:</u>	Dorothy Beck-Peterson, NCTM
<u>Performance</u>	Dorothy Beck-Peterson, NCTM
<u>Composition</u>	Mike Evock
<u>MTNA Foundation</u>	Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM
<u>Nominating</u>	Margaret McGillvray, NCTM
<u>PPAC</u>	Margaret McGillvray, NCTM
<u>Publications</u>	to be appointed
<u>Editor</u>	Jessica Olson
<u>Advertising</u>	Laura Detrick
<u>Technology</u>	Carla Bell
<u>Web site</u>	Carla Bell
<u>Social Media</u>	Jessica Olson

*Committee chair positions are underlined.

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Butte-Anaconda: Tricia Cox

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MSMTA Officers

2020-2022

President

Laura Detrick

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laurainmt@hotmail.com

President-Elect

Ginny Reese

(425) 248-7112

ginnyreese10@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Margaret McGillvray, NCTM

(406) 670-5165

memcgillvray@gmail.com

Secretary

Charlene Loge

(406) 683-4344

charleneloge@gmail.com

Treasurer

Carla Bell

(406) 788-7181

cjpiano@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

To be appointed

Northwest Division Director

Jody Graves, NCTM

jgraves@ewu.edu

Northwest Certification Director

David French, NCTM

id_maestro@hotmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In a recent visit I had with a friend who is dealing with a difficult situation, she mentioned the importance of forgiveness. As I thought about what she said I realized that, while she does have to deal with resulting issues, she is operating on a higher plane than the situation itself. Such is the case for music teachers. With the many varied challenges that music teachers have faced throughout time, we not only overcome, but use the circumstances in achieving greater goals. That is because we operate on a higher plane. For every new trial, we find our purpose “much bigger than that.” It is this kind of focus that keeps us attuned to that purpose and excited about our profession.

There is much excitement indeed about MSMTA's upcoming fall conference, October 28-30, 2021. You can look forward to marvelous insights from internationally acclaimed composer Joseph Martin and MTNA immediate past-president Martha Hilley. Combine that with the premier of accomplished composer Eric Funk's MSMTA commissioned work, and the choral and piano solo concert with Mr. Martin himself at the helm, and you are sure to find added inspiration that will blossom in your studio.

Just in case there aren't already enough highlights, we'll all experience more fuel for excellence during the awards ceremony as we honor our current Foundation Fellow, Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM, and Teacher of the Year, Dr. Christopher Hahn, NCTM, among others. Their contributions made to MSMTA and thus to the Montana music community and beyond are countless. You'll want to read about them in this newsletter.

The collegiate presentation at MSMTA Fall Conference is always a real treat and is one of the great ways that MSMTA meets its goals as found in the Preamble to our Constitution: “to

further the art of music; and to promote the growth and professional development of its members by providing programs that encourage and support teaching, performance, composition and research... .” Wouldn't it be great to also add internships to our offerings for these students? Let's talk about it in our meetings.



Have you read the MSMTA Constitution and Bylaws and/or our Strategic Plan? They are both found in the back of the current, yellow-covered member directory. (There are a small number of directories still available. If you've joined MSMTA recently and would like one, feel free to contact me by email). Somehow, these documents escape our attention, but are so very informative! Please consider making a concerted effort to read through them and discover some of the inspiration behind our music community outreaches.

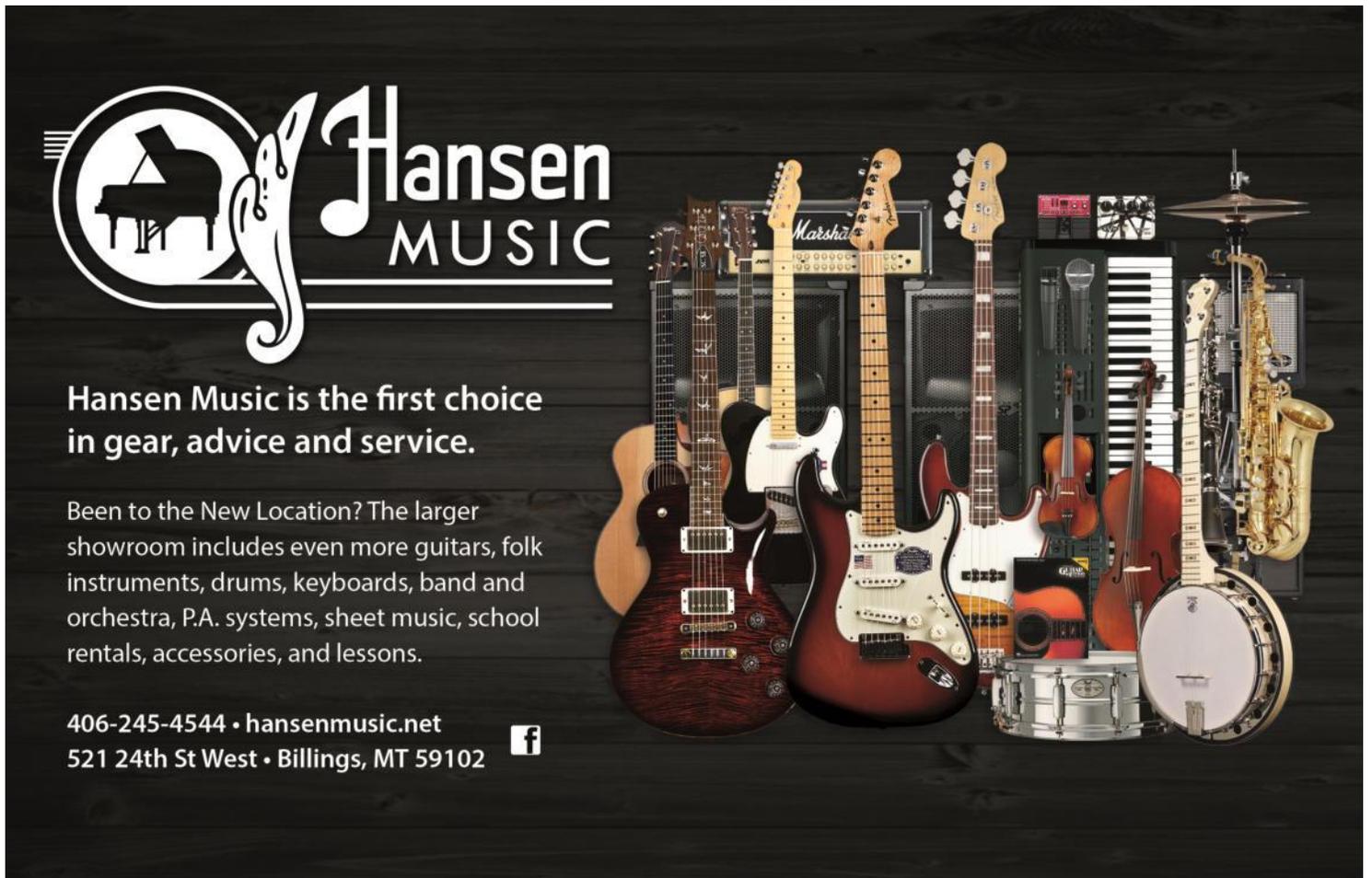
Being among an assembly of wonderful people of the highest caliber musicianship, talking about our mutual passion for music, and sharing perspectives that enhance each other's teaching — this is MSMTA Fall Conference. Much bigger than the logistics of getting there, packed with reasons to be glad you went!

