

MONTANA MUSIC NEWS

A publication of Montana State Music Teachers Association | Fall 2023

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2023 MSMTA STATE CONFERENCE

November 2-4, 2023

Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell, Montana

Room reservation information on page 6

CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES 2022-2024

College Faculty Ken Christensen, NCTM,
and Julie Gosswiller

Communications To be appointed

Job Descriptions Booklet Sarra Nienaber

Marketing To be appointed

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Publications Advertising Laura Detrick

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Summer Camps Laura Detrick

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Certification Heidi Alteneeder, NCTM

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IMTF Stephanie Stevens, NCTM

Mentoring/Internships To be appointed

Library To be appointed

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and Therese Bertrand, NCTM

Festival Certificates Stephanie Stevens, NCTM

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Grants Daniel Kohnstamm, NCTM

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Historian To be appointed

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Membership Secretary Kimberly Peachy, NCTM

Local Associations ... Dr. Margery Whatley, NCTM

MSMTA Scholarships Judy O'Dell

Cinda Tomkins Marcy Holston

June Werner/Legacy Fund Judy O'Dell

MTNA Competitions ... Dorothy Peterson, NCTM

Performance Dorothy Peterson, NCTM

Composition Dr. Greg Young

MTNA Foundation ... Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM

Nominating Laura Detrick

PPAC Laura Detrick

** MSMTA Officers, Committee Chairs (underlined),
and Local Association Presidents serve as the MSMTA
Board of Directors.*

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MONTANA MUSIC NEWS

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Northwest Division Director-Elect

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Northwest Certification Director

Stephen Thomas, NCTM
thomasst@byui.edu

WWW.MSMTA.COM



WORKING PLAYING TOGETHER

GINNY REESE

There are many different ways people work and play together. Families work together cooking meals, classmates work together to complete school assignments and hospitals use their skills together to heal the sick. Athletic teams and musical groups work (or rather play) together to win games and to make beautiful music.

At a music camp where I work, students come in from all around Montana and surrounding states. Many of them do not know each other and are put into sections based on their band instrument. They have experiences from different schools, teachers and cultures. The first evening of camp, the staff, all musicians and music teachers themselves, perform for the students. They are generally familiar upbeat jazzy tunes. These teachers and staff members rarely interact any other time of the year, but they come together and collaborate using their collective, imaginative interpretations to create a beautiful-sounding goal. The students learn that by *working* together on a common goal, they get to *play* together.

As the week progresses, students begin collaborating together - with other students and teachers. By Friday evening the concert is so full of excited student musical collaborations, it can last 90 minutes! One of the best aspects of this camp is how every student and collaborative group is celebrated.

For those of us fortunate enough to work with Montana high school students, we see the skills of students increase at an impressive level when they choose to collaborate on ensembles for District Music Festival. Last year we had quite an impressive number of students, especially freshmen, who chose to work together and perform music at a level worthy of festival adjudications.

Each individual has unique gifts, talents and skills. Science and general knowledge of collaborating with others reinforces that many brains are better than one. The only way our upcoming conference, or any of our MSMTA conferences happen, is because of teamwork, the collaboration of many skills and people who want the best for everyone.



I am so excited to invite everyone to Kalispell for our **Creative Collaborations** conference. We have Duo Cascadia (Dr. Jensina Oliver and Dr. Kay Zavislak) from Washington State presenting wonderful ideas on strengthening our studios through group practice and student/teacher collaborations on artistic interpretation. Dr. Del Parkinson will adjudicate our piano events and present a program on composers who changed the history of classical music. We have piano masterclasses scheduled and wonderful, intelligent local adjudicators for our instrumentalists and vocalists. So get those students prepared for great experiences!

Save the dates, November 2-4, 2023, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kalispell. See you there!

Ginny Reese

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Committee chairs are asked to submit reports to President Ginny Reese at ginyreese10@gmail.com in advance of the association's annual meeting during the MSMTA State Conference.

Committee chairs are also asked to submit an updated job description as soon as possible to Sarra Nienaber at snienaberpiano@gmail.com. Sarra will be compiling an updated handbook in 2023.

If you have photos, local news, articles or member accomplishments you would like to feature in Montana Music News, please contact President Ginny Reese at ginyreese10@gmail.com and Publications Editor Jessica Olson at pianohearder@gmail.com in advance of MMN's July 15 or January 15 newsletter deadline.

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2023 PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Executive Board and the MSMTA Board Meetings will be held virtually before the conference begins. This will hopefully help with lodging/meeting room costs and allow us ample opportunity to cover all the necessary agenda items. Times and details regarding the meetings will be emailed to the membership.

Attendees may reserve rooms at a special rate from November 1-5 at www.kalispell.hgi.com. In the “Special Rates” area, enter code **MUSICT**. Some reservations may be cheaper without the code; check both rates before booking.

Thursday, November 2

9:15 - 9:30	Welcome
9:30 - 11:00	<i>“Student/Teacher Collaboration on Interpreting Keyboard Music with Artistry,”</i> Dr. Kay Zavislak
11:00 - 12:00	Break / Exhibits / Competitions
12:00 - 1:15	Lunch on your own
1:15 - 2:15	<i>“Care and Maintenance of the Studio Teaching Piano”</i>
2:15-2:30	Break / Exhibits / Competitions
2:30 - 3:45	IMTF
3:45 - 4:30	Break / Exhibits / Competitions
4:30 - 5:45	Piano Duet Recital, Dr. Jensina Oliver and Dr. Kay Zavislak
5:45 - 6:30	Conference Reception (No Host Bar Available)
6:30 - 8:30	Awards Banquet

Friday, November 3

9:00 - 10:30	<i>“Strengthening Your Studio Through Intentional Practice at Group Sessions,”</i> Jensina Oliver
10:30 - 11:00	Break / Exhibits / Competitions
11:00 - 12:00	Collaborations and College Students - Collegiate Chapter Presentation
12:00 - 1:30	Local Presidents’ Lunch (attendance requires pre-registration)
1:30 - 2:30	Piano Masterclass, Dr. Jensina Oliver
2:30 - 2:45	Break / Exhibits / Competitions
2:45 - 3:45	<i>“How to Guide Your Students and Families in a Search for a Piano”</i>
3:45 - 4:15	Break / Exhibits / Competitions
4:15 - 5:45	<i>“Trailblazers That Changed the History of Classical Music,”</i> Del Parkinson
5:45 - 6:00	Raffle
6:15	Dinner on your own

Saturday, November 4

9:00 - 10:30	General Meeting of the Association (All Members)
10:30 - 10:45	Break / Exhibits / Competitions
10:45 - 11:45	Piano Masterclass, Dr. Kay Zavislak
11:45 - 12:00	Closing Remarks