Laura Detrick

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2021 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

(Note: The following schedule is preliminary and may be revised in advance of the conference.)

Thursday, October 28

- 9:00 - 10:00 Executive Board Meeting (*President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Secretary*)
- 10:00 - 11:00 State Board Meeting (*Executive Board, all Committee Chairs, Local Association Presidents, Collegiate Chapter Presidents*)
- 11:00 Lunch on your own / Exhibits
- 12:20 Welcome
- 12:30 - 1:30 "ROOTS AND WINGS" Joseph Martin
How classical training provides both foundation and freedom
- 1:45 - 2:45 "Theory and Improvisation: Like Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup - You Can Have One Without the Other But It's Just Never As Good!" Martha Hilley, NCTM
- 3:00 - 4:00 Independent Music Teacher's Forum, Stephanie Davis, NCTM
- 4:00 - 5:00 MTNA Competitions and Fall Festival Results / Exhibits
- 5:00 - 6:00 Conference Reception (No Host Bar Available) | Britta Lee & Rob Kohler
- 6:00 - 8:00 Awards Banquet | Great Falls Community Gospel Choir

Friday, October 29

- 9:00 - 10:00 "LITERACY, HISTORY, ARTISTRY" Joseph Martin
Our Three-Fold Purpose
- 10:15 - 11:15 "Are My Students Getting Their Money's Worth Out of Their Repertoire?" Martha Hilley, NCTM
- 11:30 - 1:00 Local President's Lunch (no-host, order on Thursday)
- 1:00 - 1:40 Collegiate Presentation
- 1:40 - 2:00 MTNA Foundation Raffle
- 2:00 - 3:00 "DESIGN THINKING AND CREATIVE TEACHING" Joseph Martin
Techniques and Tools for Success
- 3:30 - 4:30 Premier: Jazz Suite, Op. 163 - Commissioned Composer Eric Funk and Pianist Stefan Stern
- 4:30 - 5:00 Exhibits
- 5:00 Dinner on your Own
- 7:00 Conference Recital with MSMTA Community Choir performing the music of Joseph Martin

Saturday, October 30

- 9:00 - 10:00 General Meeting of the Association (*All Members*)
- 10:15 - 11:15 Beginner/Intermediate Masterclass, Martha Hilley, NCTM
- 11:15 - 12:15 Advanced Masterclass, Joseph Martin
- 12:15 Closing Remarks

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94TH ANNUAL MSMTA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

October 28-30, 2021

Holiday Inn, Great Falls

Joseph Martin, Keynote Presenter, and Martha Hilley, NCTM, Clinician

Eric Funk, Commissioned Composer

Register online at www.msmta.com

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **OCTOBER 8, 2021** (LATE FEE OF \$15.00 APPLIES AFTER OCTOBER 8, 2021)

Registration Options (Full Registration includes all sessions, concert, session materials, and awards banquet)

Check only one:

- _____ \$150 MSMTA Member Full Registration
- _____ \$185 General Full Registration
- _____ \$125 MSMTA Full Registration – First Time Member Attendee
- _____ \$75 MSMTA Full Registration – Collegiate Member
- _____ \$75 Daily Registration – (Does not include concert or awards banquet)
- _____ \$15 Late Registration Fee – Applies to registration postmarked after October 8, 2021

Add-ons:

- _____ \$35 Awards Banquet, Thursday October 27, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Daily Attendees and guests) **Deadline — October 8, 2021**
- _____ \$10 General admission, additional concert tickets, Friday October 29, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

If completing full registration or banquet add-on, please select your preferred banquet entrée: ___ Beef ___ Pork ___ Vegetarian

_____ **Grand Total**

Send completed registration form and check payable to MSMTA to:

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2021 MSMTA COMMUNITY CHOIR

You are invited to join our first-ever MSMTA Conference Community Choir! The choir will perform the music of guest artist and clinician Joseph Martin at the 2021 MSMTA Annual Conference at the Conference Gala Concert on Friday, October 29, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

Performance Date:

Friday, October 29, 7:30 p.m. | location TBD

Rehearsals:

6:00-8:00 p.m. Sundays, September 19-October 24, 2021, and Wednesday, October 27, 2021
Location: Crossroads Memorial Church, 1700 Marketplace Dr., Great Falls, MT

Registration:

[includes music, mask (if required), rehearsals, and performance]

MSMTA Members: \$20 Non-Members: \$25

Open to all parts: SATB

Release:

By registering for this event, the Participant hereby agrees to release and hold harmless, to the greatest extent allowed by law, the Montana State Music Teachers Association, its officers, directors, employees, and agents from any and all illnesses, injuries, sickness, death, or other losses arising in any way from Attendee's attendance at and participation in the Event.

For more information:

Contact Kim Peachy at peachykeys38@gmail.com or Laura Detrick at laurainmt@hotmail.com

To Register, complete the form below and mail with check to:

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

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

MSMTA Member? Yes \$20 No \$25

Attending Conference? Yes No

Voice Part: Soprano Alto Tenor Baritone

Amount Enclosed: _____

This opportunity is made possible in large part by the MTNA Community Enrichment Grant. Thank you, MTNA!

2021 CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



JOSEPH MARTIN, a native of North Carolina, earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Subsequently he earned a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance at the University of Texas, Austin. Martin taught for five years in the Piano Pedagogy Department of the University of Texas. His piano teachers included Jimmy Woodle, David Gibson, Amanda Vick Lethco, Martha Hilley and Danielle Martin. While at Furman University, he was accompanist for choral director and composer Milburn Price and, inspired by his teaching, Martin began to compose.

As Director of Sacred Publications for Shawnee Press, Inc., Martin oversees the editorial and creative direction of the company and coordinates the recording and production aspects of future sacred publishing efforts.

He has performed solo piano recitals and has been the featured artist with symphony

orchestras in the United States and Mexico. As winner of the Nina Plant Wideman Competition, he performed with the Guadalajara Symphony Orchestra. His solo recital in Ex-convento del Carmen was broadcast nationally throughout the country.

His first solo piano recording, *American Tapestry*, was nominated for a Dove Award. He has recorded for Yamaha's Disklavier series and has composed hundreds of commissioned works.

Recognized throughout the United States for his many choral compositions, both sacred and secular, Martin's music is published by numerous publishing houses. Over two thousand compositions are currently in print, and the list continues to grow.

In 2008 he was inducted as a National Patron of the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity. His major works include over 60 choral cantatas and "Song of Wisdom," a choral tone poem based on the best-selling children's book, *Old Turtle*. His work for young voices, "Heartsongs," inspired by the life and words of Mattie J. Stepanek, was premiered at Carnegie Hall.