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

Montana State Music Teachers Conference

Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell

November 2-4, 2023

2023 Conference Registration Form

Deadline: 30 September 2023

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

MOBILE _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Are you willing to submit a session review for the Spring 2024 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 concert or awards banquet*
- _____ \$ 15 Late Fee | *Applies to Registrations Submitted/Postmarked after 30 September*

ADD-ONS:

- _____ \$ 35 Awards Banquet | *For Daily Attendees & Guests [Deadline 15 October]*

_____ **Total Registration**

Send Registration Form & Payment Payable to MSMTA to:

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

Or: Register & Pay Online at: MSMTA.com



2023 KEYNOTE PRESENTERS AND GUEST ARTISTS: Jensina Oliver and Kay Zavislak, Duo Cascadia

Known for her expressive and passionate performances, pianist **Jensina Oliver** has appeared as soloist and chamber musician in the United States, China, Canada, Costa Rica, Israel and throughout Europe. Her performances with orchestras include appearances with the Hubei Provincial Orchestra of Wuhan, China, as well as the Utah Philharmonia, Orchestra of Southern Utah, Intermountain Chamber Orchestra, University of Washington Symphony and University of Utah Symphony Orchestra. She was a national finalist in the MTNA Chamber Competition, a resident artist at the Banff Chamber Music Festival and has won several solo and concerto competitions throughout the United States. As a member of Duo Cascadia, Dr. Oliver performs with Dr. Kay Zavislak, exploring a diverse piano ensemble repertoire and concertizing throughout the Pacific Northwest.



Duo Cascadia: Dr. Jensina Oliver (left) and Dr. Kay Zavislak (right)

Dr. Oliver has been praised by critics as “highly talented,” with a “steely-fingered” technique and a flair for “panache and drama.” (*SL Trib.*) “Byington’s command of dynamic phrasing infused each note with elegant intensity in slower passages; in virtuosic sections, she played with assuredness and authority.” Dr. Oliver’s first CD, *JENSINA OLIVER performs Chopin, Liszt, Brahms, and Rachmaninoff* is available on CDBaby.com.

Dr. Oliver earned her Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) in Piano Performance at the University of Washington under the guidance of Mr. Craig Sheppard and has taught music courses at Shoreline Community College since 1998. As a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM), she has a thriving studio with students of all ages. Dr. Oliver travels and teaches around the Pacific Northwest, providing meaningful artistic instruction to students and teachers. She currently resides with her family in Seattle, Washington.

American pianist **Kay Zavislak** enjoys a multi-faceted career as a performer, teacher, adjudicator, and clinician. Spending her formative years in Japan, Dr. Zavislak attended the Toho Gakuen High School of Music, one of the most prestigious conservatories in Japan. Dr. Zavislak then moved to the U.S. and earned the degrees Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan.

As a performer, Dr. Zavislak has given solo and chamber concerts regionally and nationally, in addition to public performances in Australia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy and Japan. In collaboration with flutist Leonard Garrison and saxophonist Bill Perconti, Dr. Zavislak has also recorded two commercial CDs for Centaur Records. As a member of Duo Cascadia, Dr. Zavislak performs with Dr. Jensina Oliver, exploring a diverse piano ensemble repertoire and concertizes in the Pacific Northwest region. In addition, she is newly appointed as a co-artistic partner for the Bellingham House Concerts Series.

Many of Dr. Zavislak’s university and pre-college students have received top prizes and honors in a number of international and regional piano festivals and competitions, such as Nomea International Piano Competition in Italy, the Memorial “Sanja Pavlovic” International Competition in Serbia, Stage4Kids Festival in Germany, MTNA Northwest Regional Competition, MTNA Washington State Competition, MTNA

Idaho State Competition, Seattle Russian Chamber Music Competition, Spokane Piano Competition, Music Fest Northwest in Spokane, Washington, and Sonata-Sonatina Festival in Ellensburg Washington. Some of Dr. Zavislak's former students have been accepted with a full tuition waiver to Bachelor and Master programs nationally. Besides teaching, Dr. Zavislak is in high demand for adjudicating, judging and giving lectures and workshops locally, regionally and nationally.

Before joining her family in Bellingham, Washington, in 2013, Dr. Zavislak was an Assistant Professor of Piano and the Keyboard Area Coordinator at the University of Idaho Lionel Hampton School of Music. She has held teaching positions at Albion College, Whatcom Community College and the University of Michigan. She studied piano under Arthur Greene, Logan Skelton, Yoshie Kora and Miyoko Hamamoto, harpsichord with Edward Parmentier, and organ with Marilyn Mason.

Registration for the 2023 MSMTA Conference is now open! Register online at msmta.com or by mail using the form on page 7.

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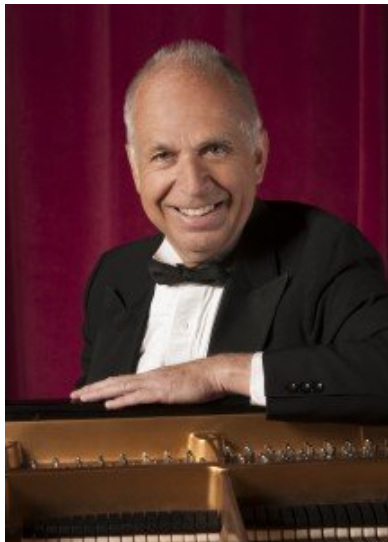
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KAY ZAVISLAK
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2023 ADJUDICATORS



Del Parkinson is a professor of piano as well as the keyboard chair at Boise State University. He was previously the keyboard chair at BYU–Idaho, where he taught piano. He holds a doctor of music degree from Indiana University and a postgraduate diploma from The Juilliard School. He was the recipient of a

Fulbright-Hays grant for graduate study in London. Dr. Parkinson has performed in Europe, Asia, South America and throughout the United States. His London debut recital was on the American bicentennial series, and his New York debut recital in Carnegie Recital Hall was sponsored by the Idaho Commission on the Arts. He has soloed with the Guadalajara Symphony, Indiana University Symphony, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Boise Philharmonic and Utah Symphony. Dr. Parkinson is on the international roster of Steinway artists and is featured on four compact disc recordings. He is a recipient of the Idaho Commission on the Arts fellowship award and the Idaho Governor’s Award for excellence in the arts.