Martin's music can be heard in such diverse locations as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City; Constitution Hall in Washington DC, The Lawrence Welk Theatre in Branson, Missouri; St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City; and in hundreds of worship services in churches across the United States and Canada. He continues to surprise audiences with the variety and scope of his compositions and arrangements. He currently serves as Artist in Residence at Concordia University in Austin, Texas where he lives with his wife, Sue.



MARTHA HILLEY, NCTM, joined the faculty of The University of Texas School of Music in 1982 as coordinator of group piano and a member of the piano pedagogy faculty. Over the next 36 years she served two years as head of the keyboard division, five years as Associate Director of the School of Music as well as two different five-year terms as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Martha retired from the Butler School of Music on August 31, 2019.

"Hilley," as most of her students called her, has been an active presenter and clinician on the local, state, national and international levels for the last 51 years. She has been co-curriculum coordinator with Lynn Freeman Olson and presenter for the International Pedagogy Workshops in Italy, Belgium, Norway, Australia, Austria and Hawaii, and served as pedagogy faculty for the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival in Alaska and Tunghai University's Summer Keyboard Institute in Taichung, Taiwan. She was keynote speaker and presenter for the 2013 Encontro Internacional de Piano ed Grupo in Goiania, Brazil. In more recent years Martha has been a co-presenter at CEPROM, a pre-conference meeting to ISME and a co-presenter at the ISME Conference in

Glasgow, Scotland. She was also a keynote speaker at the 2018 SEMPRES Conference in London, England.

Professor Hilley's abilities as a teacher have been recognized on numerous occasions: 1983, Texas Excellence Teaching Award; 1988 one of four university-wide Dad's Association Centennial Fellowships; 1992, Orpheus Award presented by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia; 1997, Outstanding Collegiate Teacher Award by the Texas Music Teachers Association; and in 1998, William David Blunk Professorship in recognition of outstanding undergraduate teaching and research. In 2000, she was chosen for membership in Leadership Texas and was elected the following September to the Leadership Texas Alumni Board of Directors. Other honors include induction into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers (UT Austin) 2005; Distinguished Service Award from the Music Teachers National Association, spring 2008; University of Texas at Austin, Civitatis Award, 2011-2012; MTNA Teacher of the Year, 2014; and Lifetime Achievement Award, presented at the 2017 National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. She served as 2019-2021 President of MTNA and has assumed the role of Immediate Past President for a two-year term effective March 2021.

Articles by Professor Hilley have been published in *Clavier*, *Piano Quarterly* and *Keyboard Companion* and within anthologies published by Routledge Press (UK). She is co-author of two college piano texts: "Piano for the Developing Musician" and "Piano for Pleasure." The texts were the first to embrace digital sequencer technology through disks furnished to teachers as well as the first to provide web-based computer tutorials, downloadable pdf and mp3 files and dedicated web sites for each text.

(Conference Presenters continued on page 17)

2021 CONFERENCE SESSIONS

ROOTS AND WINGS: HOW CLASSICAL TRAINING PROVIDES FOUNDATION AND FREEDOM

JOSEPH MARTIN

This session will provide a professional's perspective on traditional musical education and its value in "real world" scenarios. The session will visit important skill sets (both musical and non-musical) that help energize professional success in the broader arts industry.

LITERACY, HISTORY, AND ARTISTRY: OUR THREE-FOLD PURPOSE

JOSEPH MARTIN

Music making is an essential part of the human experience. Musical fluency is a bridge builder, encouraging respect and celebrating diversity. This session will visit three pillars of pedagogical purpose and explore their application to student wellness.

DESIGN THINKING AND CREATIVE TEACHING: TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

JOSEPH MARTIN

How do we develop lesson experiences that acknowledge the uniqueness of each individual student? If celebrating diversity and respecting individualism is essential, how can we better "design" our time with students so that music lessons become a joyful space for a lifetime of discovery?

THEORY AND IMPROVISATION

MARTHA HILLEY, NCTM

Like grilled cheese and tomato soup - you can have one without the other, but it's just never as good! Piano teachers have the opportunity to be "perfect" theory teachers if they take advantage of the music their students are working on, plus perhaps come up with some "fun" theory drills. Add all of this to improvisation and you have activities that can be put into action regularly!

ARE MY STUDENTS GETTING THEIR MONEY'S WORTH OUT OF THEIR REPERTOIRE?

MARTHA HILLEY, NCTM

Do your students always learn everything possible from their repertoire? Give them a chance to compose a piece in the style of their repertoire. Do a harmonic analysis, change the key and the time signature, and write an original piece of your own based on the composer's harmonies. Turn the repertoire they are working on into a rhythm drill. Creativity, it is right there in the repertoire they have learned and just performed.

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM (IMTF)

STEPHANIE DAVIS, NCTM

IMTF Chair Stephanie Davis will guide participants in an interactive forum addressing the unique challenges and immense rewards of independent music teaching.

2021-2022 COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

"It is an honor to announce that Eric Funk has been selected as the MSMTA commissioned composer for this biennium. Eric Funk, professor at Montana State University, has composed a five-movement work for solo piano that will be premiered at the MSMTA State Conference on October 29, 2021, and performed by Stefan Stern, Music Director for Montana Ballet Company."
- Kate Hansen, MSMTA Commissioned Composer chair



ERIC FUNK was born in Montana in 1949. He studied composition with Tomas Svoboda, Sandor Veress, and Krzysztof Penderecki and interviewed Nadia Boulanger in Paris (1977) specific to her composition pedagogy. Professor Funk is artistic director and host for Montana PBS-TV's "11th & Grant with Eric Funk," the 10-time Emmy Award winning showcase and 4-time NETA Award winning (National Educational Television Association) "Best Entertainment Program in the United States Regardless of Market Size." Funk is also emeritus music/artistic director for the Big Sky Classical Music Festival, now in its sixth season.

Eric Funk has composed 170 major works,

one third of which were commissioned, including nine symphonies, four operas, nineteen concertos, six string quartets, numerous large and small choral works, and chamber works. Recordings of his work include the Warsaw Philharmonic; Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra; Latvian National Symphony Orchestra; Moscow String Quartet, Moyzes String Quartet; and, Elizabeth Croy, soprano, with Dr. Gregory Young, clarinet, and the Meritage String Quartet. In 2018 he was awarded an Emmy Award for Best Music Composition as part of the six Emmy Awards given for the Montana PBS/Scott Sterling documentary "The Violin Alone," the 2018 American Prize in Composition "Best Concerto of the Year" (Variations on a Theme by Jan Hanus for Violin & String Orchestra), and the leading international 2018 Global Music Award with two gold medals for classical music and composition for his "Piano Concerto #1." Professor Funk teaches at the School of Music at Montana State University.

CONFERENCE LODGING INFORMATION

Holiday Inn of Great Falls
1100 5th Street S.
Great Falls, MT 59405

TO RESERVE ROOMS for the 2021 State Conference, call (406) 727-7200 and ask for the MSMTA Conference Rate of \$109/night.

The Conference rate is valid for the nights of October 27-30, 2021. You must reserve your room by **September 27, 2021**, to obtain this rate. Check in time is 3:00 p.m., and limited luggage storage will be available.

MTNA COMPETITIONS

THE ENTRY DEADLINE for the 2021 Composition Competition and the application deadline for the Junior, Senior and Young Artist Performance Competitions is **Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern time (1:00 p.m. Mountain time), no exceptions.** Applications for the performance competitions will be available in August 2021.

The Montana State Performance Competitions will be held by video submission via YouTube. The video upload deadline is **Friday, October 22, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Mountain time.** Videos should be sent to the Performance Competitions Chair.

The Chamber Music Competition is a two-tier competition with no state level. The deadline for the Chamber Music applications and video submissions is **Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 3:00 p.m. Eastern time).** Applications will be available on Wednesday,

November 3, 2021.

The winners/representatives of each state's competition advance to a video-only division competition. Division winners will compete in the National Finals at the annual MTNA National Conference.

To find full entry guidelines and information for all competitions, visit mtna.org and click "Engage." Under the "Engage" dropdown, click "Competitions." Please contact the state competition coordinators with questions.

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION CHAIR AND COORDINATOR:

Dorothy Beck Peterson, NCTM
Email: dbeckp@gmail.com
Phone: 406-274-3388 (cell), 406-549-3915 (home)

COMPOSITION COMPETITION CHAIR:

Mike Evock
Email: mike@grantcreekmusic.com

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2021 ADJUDICATORS



JENSINA OLIVER has delighted audiences as a piano soloist and chamber musician in the United States, China, Canada, Costa Rica, Israel, and throughout Europe. Her performances with orchestra include appearances with the Hubei Provincial Orchestra of Wuhan, China, the Intermountain Chamber Orchestra, the Utah Philharmonia, and the University of Washington Symphony Orchestra. She was a national finalist in the MTNA Chamber Music Competition, a resident artist at the Banff Chamber Music Festival, and has won several solo and concerto competitions throughout the United States. She currently performs duo piano with pianist Dr. Kay Zavislak.

Dr. Oliver is in high demand as guest clinician and adjudicator at events, conferences, and competitions throughout the Pacific Northwest. She was a featured speaker at the 2020 Piano Camp for Piano Teachers conference in Austin, TX and regularly travels around Washington to speak with teachers and students alike. She has taught at Shoreline Community College since 1998 and has a thriving piano studio with students of all ages. Dr. Oliver currently

resides with her family in Seattle, WA, where she loves to enjoy all of the beautiful outdoor opportunities that the Pacific Northwest provides.

(Conference Presenters continued from page 13)



STEPHANIE DAVIS, NCTM grew up in Houston, TX, and received her Bachelor of Arts in organ performance from St. Thomas University in

Houston, and her Master's of Music in organ performance and church music from Indiana University. She has earned the prestigious Fellow certification from the American Guild of Organists, Elementary Pedagogy certification from the Royal Conservatory of Music [Canada], and most recently her NCTM certification from MTNA.

Stephanie's 30-year career as a church musician included directing and accompanying choirs of all ages at churches, festivals and conferences around the country. Following her 11 years as Director of Music Ministries at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Billings, she transitioned to full-time teaching and accompanying in September 2017. In addition to maintaining a full piano studio, Stephanie teaches piano proficiency classes at MSUB, participates in the Billings Music Teachers Association, and accompanies musicians of all ages and abilities around the Billings area.

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PIANO MASTER CLASS APPLICATION

2021 MSMTA CONFERENCE

ENTRY DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2021

Beginner/Intermediate: Saturday, October 30, 10:15-11:15* - Martha Hilley, NCTM, Clinician

Advanced: Saturday, October 30, 11:15-12:15* - Joseph Martin, Clinician

Please print:

Student's Name: _____

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

Please check one: Beginner/Intermediate _____ 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 _____ 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 to be paid upon notification that student has been selected. The master class is 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:

Stephanie Davis, NCTM, Masterclass Coordinator

Email: stephanie@StephaniesStudioBillings.com

Deadline: October 1, 2021

MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL: Short Program Competition

Application and Fee Deadline: Saturday, October 2, 2021

Video submission via YouTube is required and must be submitted to the Fall Festival Coordinator by

Saturday, October 16, 2021

(Students/teachers will receive detailed information about video submission after the application and entry fee have been received)

Announcement of Winners: October 28, 2021 (Date of MSMTA conference)

Entry Forms are available for download on www.msmta.com (click on Fall Festival or Student Activities) 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, 2022

*** 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, 2022**

**** 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 (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, 2022**

**** 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 (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

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 and 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, Technique, 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:

- Current MSMTA member - \$0 **
- Non-Member - \$20
- Subsequent Student - \$0 (Teacher fee is paid only once, with the first student's application)
- ** Membership dues must be paid by 10/1/2021

Send entry forms and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) postmarked no later than October 2, 2021 to:
Carole Hatley, MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinator,
3108 – 5A Street N. E., Great Falls, MT 59404
Phone (406) 453-0184 or (406) 781-3538
Email: carolehatley@yahoo.com

2021 MSMTA Fall Festival Application

APPLICATION DEADLINE: POSTMARKED by OCTOBER 2, 2021

Student's Name _____ Division _____

Instrument or Voice Classification _____

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

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 _____

2021 MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL APPLICATION

Application Deadline: POSTMARKED by October 2, 2021

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, 2022 _____ 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 _____

Division: Elementary Junior Senior

Performance Type: Duet 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.) _____

Fees for Single-Piece (No refunds)

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

Teachers: MSMTA Member - \$0 Non-Member - \$20

Subsequent Student - \$0

(MSMTA dues must be paid by 10/1/21. Teacher fee is paid only once, with the first student's application.)

**Mail this completed form, with payment
(checks payable to MSMTA) to:**

Student Fee: _____

Teacher Fee: _____

Total: _____

Carole Hatley
MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinator
3108 - 5A Street N. E.
Great Falls, MT 59404

MSMTA SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to ISABELLE PEARSON from the University of Montana, who is this year's Cinda Marie Tompkins Piano Pedagogy Scholarship winner. Isabelle was nominated by UM professor Steven Hesla.

Isabelle studied piano with Ken Christensen prior to coming to UM and has been a student of Steven Hesla for two years. Her cumulative GPA of 3.90 at UM includes a daunting array of coursework to accomplish her aspirations with majors in both music and German!

Isabelle successfully completed her upper divisional performance for the Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy curriculum. She is planning a Junior recital in 2021-2022. She is described as "a lovely young woman with an amazing heart that emanates gentle concern for her classmates and for all



with whom she has contact - which bodes well for her success as a teacher of piano as her talent develops and her career emerges."

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BILLINGS MTA

Happy new school year from "The Magic City!" We are anticipating several events for this fall. A commissioned work premier is scheduled in September. The composer is a Montana resident who has composed ten movements from early to advanced level.

We are very excited and looking forward attending the MSMTA conference in October. Great ideas and educating tools have been applied in our teachings from past conferences.

BMTA will be holding a Fall Marathon and Holiday Marathon for all students to perform their favorite piano pieces for friends and family. There have been a variety of musical talents applied such as vocal music performed and accompanied by piano students, parents learning a duet surprising their child by performing with them during performance, students accompanied toy instruments with students playing their piano pieces plus other ideas. It is so much fun when students share ideas of their own.