Jenanne Solberg, principal viola and keyboard, recently retired following a 34-year career teaching and conducting choirs and orchestras in Billings and Whitefish. She has Bachelor and Masters degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Montana and has served as principal viola of the Casper, Wyoming, Billings, Bozeman and Glacier Symphonies. Ms. Solberg was recognized by Yale University as 1 of 50 Distinguished Music Educators in America, and in



2021 was selected by the National High School Association as Montana’s Outstanding Music Educator. Currently she is the artistic and founding director of North Valley Music School’s Camp Festival Amadeus, remains active on several statewide and community boards, serves as organist and music director at All Saints Episcopal Church and is a sought-after adjudicator and guest conductor.



Jennifer Stephens earned her undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she studied under Tim Peter, Sandra Peter and Weston Noble. Her first teaching job was in Salem, Oregon, where she had the good fortune to meet her husband, Dow. Jennifer received her

Master’s degree in Choral Conducting from Northern Arizona University under Edith Copley and then spent five years teaching elementary music, strings and choir in grades 3-12 at Korea International School in Seoul, South Korea. The Stephens moved to Montana in 2012 when Jennifer was hired as the choral director at Columbia Falls High School. In 2014 she began working as the choral director at Flathead High School. Jennifer is a native of Durango, Colorado, and she and Dow spend their free time keeping up with two adventurous daughters, Ada (10) and Isla (5).

Clarinetist **Maxine Ramey** is a renowned international solo and chamber musician. She served as principal clarinet with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra for 28 years and worked as a professor of music for 36 years in universities and colleges in Montana and New Mexico. Ramey is Professor Emeritus of the School of Music at the University of Montana, where she served as professor of clarinet and music history, and as Director of the School of Music. In 2008 she was named a Distinguished Professor of Music, and in

2013 she was named Outstanding Administrator for the University of Montana. As clarinetist with the Sapphire Trio, Ramey has toured multiple regions of the globe as a U.S. State Department Cultural Ambassador.



From 2010-2016 Ramey served on the board of directors of the International Clarinet Association. Most recently, she taught clarinet and chamber music at Flathead Valley Community College, gateway to Glacier National Park in Montana.

Dr. Maxine Ramey is listed on the International Artist Roster of Selmer Paris Clarinets. She received her Bachelor of Music from Arizona State University, and her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from Michigan State University with mentor Elsa Ludewg-Verdehr of the Verdehr Trio.

Yaphet Jones retired from the United States Marine Corps in May of 2011 after 22 years of active service, attaining the highest enlisted rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant.

Mr. Jones was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. During high school, Mr. Jones was an alternate member of the McDonald's All-American High School Band and attended the Interlochen Center for the Arts National Music Camp in Interlochen Mich. Prior to enlisting in the Marine Corps, he was a music performance major at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, and served as the Principal Trumpet of the Chicago Symphonic Wind Ensemble. His final assignment in the Marine Corps was as Bandmaster of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing Band in San Diego, California.

During his career as a Marine musician, Mr. Jones (trumpet) has performed on thousands of occasions in ensembles and as a featured soloist. Mr. Jones has also served three tours in combat with the 1st Marine Division Band in Camp Pendleton, California. In 2001, he was awarded the Marine Corps Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Marine Musician of the Year.

As a freelance musician, Mr. Jones has performed as Principal Trumpet of the Inland Valley Symphony, with the Pacific Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, San Diego Symphony, San Diego Chamber Orchestra, San Diego Chamber Brass, the Westwind Brass, the La Jolla Symphony, Portland Columbia



Symphony, Big Horn Brass, Brass of the Potomac, Portlandia Brass, Southwest Washington Wind Symphony, Oregon Symphonic Band, Palomar Symphony, National Orchestra of Honduras and the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. In 2008, he performed and recorded the CD "American Rhapsody" with members of The "President's Own" United States Marine Band and other members of the premier military bands in Washington D.C.

Mr. Jones has been mentoring and instructing musicians of all ages for the past 30 years. He was the former Trumpet Instructor at Poway High School in San Diego and is a member of the International Trumpet Guild. Mr. Jones currently resides in Kalispell, Montana, and is a member of the Glacier Symphony and a founding member of the Stillwater Brass.

Fun, Fun, Fun!

Our 2023 Foundation Raffle will be held at the MSMTA conference in Kalispell this fall!

Each year we receive donations from not only each local association but also members who would like to donate to the cause. We are asking each local association to donate something from their group; a large wrapped basket of goodies, a gift certificate for music, a beautiful piece of art, or anything you think a member might like to WIN!

During the Conference, Kalispell's own Christine (Boles) Kornish will be selling raffle tickets for a drawing to be held toward the end of the conference. Proceeds are divided equally between the state association and the MTNA Foundation.

So - buy some tickets and have some FUN!!!

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2023 PIANO MASTER CLASS APPLICATION

Entry Deadline: October 1, 2023

Adjudicators: Dr. Jensina Oliver, Dr. Kay Zavislak

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 _____ 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 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:

Dr. Jordan Nieman, Master Class Coordinator

Email: jordan.neiman@gmail.com

Deadline: October 1, 2023



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2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 MTNA Gala honored current Foundation Fellows and those whose induction was delayed by the pandemic, including Carla Bell (2019-2020) and Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM (2021-2022).



Right: MSMTA members at the MTNA Gala. Left to right: Steven Hesla, NCTM; Dr. Margery Whatley, NCTM; Carla Bell; Dave Barr; Dorothy Beck-Peterson, NCTM; Ginny Reese; Abby Van Loewen; and Michelle Van Allen.



Above: Carla Bell poses with fellow foundation honorees, MTNA officers, and members of the MTNA Board of Directors at the MTNA Gala. Left to right: Timothy Blair; Karen Thickstun; Janice Raqaz; Carla Bell; Rick Valentine; Cindy Peterson-Peart; Christopher Goldston; Noreen Wenjen; Chan Kiat Lim; Martha Hilley; Gary Ingle.



Right: MSMTA President Ginny Reese (right) with MSMTA Treasurer and 2019-2020 Foundation Fellow Carla Bell (left) at the MTNA Gala.

MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL: Single Piece Piano Competition

Dates: November 2-4, 2023
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell, Montana
Application and Fee Deadline: Friday, September 22, 2023

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, 2024
Junior: Ages 12*-15** as of Jan. 1, 2024
Senior: Ages 15**-19 as of Jan. 1, 2024

* 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: Solo - \$20 Duet - \$20 (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 10/1/2023.

Send entry forms and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) postmarked no later than September 23, 2023, to:

Margaret McGillvray, Therese Bertrand, MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinators
5346 Dovetail Ave.
Billings, MT 59106
Phone: (406) 670-5165
Email: memcgillvray@gmail.com

2023 MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL APPLICATION

Application Deadline: POSTMARKED by September 22, 2023

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, 2024 _____ 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: Competition Comments Only

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.) _____

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

Students: Solo - \$20 Duet - \$20 (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 10/1/2023.