A meeting is planned with representatives from the Billings Symphony to learn opportunities to connect and a master class is planned, and a community project is planned in December.

We are looking forward to another year of musical enrichment and inspiration.

- Alma Wiesner, BMTA President

GREAT FALLS MTA

Greetings from the GFMTA! Our spring was

a busy one as we continued to meet monthly via Zoom. The second half of the past Covid-year was mostly focused on making a virtual Spring Festival happen, which we did with the invaluable technical skills of Carla Bell. Our piano division's master adjudicator was Stephanie Davis, who went above and beyond our expectations. Piano students' videos were adjudicated ahead of time, and then on festival day all students and teachers were able to watch the performances and then watch Stephanie interact with and give feedback to each student. Thank you, Stephanie! Our string adjudicator, Jenanne Solberg from Whitefish, also did a wonderful job on our virtual festival working with videos of violin, viola, and a few vocal students.

Several of us attended the MTNA Virtual Conference in March and I'm sure are planning to continue viewing sessions through the fall. Plans are in the works for a second attempt at having our State Conference this fall in Great Falls on Oct. 28-30, 2021, and we are very excited about what is falling into place.

We enjoyed our first in-person get together in early June when we honored Judy O'Dell for her many contributions to GFMTA and MSMTA as she was packing to move. We wish her all the best and thank her for her many years of service to our organization.

Lastly, this will be Jennifer's final report, as she is stepping down after four years of presidency. Thank you all for your support during this time. Our GFMTA chapter will be in great hands with incoming Kimberly Peachy. A pianist and teacher, she comes into our organization with an abundance of experience,

including being former Chapter (Richmond VA), and State President of the Virginia MTA. Please help me welcome Kim into MSMTA.

Wishing you all a good year!

- Jennifer Smith, outgoing President, GFMTA
and Kim Peachy, incoming President, GFMTA

KALISPELL AREA MTA

Hello, MSMTA friends! It is hot here in the Flathead Valley! I hope everyone is staying cool and able to enjoy more summertime activities and time with friends and family this year.

The Kalispell Music Teacher's Association continued our monthly meetings via the Zoom format. I am glad we had the technological option so we could maintain KAMTA business and still see each other. However, I will be happy when we can all be back together in person. I believe that will also create a more welcoming environment for new member teachers to join us.

We had a successful remote/Zoom spring festival. We were fortunate to have Michelle VanAllen and her husband Kenny create an awesome technological space in her studio. The instrument, hardware and software were set up perfectly. Our adjudicator, Jordan Neiman, was in Ohio and gave our students helpful feedback they will be able to use moving forward in their studies.

Despite donations being a bit lower this year, we were able to give a total of \$2,400 to our two continuing college music students. KAMTA is setting up a PayPal account to help with our fundraising and make it easier to donate to our scholarship fund. We are

looking at various options for an alumni concert this coming year which might include teacher performances as well. There is also a plan to reach out to former scholarship recipients and find out where they are now and how music is still a part of their lives. We are also asking them to "pay it forward" to help fundraise for future scholarship recipients.

Our KAMTA executive committee will meet next month to plan our monthly programs for the coming school year. We are looking forward to our MSMTA State Conference in Great Falls. Here's to looking forward to wonderful music making together!!

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

- Ginny Reese, KAMTA President

SOUTHWEST MONTANA MTA

SMMTA struggles to find new and active members, although we have incorporated many thoughtful ideas. In April, we had special virtual guest, Spencer Meyer, give a masterclass. Additionally, MSU pianists gave a virtual fundraising concert which generated sizable donations to our Magic88 scholarship fund. This year we will continue to collaborate with Montana State University to invite guest artists for masterclasses and concerts.

- Julie Gosswiller, SMMTA President

Do you have photos of your chapter's local events you would like to share statewide with members of MSMTA? Submit photos of your members engaged in your local meetings or events to Jessica Olson, newsletter editor, at pianohearder@gmail.com. Submission deadlines are January 15 and July 15 of each year.

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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How could I possibly write something that any of you wonderful colleagues in MSMTA would want to read, let alone persuade each of you to add a helpful contribution in any amount to the MTNA Foundation to help celebrate the life and accomplishments of Montana's current honoree for the MTNA Foundation's Fellowship program – Sharon Weaver-Knowles?!

Many accolades come to mind, and we've all heard them as well as thought of them. Sharon, as we all know, has given generously and tirelessly of herself throughout her teaching career for more than 50 years (!), to assist her students and her colleagues in GFMTA, MMTA, MSMTA and MTNA. She has gone the extra mile over and over again, stopping only to put on a new mantle of ideas and energies to help the next set of students, colleagues and friends.

Sharon is not alone in this endeavor – she is an exemplary member, an incessant learner, a thoughtful mentor. She manifests what we all believe, that we learn and grow by giving to each other as well as receiving from each other. Together, we are MTNA. By celebrating Sharon this time around, an honor she will obviously treasure and humbly accept, we are celebrating ourselves and all our MSMTA and MTNA colleagues. We are celebrating our profession and simultaneously applauding each other, celebrating who we are and what we do.

We rejoice in the gift of music in particular, which fuels our passions and guides our actions, and we celebrate the

sharing of music's many gifts with each other through teaching, playing, and singing – each of us adding to the greater good in our own way. We partner up to encourage each other's learning along the way. We tend to our students like proverbial shepherds tend their sheep. We enrich and are enriched by each other!

The monetary gifts we submit to the MTNA Foundation in honor of Sharon this year will help fund MTNA competition expenses and awards, provide teacher enrichment grants, local association grants, and much more. In this way, Sharon is lending her name to the growing list of prior and future honorees all across the nation, encouraging each of us to add something monetarily to MTNA to benefit our students and each other.

Your contribution, honoring Sharon, will help MSMTA meet or even exceed our state's goal of \$1,500.00 for the 2020-2022 biennium, and can be sent to our treasurer, Carla Bell, at 2700 1st Ave. N., Great Falls, MT 59401 – MEMO: Sharon Weaver-Knowles; or it can be submitted online at www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/ - be sure to type in Sharon's name in the FELLOW box and Carla will check for updates regularly. That web page also lists the many important activities and programs that are helped by contributions to the MTNA Foundation.

Thanks so much for your contribution to the greater good. We can be proud of each other at the same time we applaud our dear colleague, Sharon! Together we thrive!

Your admiring colleague,
Steven Hesla

You can find a mail-in donation page in support of Sharon on page 35.

It all started when a truck loaded with pianos showed up on a quiet street in Anaconda, Montana. Phil and Ellinore Weaver's 5-year-old daughter, Sharon, had been noodling on a neighbor's piano and wanted one for herself. The Weavers agreed their daughter should learn to play the piano, and with enough money saved up to buy one, Ellinore was given her choice of pianos on a truck passing from Butte's music store through Anaconda.

"Complete joy," Sharon recalled when the piano was wheeled into the Weaver home. "As soon as it was in I sat down and messed around on it." Then there was the matter of lessons. After not getting far at the end of her first year of lessons, Sharon's mother moved her to veteran Anaconda teacher Gertrude Sjordahl.