Mail entry forms and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) postmarked no later than September 23, 2023, to:

Margaret McGillvray, Therese Bertrand,
MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinators
5346 Dovetail Ave.
Billings, MT 59106
Phone: (406) 670-5165
Email: memcgillvray@gmail.com

Student Fee: _____

Teacher Fee: _____

Total: _____

2023 MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL: Short Program Competition

Dates: November 2-4, 2023
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell, Montana
Application and Fee Deadline: Friday, September 22, 2023

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, 2024

*** 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, 2024

**** 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, 2024**

**** 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 10/1/2023.

Send entry forms and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) postmarked no later than September 23, 2023, to:

Margaret McGillvray, Therese Bertrand, MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinators
 5346 Dovetail Ave.
 Billings, MT 59106
 Phone: (406) 670-5165
 Email: memcgillvray@gmail.com

MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL SHORT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Dates: November 2-4, 2023
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell, Montana
Application and Fee Deadline: Friday, September 22, 2023

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, 2024 _____ 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: Duet Solo Performer

Division: Elementary (Ages 9-12* as of Jan. 1, 2024)

Junior (Ages 12*-15** as of Jan. 1, 2024)

Senior (Ages 15**-19 as of Jan. 1, 2024)

* 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: Competition Comments Only

Fall Festival Student Fees for Short Program (No refunds)

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

Teacher Fees: 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 10/1/2023.

Send entry forms and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) postmarked no later than September 23, 2023, to:

Margaret McGillyvray, Therese Bertrand,
 MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinators
 5346 Dovetail Ave.
 Billings, MT 59106
 Phone: (406) 670-5165
 Email: memcgillyvray@gmail.com

Student Fee: _____

Teacher Fee: _____

Total: _____

MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL SHORT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Application Deadline: POSTMARKED by September 23, 2023

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 _____

V. Title _____

Movement(s) _____

Composer's Full Name _____

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

2023 MTNA STATE COMPETITION

Performance Competitions

The registration deadline for the 2023-2024 MTNA Composition, Junior, Senior and Young Artist Performance Competitions is **Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time (1:00 p.m. Mountain Time). No exceptions.** The Montana State Performance Competitions will be held in person at the MSMTA State Conference in Kalispell from November 2-4 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Chamber Music Competitions

The deadline for Chamber Music registration and video submissions to Acceptd is **Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, (1:00 p.m. Mountain time).**

Visit the MTNA website for complete Competition guidelines and registration information. For further information, contact:

Performance Competition Chair and Coordinator:

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

Composition Competition Chair:

Dr. Greg Young
Email: gyoung@montana.edu
Phone: (406)-994-5753

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MONTANA STUDENTS PLACE AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

Congratulations to Jake Kittleson, student of Jeannie Little, and Tanner Jordan, student of Scott Holden, for their outstanding performances at the MTNA National Competition in March 2023 in Reno, Nevada.

Kittleson (tuba) placed third in the Young Artist Brass Competition, and Jordan placed second in the Young Artist Piano Competition. Kittleson graduated from MSU Bozeman this spring and plans to pursue a Master's in Performance at Arizona State University. Jordan, a former student of Dorothea Cromley in Billings, currently attends Brigham Young University.

BILLINGS MTA

Wonderful news! BMTA is turning 100 years old in 2024! We have planned several celebratory events for the year.

One of those events is a “100th Day Celebration.” We will share things on the 100th day of the year (April 9), such as a piece by a composer born 100 years ago, a piece composed 100 years ago, a piece from an opus 100, a piece with 100 notes or 100 measures or the tempo of 100, etc. What great discoveries we will make! Another event will be celebrating the birthdays of Handel and Burgmuller in February, as both of their birthdays are in February.

Congratulations to Sharon Marble as the 2023-24 MSMTA Foundation Fellow! Sharon is an important part of our association and we honor her for her contributions both locally and statewide, and also for her character. She is always creating, learning, and serving.

During my short season as president, I’m so grateful for every member of BMTA. What we do best is share the load. Most of our members serve on a committee, and I see members stepping up every month (or more often) to fill a need. I see a great spirit of cooperation and dedication amongst our ranks. I know I couldn’t “do it” without their help.

See you in Kalispell!

- Lynn Bassett, *President, Billings MTA*

GREAT FALLS MTA

GFMTA enjoyed a busy schedule of events in the spring of 2023.

We spent much of our time planning and organizing the Spring Festival which took place on March 17 and 18. This year in addition to piano students, who performed at Crossroads Memorial Church, we also included strings students and voice students, who performed at Bethel Lutheran Church. Our adjudicators were Stephanie Stevens, NCTM, piano, Margaret Baldrige, strings, and

Cynthia Stevens, voice. The adjudicators selected certain festival students to participate in the Honor’s Recitals which took place on the evening of March 18. These students competed for cash prizes. Honor’s Recital judges were Su Suits, piano, and Margaret Baldrige, strings.

On April 29, GFMTA hosted a vocal masterclass with Dr. Jon Harney at St. Ann’s Cathedral. This event was made possible due to Dr. Harney being involved with the Great Falls Symphony and Symphonic Choir Concert that evening. Five vocalists from the Great Falls area participated and received wonderful comments and helpful advice.

In May we invited our students to participate in the Select Student Recital. We enjoyed wonderful performances by piano and string students and then hosted a luncheon for participants and their families following the recital. A great time was had by all.

Looking ahead to the fall of 2023, GFMTA is considering adding a student performance event as part of the annual Christmas Stroll in downtown Great Falls. We are also planning to include adult students in our Spring Festival in 2024. See you all at Fall Conference!

- Kim Peachy, *NCTM, President, Great Falls MTA*

KALISPELL AREA MTA

We had a nice spring, busy with many musical activities. Our spring festival with Dr. Margery Whatley was great! We had 32 students participate. We concluded the festival with an honors concert with performers chosen by our adjudicator. This concert stood in place of our traditional alumni concert. We’d like to do both the spring festival honors concert and the alumni concert next year.

Our “new” student recitals were a great success and we plan to repeat them next year. These recitals combine students from many teachers, including non-members, as an attempt to build community amongst students, families and teachers. The “Collaborate!” recital encourages students to play with other musicians. Many play with their teachers;

I'd love to see more student collaboration next year. For our themed recital this year, we will do Romantic music.

Diane Volkman has been working hard to relaunch the student advancement program. She is currently updating the materials and putting together a program to reintroduce this to our membership. It adds more structure to the spring festival, and includes theory.

KAMTA's scholarship committee awarded \$2,725 in scholarships this year. \$725 went to students attending UM piano camp and \$2,000 to first year college students.

There is a concert being planned in memory of KAMTA's beloved secretary, Jan Hoffman. The concert will take place September 10 at Bethel Baptist Church in Kalispell. We have also voted in a new secretary for next year, Debbie Gardner, and are thrilled to have her!

We are excited about the State Conference being here in Kalispell. We appreciate the hard work of Ginny Reese in putting this together, and we are looking forward to seeing all of you here!

- Dr. Jordan Neiman, President, KAMTA

SOUTHWEST MONTANA MTA

Greetings from Bozeman! SMMTA gathered for a joint piano recital in May at Reynolds Recital Hall to celebrate the end of our teaching year. Students of Julie Gosswiller, Cari Wilson, Deborah Schuerr, Ken Christensen, and Jessica Olson participated, along with students of Bozeman teacher Beatrice Anderson, who was our special guest. Beatrice expressed interest in joining us for more activities, and we would be delighted to have her! More than 35 piano students performed on the two-part program, and it was fun to gather and applaud the hard work of our students. We would love to welcome string and vocal students in the future. Our association is very grateful for our partnership with the School of Music at Montana State University.

Although we are a small group, we share warm collegiality and friendship, and we look forward to another rewarding year of teaching and learning!

- Jessica Olson, Secretary/Treasurer, SMMTA

JOB DESCRIPTION HANDBOOK

MSMTA will be updating the state chair job description booklet in 2023. Please submit job descriptions for your position as soon as possible via email to Sarra Nienaber at snienaberpiano@gmail.com. Thank you, Sarra, for organizing this important document!

MEMBER DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

The member directory for 2022-2024 requires the following corrections:

- The phone number for Sarra Nienaber should be listed as (406) 690-0578.
- Christopher Hahn's area code should be listed as 406.

MEMBERSHIP PINS

MSMTA will no longer order new pins for recognizing years of membership. If you have old pins that you would like to donate back to MSMTA to be re-gifted, please return them to Carla Bell at the 2023 conference.



Our 2023-2024 Foundation Fellow has been named! Congratulations to Sharon Marble, our colleague from Billings Music Teachers Association! I've known Sharon for quite a few years and have so appreciated her creativity as the editor of the BMTA Membership Handbook (amazing - we should all see it!) and her table centerpieces at our Conferences for some years now. I also appreciate her warm friendship, but it was while reading her bio in preparation for this article that I learned who Sharon really is. I hope you will all take the time to get to know Sharon through her bio which will follow this article. She has an AWESOME list of accomplishments, and we welcome the opportunity to honor her with our financial donations to the MTNA Foundation.

We will, as we have since 2020, need to raise a minimum of \$1,500 in order for her to be named by MTNA at our National Conference Banquet in Atlanta in March 2024. The deadline for raising these funds will be January 15, 2024. Checks made

out to the MTNA Foundation should be sent to our Treasurer, Carla Bell, at 2700 1st Ave.N., Great Falls, MT 59401 - MEMO: Sharon Marble. If you prefer you can instead submit your donation online at www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/. Be sure to type in Sharon Marble's name in the FELLOW box. That web page also lists the many important activities and vital programs that are supported by our contributions to the MTNA Foundation.

Please keep in mind that in addition to our individual gifts, local associations who are able are also needed to reach our goal. Local treasurers should also send their check 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!

Thank you all for your continuing support of our Foundation Fellows!

2023-2024 FOUNDATION FELLOW: Sharon Marble

BILLINGS MTA

MSMTA is proud to name Sharon Marble as our 2023-2024 Foundation Fellow.

Sharon grew up in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. She started taking piano lessons from her mother at age 4, which she continued through high school. During junior high, Sharon became the organist at two churches. She played french horn in band and later went on to study at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where she earned her B.S. in Music Education in 1973.

Sharon moved to Billings in 1978, working full-time in the law field *and* teaching piano students. She earned her Professional Legal Secretary Certification and later a Paralegal Certificate while also working on her Master's Degree in Music Education and Pedagogy at Eastern Montana College. There she studied piano with Dorothea

Cromley, who encouraged her to join BMTA. During her entire working career, she appreciated being able to balance her work in law offices with her love of music and teaching piano students. She still serves as organist at her church. She attended three overseas music conferences sponsored by the *International Workshops*, meeting and being exposed to noted pedagogues. These musical experiences inspired her and formed a basis for her teaching career.

On the local level, Sharon has been an active BMTA member. She published the newsletter for 14 years, oversaw bylaw revisions, served as president, assisted with commissioned works and Duets & Donuts Recitals, and has edited and expanded the BMTA Member Handbook since 2005. She has also compiled BMTA's condensed 100-year written history.



Sharon currently serves the state association as Legislative Chair. She has facilitated bylaw revisions, overseen meetings according to bylaw rules and is always ready to help behind the scenes. She has attended three MTNA national conferences and two NCKP

conferences, where she has gained useful continuing education. She recognizes that most of her professional musical growth has stemmed from membership in our association, interacting with teachers and colleagues at conferences, attending master classes and workshops, and listening to speakers who serve as mentors to not only further her own musical knowledge and skills, but to pass on to her students.

Sharon teaches both children and adults in her studio. Teaching has been a very exciting and rewarding experience throughout her life. She values building relationships with her students and encouraging them to commit to and express their music. Her philosophy is that, as music has added richness to her own life, she desires to teach others to enjoy and embrace the music they create – a talent to develop and share. She knows that music will be there for them to enjoy for a lifetime.

Her advice to fellow teachers is to always continue to learn (technology too), to attend meetings and conferences, interact with your peers, be proud of your musical profession and be professional in your studio and run it as a business. Communicate. Be flexible. Always work on a piece of music yourself. Let your love of music shine through you.