"She was very kind," Sharon remembers. "I loved her. By the time I was 6, I wanted to be like her. I wanted to teach. Gertrude really developed my love of the piano."

However, the once-a-year recitals for more than 50 of Gertrude's students were more than intimidating.

"They were very elaborate, the girls all dressed in formals. It was very frightening."

Gradually, Sharon learned to contain her fright and routinely played for high school festivals that remain part of today's opportunities for young performers.

"My senior year I played at the state festival for UM's piano professor, George Hummel. When I finished playing Rachmaninoff's Prelude in G Minor, Prof. Hummel offered me a scholarship to study at UM the following year."



Sharon supplemented her UM scholarships and other financial aid with on- and off-campus jobs to put herself through college, majoring in piano performance and minoring in organ and voice. As a freshman piano student of Rudy Wendt, Sharon played in a masterclass for the famous Hungarian pianist and Mozart specialist, Lili Kraus.

"She thought my interpretation of a Mozart Sonata was fine but asked me why I was playing like a chicken scratching the keys. I was mortified! We began immediately to fix my technique," Sharon recalls. Her commitment to developing a relaxed technique became a hallmark of Sharon's teaching for more than half a century. During her senior year, she was named UM's Music Student of the Year and graduated with high honors.

Sharon worked summers at the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp at Lakeside. Every afternoon, she would practice on the chapel piano. One of the many visiting pastors to the camp, Richard Matson of Faith Lutheran in

Great Falls, himself a highly trained musician, heard powerful music coming out of the chapel and stopped by to listen. As a result of that meeting, Sharon became the music director of the largest Lutheran Church in the Rockies following her graduation from UM.

While her Great Falls studio was developing, Sharon was recruited to teach at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, where she learned to read and teach braille music to vision-impaired students, and offered the study of Orff instruments to hearing-impaired students — xylophones and glockenspiels — whose vivid tones could provide a sense of pitch and rhythm to assist in speech therapy. Sharon left the school after eight years of bringing music therapy and joy to hundreds of Montana's deaf and blind children.

For two decades, Sharon was volunteer co-founder, manager, treasurer, president, and alto singer of the Montana Chorale. As president of the Montana Federated Music Clubs, she produced Montana Day's Bicentennial performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Performers included the Montana Chorale, Bozeman native and world renowned pianist Nelita True, UM cellist Florence Reynolds and pianist Rudolph Wendt, and the UM Woodwind Quintet.

Her 23-year music ministry at Faith Lutheran concluded after she married UM journalism professor Bill Knowles and moved to Missoula, but not before she guided the church to purchase a Holtkamp pipe organ, an instrument she helped design to fit the needs and space of the church.

Then came her life-changing shocker. During a 2001 choral rehearsal, Sharon suddenly lost all her hearing. Her doctor said she would never again hear music. For five years, Sharon taught piano by sight only,

responding to students by reading their lips. Suddenly and unbelievably — a Christmas Eve miracle in 2006 — Sharon's hearing returned! Her life went back to normal with a profound appreciation for the many gifts of music, sound, and life!

Sharon was named MSMTA's Teacher of the Year in 2014. She served a two-year term as MSMTA president from 2012-2014, and is humbled to have been selected by her MSMTA colleagues as Montana's MTNA Foundation Fellow for 2021-2022, an honor that will be bestowed at the MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis in March 2022.

And that Everett piano that came off the truck when Sharon was 5? It's one of two pianos she uses to teach students to this day.
- Bill Knowles and Steven Hesla, NCTM



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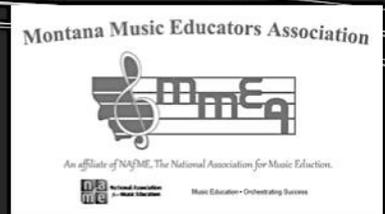
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Mail to: CARLA BELL 2700 1st Ave N, Great Falls, MT 59401

Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Keyboard Division at the University of Montana has been especially active and going through some changes during the spring and summer months. We were able to be productive and active despite COVID with online concerts, both pre-recorded and live, as well as junior, senior and graduate recitals at the end of the semester with live audiences!

Despite the changes to our usual routines, there has been much to celebrate! Our beloved Professor Steven Hesla retired after 43 years of teaching at UM! It is difficult to truly comprehend the legions of students and teachers alike who were inspired by his artistry in teaching and performing, his winning personality, his sense of humor, and his true caring for everyone. We wish him nothing but the very best in retirement, and we are certain we will be seeing him around the halls and concert stages in Missoula and beyond very soon!

As we all know, change is constant. So, with the retirement of Steven Hesla comes the arrival of a new piano faculty at the university! The search committee has been spending a good deal of time this summer going through applications, conducting interviews, and narrowing down to the finalists. While we don't yet have the official person named for the position, they will be in place for the start of the fall semester. Stay tuned! We look forward to having you meet our newest Montana pianist at the state conference!

We graduated three piano students this spring, each of whom gave beautiful recital

performances: Karly Barthels, Bachelor of Music Education; Jessa Ives, Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, and Eunwha Katie Park, Master of Music in Piano Performance.

Congratulations to each of you! We also had two students give recitals: Heidi Martin, BM Piano Performance, and Cassi Bak, MM in Piano Performance. We have a great group of pianists at the University of Montana, and we are all excited to get back to our usual rhythm this year!

Piano Camp was small but wonderful this year, and everyone was grateful to have the opportunity! Due to concerns about on-campus housing and COVID, we decided to do a commuter-only camp. Thirteen students attended, and we look forward to being back to normal next summer!

The UM Keyboard Division continues to provide excellent instruction to our students with Dr. Christopher Hahn, piano and piano pedagogy, Dr. Nancy Cooper, organ, harpsichord, and class piano, Dr. David Morgenroth, jazz piano, and Ms. Cassandra Bak, graduate teaching assistant. What a phenomenal team!

Go Griz!

- Christopher Hahn, NCTM

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

In the piano area at Montana State University School of Music there were a few events this past spring semester that are worth mentioning. In April we had our first live stream virtual master class with the spectacular teacher and performer Spencer

Meyer from the Longy School of Music in Boston. Three of our applied piano students performed on the stage of Reynolds Recital Hall with live interaction with Spencer from his living room in New York City. In this era of COVID-19 the technology used for live streaming and recording continues to allow musicians and teachers to be engaged in the performing and learning process.

Our second annual fundraising concert, "Pianoforte," took place at the end of April. This year the recital was pre-recorded and broadcast through the Bozeman Arts - Live online platform. Through Bozeman Arts - Live, patrons were able to donate directly to the Montana State University Foundation "Magic 88" fund in support of scholarships to students in the piano area in the MSU School of Music. All 21 applied piano students performed in this event. To date the "Magic 88" endowment fund is over 50% funded! Congratulations to all of our performers and sincere thanks to our donors and supporters.