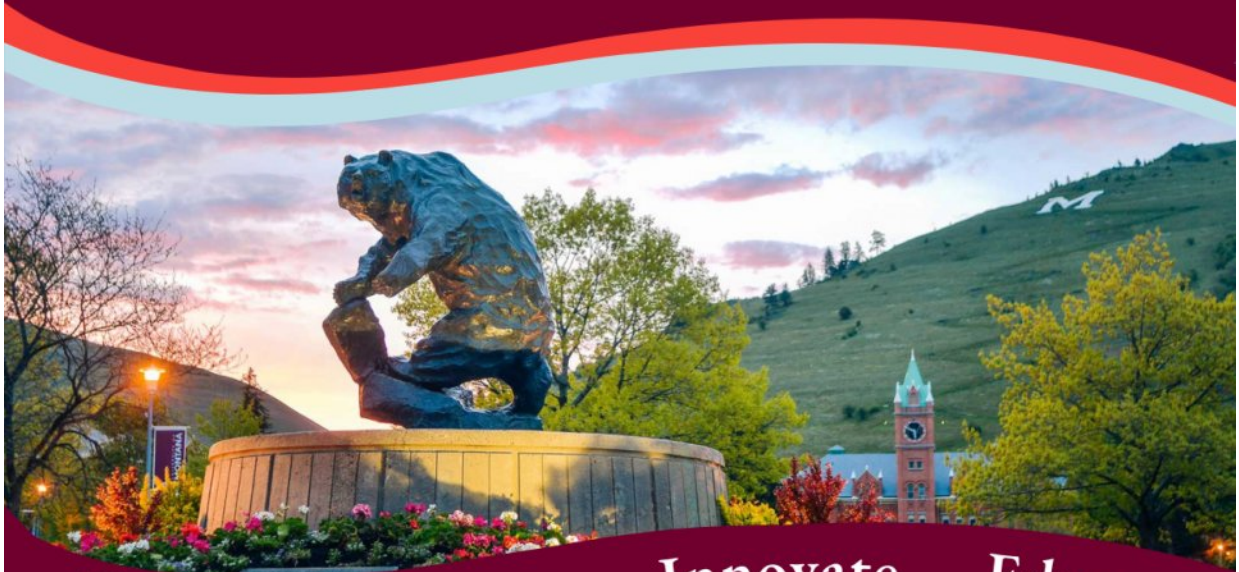
- Lynn Bassett, Margaret McGillvray NCTM, and Charlene Waddingham, Billings MTA

To make a donation to the MTNA Foundation in honor of Sharon, please complete and mail the form on page 29, or donate online at mtnafoundation.org.

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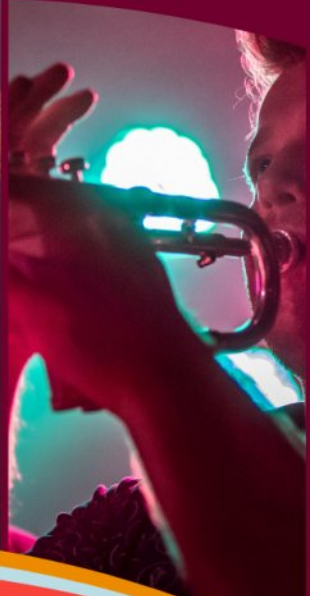
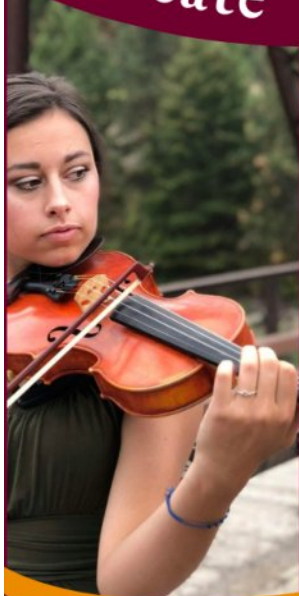


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umt.edu/music





Named endowments have been established to honor individuals who have made notable contributions to the future of music and music teaching. 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. Please refer to the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND website for a description of each fund. Contributions also may be made to the general endowment fund, the annual fund and to any Fellow fund or endowment fund in progress.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> MarySue Harris Endowment | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert L. Pace Endowment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fellow (specify below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beth Miller Harrod Endowment | <input type="checkbox"/> Amanda Ward Penick Endowment | Sharon Marble |

I would like to contribute: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$ _____

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Check (made payable to the **MTNA FOUNDATION FUND**) Cash

Please charge my total gift of \$ _____ on MasterCard Visa American Express using the following payment option:

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Please begin charging in _____ (month, year)

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ CVC _____

Signature _____

I would like to receive information about making a planned gift. I have included MTNA in my estate planning.

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

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2023-2024

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2023 TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Julie Gosswiller

JESSICA OLSON



MSMTA is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2023 MSMTA Teacher of the Year Award is Julie Gosswiller.

Julie earned her master's degree in Piano Performance from the University of Colorado, where she studied with Angela Cheng, Robert Spillman and Doris

Lehnert. After being awarded an accompanying assistantship, she went on to serve as a student coach accompanist at the Aspen Music Festival. After graduating, she served as pianist for the Colorado Children's Chorale before moving to Bozeman with her family, where she currently serves as an Associate Teaching Professor at Montana State University, earning MSU Awards for Excellence in Teaching in 2012 and 2017.

A frequent collaborator, Julie often appears alongside fellow MSU faculty and other renowned musicians such as Adam Barnett Hart of the Escher String Quartet, the Ahn Trio and Dallas Brass. Along with being featured twice on the PBS Series *11th and Grant with Erik Funk*, she and soprano Elizabeth Croy were finalists and semifinalists in the Brahms International Competition, Savannah Music Festival, and have won several awards in the Cyber Sing Competition. An accomplished and well-loved teacher, Julie's students have won the MSU Concerto Competition, and her private students have won state MTNA Competitions at the elementary, junior, and senior levels.

According to MSU professor Dr. Greg Young, Julie's students "rave about her caring nature and ability to help them reach their full potential." This gift for teaching and mentorship lies at the heart of Julie's selection for this award.

"Julie Gosswiller's focus on teaching and collaborative performance is the power behind her

vast impact on the Montana music community," says MSMTA Immediate Past President Laura Detrick. "While her prowess is well known throughout Montana and beyond, she also — very quietly — invests in individually mentoring her fellow teachers and musicians throughout the state. ... All of this is done with such joy that one can hardly help but catch the fire and passion behind her musicality."

Alongside her busy teaching and performing career, Julie has served as president of SMMTA and appears frequently as an adjudicator throughout Montana. Her informative presentations at MSMTA conferences are always attendee favorites. I have had the pleasure of learning from Julie as a mentor and friend since I began teaching in Bozeman, and her insights have been invaluable to me and many of her fellow teachers.

Charlene Loge says, "I could write much more about how Julie Gosswiller helped me immensely ... In specially-arranged lessons, my students (and me) learned much about practice techniques, interpretations, musical line, technical aspects to achieve performance skills. She was kind, generous with her time, always positive. ... One needs only to observe the musicality, passion, and dedication of her students to see a truly gifted teacher at work."

One of my earliest memories of Julie comes from a long-ago SMMTA Spring Festival. One of Julie's private students, a little girl of about seven, walked confidently to the piano and played a simple song full of cross-hand arpeggios with mature technique and artistry rarely seen in a student so young. When she finished, the adjudicator commented, "I can tell that you love this piece." The little girl nodded enthusiastically and replied, "I love the piano!"

Competence, artistry, and passion - these are the gifts of great teachers to their students, and these are the gifts that Julie Gosswiller imparts to her students (and to her fellow teachers) every day. How lucky we are!

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

The University of Montana Keyboard Division continues its tradition of excellence with six pianists graduating this past spring, and nine new pianists starting this coming fall semester. Our incoming freshmen include piano and pedagogy majors from as far away as Hawaii and South Africa! We will have a new jazz piano major and a new graduate student as well. It will be a busy and exciting time as always! We also have two organ majors who stay very active in the department and in the community. There will be some new faces in the faculty and staff areas as well, with Connor Racicot (a recent B.M. Performance graduate) serving as our jazz piano faculty member, and Kyle Curtis, recent piano student in the B.A. in Jazz Studies degree serving in the role of piano technician after receiving his Registered Piano Technician certification in the spring.

The University of Montana Piano Camp was a rousing success with 23 campers in attendance this year. Our Celebrate Piano Series continues to work back into full steam ahead as well. This year, we will have our Pianissimo! concerts on October 13 and 14, Jeffrey Shumway and Del Parkinson of the American Piano Quartet performing both Rachmaninoff Two Piano Suites, and Spencer Myer will once again grace our stage in the spring. Stay tuned for more information as dates become finalized!

Christopher Hahn continues to serve as the Chair of the UM Keyboard Division and is thrilled to be welcoming so many new students to Missoula for the new school year. It seems clear that the effect COVID had on recruitment was quite severe, however that pall seems to have lifted finally. There is an incredible energy around our program, and this group of students is full of promise and potential. While such growth presents some challenges, the benefits far outweigh any potential issues. Chris is looking forward to getting back into performing this year with the Montana Piano Trio and with faculty collaborations.

In addition to the long list of duties at UM, Chris also operates PLAY Piano Academy in Missoula with

his wife, Valerie. This summer has been busy as PLAY has expanded and now occupies the entire building which has meant lots of painting both inside and outside, as well as purchasing pianos! The Academy recently purchased six new Yamaha digital pianos, as well as a 48" vertical Kawai and a 5'11" Steinway & Sons Model L grand piano! These instruments will be placed into the newly built classrooms and teaching studio that will be part of the remodel taking place in August. PLAY continues to serve as an excellent training ground to provide teaching experience for UM's piano and pedagogy program with five students now working as teachers at the Academy. Our profession provides so many opportunities for being active and engaged with the art of teaching and performance, to guide and mentor, and to inspire and motivate. What an honor!



Dr. Margery Whatley is getting geared up for another wonderful and exciting year teaching at the University of Montana! This fall, September

25-29, she will once again be performing the Mendelssohn Double Concerto for Violin and Piano with her brother, internationally acclaimed violinist Robert McDuffie. The brother-sister duo will perform two concerts in their hometown of Macon, Georgia, followed by a third performance in Huntsville, Alabama where Margery previously lived and taught, serving on the music faculty at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She is also thrilled to be collaborating with another family member, her mother Susan T. McDuffie, who was the 2016 Georgia Music Teachers Association Teacher of the Year and the 2017 MTNA Teacher of the Year! Early spring semester, they will be performing a program of piano solos, duets, and duos in Macon and Missoula. The Missoula concert is scheduled for Sunday, March 10, at 3:00 p.m. at the University of Montana Music Recital Hall and will feature works by Mozart, Chopin, Liszt, Gershwin, Piazzolla and more, so mark your calendars!

- Christopher Hahn, NCTM, and Dr. Margery Whatley, NCTM

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Greetings from MSU Bozeman!

Professors of applied piano Kenneth Christensen and Julie Gosswiller performed actively during the spring semester in various collaborative concerts. Recitals of note featured Kenneth Christensen and Dr. Julia Slovarp, cello, which was performed in March at the Reynolds Recital Hall and in April at the Shane Center for the Performing Arts in Livingston. Julie Gosswiller performed with the Concert Master of the Bozeman Symphony, Carrie Krause, in a collaborative recital in April. The MSU School of Music applied piano students presented “PianoForte,” an annual fundraising recital, and proceeds were placed in the “Magic88” scholarship fund for students studying applied piano. Professors Christensen and Gosswiller both adjudicated many music festivals in Montana and beyond during the spring semester.

MSU School of Music sponsored the Flathead Lake Music Camp in June and July. The camp took place June 18-24 for middle school students and July 9-15 for high school band and choir students. Dr. Nathan Stark and Dr. Gregory Young serve on the board of directors. MSMTA students are invited for summer 2024! Keep an eye on the camp’s website for more details at www.flatheadlake musiccamp.org.

Dr. Gregory Young, clarinet, presented at conferences in Canada and England in April. Students as Partners is an international conference held in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, whose mission is to harness the power of undergraduates to help find solutions to some of the world’s most pressing problems. The World Congress on Undergraduate Research was held in Warwick, England, where MSU student Heidi Watkins presented her research on how physicians use their prior musical training in their work.

The MSU Trumpet Studio, Gallatin Trumpet Guild, and School of Music hosted a three-day residency with Trumpeter, Educator and Life Coach Ashley Hall-Tighe last spring. During these three days, MSU musicians learned from Ashley in workshops and one-on-one settings. Ashley also presented a recital where MSU Alumna Erin Henke collaborated on piano, as well as Dr. Sarah Stoneback on cornet.

Dr. Stoneback’s trumpet studio was invited to perform at the 2023 International Trumpet Guild

Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in May. Trumpeters performed for one of the conference sessions and attended workshops and performances.

The Montanans performed for the Keynote Session of the National Association for Music Education’s Northwest Conference on February 17 in Bellevue Washington. Their program included Eric Funk’s *Requiem for a Forest*, composed following the 2020 fire in the Bridger foothills. Professor Angella Ahn, violin, led the string ensemble, and Thomas Thomas provided video for this multi-media performance.

Dr. Jennifer England joined the School of Music faculty in 2022. Her corpus study work on key affect and textual relationships, titled “Tonic and Topic: A Study of Key Affect in American Hymnody,” has been accepted/presented to the Florida State University *Music Theory Forum*, the 45th annual conference of the Texas Society for Music Theory, and the Rocky Mountain Music Scholars Conference (a joint meeting of the Southwest Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Musicological Society, and the Rocky Mountain Society for Music Theory).