- *Kenneth Christensen, NCTM*

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - BILLINGS

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Exciting things are happening at MSUB! MSUB welcomes Dr. Daren Small to our faculty as Voice Instructor and Choral Director this fall. Dr. Small is a distinguished bass-baritone soloist in the American Northwest who enjoys sharing his passion for singing both on stage as well as in the classroom and voice studio. While earning his Bachelor of Music Education and his Master of Education degrees from Montana State University, Mr. Small developed his passion for performance and teaching. Dr.

Small later earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

MSUB looks forward this year to the post-COVID return of our annual Jazz Festival on February 4, with guest artist Camille Thurman. Each year, the school's jazz ensembles join with faculty and a guest artist to host high school jazz ensembles for a full day of clinics and performances, culminating in an evening concert. The jazz ensembles also do outreach to Montana high schools and took a tour to New Orleans in 2019.

In 2019, MSUB fulfilled a years-long dream of having a state-of-the-art recording studio and a degree program to train students in music technology. Under Ken Gilstrap and Mr. Roberts, students learn to arrange music for studio musicians, use professional quality recording equipment, and do post-production work. In addition to recording and archiving all student and faculty recitals, the recording studio is open to other musicians.

The MSUB Music Department is also proud of two student-led ensembles. Jackets Only is an auditioned cappella singing group that looks forward to returning to public performing this year. The Soul Funk Collective is a band of 8-12 students and graduates that regularly brings their unique style to gigs all over town.

Members of the Billings Symphony Orchestra educate student musicians at MSUB, including: Dr. Mark Fenderson (trumpet); Luke Kestner (percussion); Sue Logan (oboe); Richelle Sitton (double bass); and Randy Tracy (violin). Other instructors include Elizabeth Adcock (guitar); Stephanie Davis (Keyboard Skills); and Tim Schoessler (piano).

- *Stephanie Davis, NCTM*

2021 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

MSMTA is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2021 MSMTA Teacher of the Year Award is Dr. Christopher Hahn, NCTM.

Dr. Hahn currently serves as keyboard division chair and professor of piano and piano pedagogy at the University of Montana, where he has received Meritorious Teaching Awards on three occasions. A gifted teacher and mentor, Chris's students have been featured on the NPR program "From the Top," as national finalists in the MTNA Chamber Music Competition in Toronto, Canada, and as soloists with orchestras in the Northwest, in addition to being selected winners of competitions throughout the region.

Chris became involved in MSMTA when he moved to Montana in 2004. "I immediately felt welcomed, engaged and supported by this fantastic group of people at my first conference in Great Falls, and my relationship with the organization has continued to grow and evolve over the years," he says.

I had the pleasure of meeting Chris at my first MSMTA State Conference in 2014, where I was immediately struck by his good humor, passion for his students' success, and his generous support of fellow teachers. A gifted and dynamic teacher and presenter, Chris is often engaged as a clinician, adjudicator, teacher, and master class artist at the local, state, national, and international levels.

Chris dedicates much of his time to mentoring the next generation of teachers and performers in his role as faculty advisor for the Keyboard Society at the University of Montana. Under his guidance, the Keyboard Society was named MTNA Collegiate Chapter of the Year in both 2010 and 2016. Perennial favorites at our state conferences, his students have also presented at the MTNA National Conference on multiple occasions.

In addition to his busy teaching schedule,



Chris is also an active solo and collaborative artist, giving regular performances as a member of the award-winning CanAm Piano Duo with partner Karen Beres. The duo won the Silver Medal at the 2008 International chamber Music Ensemble Competition in Boston and received a Distinguished Ranking at the 2009 IBLA Grand Prize competition in Ragusa, Italy. As avid proponents of contemporary music, Karen and Chris perform a varied repertoire of new and traditional masterworks. They have published a book with Alfred Music entitled *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Performance and Teaching Concertos*, which features reviews and provides leveling of over 270 concerti.

Chris is a certified teacher with the Royal Conservatory of Music and helped to create the Piano Pedagogy Certification Program. A nationally certified teacher of music and past MSMTA president, Chris also served as Northwest Division Director from 2016-2018.

"It was a distinct honor to be elected as Northwest Division Director and serve on the MTNA National Board of Directors," Chris says. "That experience ranks as one of my most cherished professional accomplishments."

Chief among Chris's many talents is his
(Teacher of the Year continued on page 40)

IN MEMORIAM

ECHOLYN LEE TRAVIS passed away peacefully on the afternoon of May 18, 2021, after a brief illness, surrounded by her loving family. She was 87 years old.

Echolyn was the first child of Elton and Janet Lee, born among the orange groves of Delano, California on March 13, 1934. Most of her early years were spent in Minot, North Dakota.



During her teenage years, Echolyn moved with her family to Fairfield, Montana, where her parents realized their dream of owning a small farm. She excelled in school, particularly in music, starting piano lessons in grade school, and playing the sousaphone in high school band.

Echolyn attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota; then the University of Montana, ultimately attaining a Bachelor's in

Music Education in 1956.

Music remained a passion for the remainder of Echolyn's life, teaching private piano lessons, public school music, serving as church choral director, and being a longtime member of the Helena Symphony Chorale. Well liked by her many students, she also influenced and encouraged the musical interests of her own children.

Echolyn's faith was primary in her life and manifested in her church music contributions. Her adult life was spent in Alaska, Washington, and mostly Montana. Her last 52 years were spent in Clancy, Montana, where she developed many close friendships. In her middle years she enjoyed international travel, visiting Australia, Mexico, Norway, Italy, and Switzerland.

Echolyn loved Montana greatly and pursued many outdoor adventures. Flathead Lake was a very special place for Echolyn, spending time and creating memories at her parents' homes on the lake at Polson and Somers. She pursued a dream of learning to sail, buying a sailboat and catching the wind in Big Arm Bay for many years, and her love of horses and riding was well known.

Echolyn will be remembered as a strong, loving, and energetic woman, who gave herself immensely to her family and friends. She was an exceptional person and will be truly missed.

Echolyn was preceded in passing by her sister, Carolyn; brother, Delmar; parents, Elton and Janet Lee; and her son-in-law, Mark Pfankuch. She is survived by her ex-husband, Kenneth Travis; her children, Lori Pfankuch, Lee Travis, JoDel Travis, Paul (Samantha) Travis, David Travis; as well as several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



MSMTA LEGACY FUND

MSMTA is in the process of establishing a legacy fund in honor of beloved member teachers. Members who would like to make donations to this fund in honor of a fellow MSMTA member may mail checks to Carla Bell, MSMTA Treasurer, at 2700 1st Ave. N., Great Falls, MT 59401. Planning for how the funds will be used is currently underway. For more information, contact Steve Hesla, NCTM, at steven.hesla@umontana.edu.

(Teacher of the Year, continued from page 38)

energetic, straightforward, and effective instructional style. Once, during a post-festival lesson with a precocious 14-year-old student Chris had adjudicated at our local spring festival, the student confidently declared that Chris was the “coolest” guest teacher we’d ever had and that we should make sure he came back to adjudicate the next year! High praise indeed!

- Jessica Olson, Bozeman

“Echolyn and I became friends at MSMTA conferences in the late 1990’s. I came from Great Falls, and she from Clancy, a small town outside of Helena. Later when I moved to Helena, Echolyn helped me get to know those in HMTA. HMTA members teach a number of disciplines: piano, percussion, wind instruments, strings, voice and fretted strings - all in a multiplicity of genres. HMTA embraced true musical diversity years before diversity became a trend.

Echolyn’s love of music passed on to her five children and several grandchildren. Their performance at her memorial service captivated me. I know her piano students stayed with her to the last year of her life. I remember being deeply impressed by their performances at HMTA’s festivals and recitals, hearing works from the masters like Chopin and J.S. Bach. To my knowledge, Echolyn’s students were the only entrants from Helena in MSMTA’s Fall Festival event. She exemplified excellence in the art of teaching music. I will miss her.”

Respectfully submitted,
Karen McLean, Helena, Montana

MSMTA ANNUAL MEETING
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Friday, October 30, 2020
via Zoom

With about 36 members present on the Zoom call, President Margaret McGillvray called the annual meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. MTNA president Martha Hilley appeared virtually and read a poignant poem, "Kindness," to start our conference.

Treasurer's Report

The budget report of Treasurer Carla Bell can be found on page 34 of the conference booklet and on our website. Sharon Marble reported the August 29, 2020 biennial review by Sandy Soltis and Sharon of the two previous fiscal years of MSMTA financial records was successful. She complimented Carla Bell for her service as treasurer. The vote was unanimous to accept Carla Bell's Treasurer's Report.

New Business

Membership Secretary Marcy Holston reported MSMTA membership has increased by three to 109 since last year. Reports of Standing Committee Chairs will be posted on the website.

In the COVID-19 pandemic, MTNA has provided guidelines and recommendation which Diane Volkman summarized by noting that when planning an event, the first concern is the safety of all who attend. Because Montana residents cannot waive negligence, we must not depend on people signing a waiver. MTNA suggests we hold any event outside, limit attendance, wear masks, and check with local health boards. We can use liability insurance and legal counsel from MTNA. Read MTNA legal counsel T. Scott Gilligan's paper on MTNA's website. (Scroll down on the opening screen. Click on the first line Get the FAQs for "A Document of COVID-19 FAQs for State and Local Music Teacher Associations" and on the second line View It Now for "a document of Legal FAQs for studios considering a return to in-person lessons.")

This year MSMTA's Zoom account cost \$125.00. For 2021-2022, this budgeted item is \$150.00, which received a unanimous vote of approval.

Nominating Committee comprised of Jessica Olson, Diane Volkman, Kate Hansen and Sharon Weaver-Knowles recommended Ginny Reese for President-Elect and Cassandra Bak for Membership Secretary. Jessica Olson moved we accept the slate of officers, Lynn Bassett seconded the motion, and approval was unanimous. Jessica thanked Margaret McGillvray for serving as MSMTA President.

Old Business

Laura Detrick reported on trading "in-kind" ads in Cadenza and Montana Music News by MMEA and MSMTA. A raffle at the MMEA conference gave away a free teacher fee certificate for entry of students in local or state festivals.

Friend of Carla Bell, Tami Park, in work on her doctorate, is using MSMTA as the subject of her research. Her new paper on organizational purpose and strategic planning using four different forms can be seen on the MSMTA website. Also on the website, the library catalog is posted with committees' Annual Reports. (Home-About MSMTA-Annual Reports-2020 Annual Chair Reports)

Each year conference proceeds from the purchase of raffle tickets has been split between our state's donation to the MTNA Foundation and a fund to support MTNA competitors traveling to divisional competition sites. With virtual competition now and no additional entrance fees for these competitors, the funds can be used in other ways. Judy O'Dell proposed using money from the raffle to assist teachers to attend conference. A motion from Steve Hesla, seconded by Stephanie Davis, to maintain the status quo by using the travel grant funds to assist students in attending national MTNA competitions or the state MTNA competition passed. Discussion of the Legacy Fund -- how to fund it and how to use it, e.g. for scholarships to improve members' teaching through attending conferences -- was tabled. Judy O'Dell asked for suggestions to help fine-tune a future proposal.

Announcements

New Standing Committee chair appointees are Dorothy Beck Peterson - MTNA Competitions, Judy O'Dell - MSMTA Scholarships, Ginny Reese - Local Associations, Ruth Plesner - Continuing Education, Ken Christensen and Julie Gossweiler - College Faculty. Stephanie Davis will take on IMTF and Heidi Alteneider Certification.

The President recognized the service of Chris Hahn, Marcy Holston, Ruth Plesner, Molly Morrison and Cari Wilson. She gave a huge thank you to the 2020 Conference Committee of Carla Bell, Laura Detrick, Linda Holden, and Diane Volkman for their computer expertise and success in presenting a virtual conference.

Margaret McGillvray asked Laura Detrick to tell about the 2021 conference. Choral composer Joseph Martin and former student of Martha Hilley will be clinician and guest artist for the conference in Great Falls, October 28-30, 2021.

The annual meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Loge, Secretary

MSMTA Treasurer's Report - 2021
7/1/2020-6/30/2021

Category	7/1/2020-6/30/2021
INFLOWS	
Competition	
Fall Festival Fees	390.00
MTNA Fee Rebate	670.00
TOTAL Competition	1,060.00
Conference	
Masterclass Fees	120.00
Registration	1,980.00
Late Fee	10.00
TOTAL Registration	1,990.00
Ticket Sales	20.00
TOTAL Conference	2,130.00
Membership Dues	5,290.00
Newsletter Ads	2,390.00
Raffle	300.00
Spring Festival	
Certificates	65.00
TOTAL Spring Festival	65.00
Travel Grant	50.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	11,285.00

OUTFLOWS	
Awards	66.50
Bank Charge	
Stripe Fee	56.92
TOTAL Bank Charge	56.92
Fall Competition	
Adjudicators	980.00
Fall Festival	39.79
Ribbons & Awards	25.95
TOTAL Fall Festival	65.74
TOTAL Fall Competition	1,045.74
Fall Conference	
Artist & Clinician Exp	1,000.00
Clinician Fees	50.00
TOTAL Artist & Clinician Exp	1,050.00
Gifts & Awards	235.37
Printing & Postage	
Conference Program	229.35
Postage	-5.00
Sponsor Brochure	50.05
TOTAL Printing & Postage	274.40
TOTAL Fall Conference	1,559.77
Newsletter	939.80
Directory	155.40

Category	7/1/2020-6/30/2021
Postage	387.00
TOTAL Newsletter	1,482.20
Office	62.49
Postage	13.58
TOTAL Office	76.07
President's Expense	
MTNA Natl Conference	-450.00
TOTAL President's Expense	-450.00
Spring Festival Exp	45.48
Web Site Exp	318.17
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	4,200.85
OVERALL TOTAL	7,084.15

Thank you, Office Max, for the great MTNA discounts!



Thank you, Staples, for making Great Falls printing possible!



CONFERENCE SPONSORS NEEDED

Corporate partnerships provide important ongoing funding for our annual conferences. If you know businesses of any size that may

wish to support the mission of MSMTA, please share this opportunity with them. Sponsorship information can be found online at www.msmta.com/sponsors-and-vendors.

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Montana Music News

Montana State Music Teachers Association

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