This spring, a student of Julia Slovarp was accepted to and performed in the All-Northwest Orchestra in Bellevue, Washington. Two of her university students performed Eric Funk’s *Requiem for a Forest* with the Montanans, and one was featured in the MSU event “A Conversation With Dmitry Muratov.” Students regularly perform with the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Slovarp also hosted Lawrence Stomberg for a master class on April 19.

Professor Ahn performed with the Ahn Trio and the James Sewell Ballet in March at Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in Big Sky, Alberta Bair Theatre in Billings, and The O’Shaughnessy in St. Paul, Minnesota. She performed with Bruce Adolphe, known on public radio as the “Piano Puzzler,” in Bozeman and Billings. Professor Ahn performed in Havre with her MSU colleagues Julie Gosswiller and Wonki Lee, and performed with university students as part of the NAFME general session in Bellevue, Washington.

The School of Music continues to stream student and faculty performances on the MSU School of Music YouTube channel at bit.ly/msumusiclive. MSMTA members are invited to use this resource in their studios and classrooms.

Wishing you a wonderful teaching year!

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ORIGIN STORIES: The Beauty of Saying “Yes!”

MARY KAYE OWEN, NORTHWEST DIVISION DIRECTOR

It has been a joy to be on the MTNA Board of Directors! My favorite aspect of being Northwest Division Director is the added friendships I’ve made around the country and the Northwest. My least favorite thing is being in the Pacific Time Zone while most of the others on the board and in the division are in other time zones – but that is not an



insurmountable problem, and I do not spend a lot of time stressing about it! The 14-member BOD consists of seven Directors, President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President of Diversity-Equity-Inclusion, Vice

President of Membership, Secretary, Treasurer, as well as the MTNA Chief Executive Officer, who is non-voting. We meet in-person for a full day twice a year. When we are not in-person at the annual Leadership Summit in Cincinnati, or the national conference, the BOD meets together on Zoom every month for one hour so that the national business gets taken care of in a timely manner.

Once a quarter, I meet via Zoom with our six Northwest Division State Presidents (from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming), and our Northwest Division Director-Elect (Steven Hesla from Montana). Because we also have other national leaders from the Northwest Division (MTNA President Peter Mack, and MTNA Vice President of DEI William Chapman Nyaho – both from Washington State), I invite them to join us. It’s a time of sharing what’s going on in our division’s states, as well as discussion and advice-sharing if a state president requests our help. How does a person get invited to be nominated for a BOD position? It probably helps to have been an officer in your state. And to be an officer in your state, it probably helps to have been a leader in your local association. My advice is to say “YES!” if possible, to every opportunity to serve.

My personal MTNA Origin story may or may not be as boring as the previous paragraph. I’d never heard of MTNA until, in college 40+ years ago (Multnomah University in Portland, Oregon), my Piano Pedagogy professor mentioned many professional associations, including MTNA. But it wasn’t until I was given my pastor’s wife’s piano studio in Atlanta, Georgia, five years later that I joined MTNA, and that was because she said, “Mary Kaye, you should join MTNA, because that will get your name out there and potential students might call you. All you have to do is pay your dues – you never have to go to meetings or anything like that!” With that recommendation and advice, I sent in my application and dues. Easy-peasy, just like she said! About two years later, I moved back to Washington State and again was given a piano studio from a retiring teacher I’d met at church. I transferred my MTNA membership from Georgia to Washington – again, very easy. I kept paying my dues. I would get the national and state magazines but rarely read them – I was very busy with my 9-to-5 job at a heavy construction office that transferred me around the country.

And then, I met Dan-the-Man. After a lovely courtship, we married. He had a great job, and we decided I could quit the construction job and get my masters degree at the University of Washington! What fun!! I kept paying my MTNA dues. I had a nice little piano studio, and was able to earn my M.A. in Music Education, with an emphasis in Piano Pedagogy. After graduation, I thought, “Maybe I should check out an MTNA local association meeting.” I’ll always remember the elegant home of that first meeting experience. The attending teachers were welcoming, and I kept going back to the meetings. I soon met other piano teachers my age with the same life situations – enough babies and toddlers that the chapter hired a babysitter during our meetings! (My kids still remember Mrs. Manny 25 years later!) Since the students of those two studios I was given grew up, I admit all of my students came to me because of my membership in MTNA! It’s been a financially beneficial, educational, and socially wonderful experience to be a member of Music Teachers National Association!

Beyond the Meshing Hypothesis: Proven Principals that Transform our Teaching

JESSICA OLSON

One of the most popular educational philosophies of the last 60 years has been the concept of learning styles, which claims that students express preferences for a single, or one of several, modes of presentation when learning new information. Personalizing the delivery of material to match a student's learning style, sometimes referred to as "meshing," remains popular in the field of private music teaching. Throughout my university pedagogy courses and my 24 years of teaching, a variety of learning styles frameworks have been presented, from personality models like the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator or Idealist/Dolphins, Guardian/Bears, Rational/Owls, and Artisan/Apes, to sensory models like VAK (visual, auditory, or kinesthetic learners).

The popularity of this teaching philosophy is understandable: Teachers have daily proof that students differ in interests, speed of learning, physical dexterity, and background knowledge. We are all unique in temperament and interaction style. Caring teachers know that we must use tailored approaches that engage diverse groups of students, and presenting skills differently to match each student's learning style seems like a natural answer. It turns out that research *does* support presenting material in diverse formats, but not for the reasons we may have been taught.

In a landmark review of learning-styles research published in 2008, Harold Paschler, Mark McDaniel, Doug Rohrer and Robert Bjork concluded that most studies testing learning styles and meshing did not use appropriate methods for measuring their effectiveness, and among those that did, several found results that flatly contradicted their usefulness. The authors concluded that teachers are more likely to achieve student success by focusing their resources on techniques that are better supported by educational research.

Studies have concluded that matching the presentation of material to the subject matter being taught (kinesthetic teaching of kinesthetic skills, for example) is more reliably successful for *all* students than attempting to categorize students and match our teaching to their cognitive style (something that

is very difficult to determine, even for researchers). Research also shows that presenting material to *all* students in several formats (auditory explanations with visuals, for example) leads to greater learning and retention. Presenting material in varied ways may lead teachers to believe that learning styles are effective when it is really the multi-modal style of presentation (e.g. an engaging digital resource alongside tactile reinforcement) that makes the biggest impact. Differentiating our lesson pacing and interaction style to create a welcoming environment for each student remains imperative.

Private music teaching is a different animal than classroom teaching, but proven strategies like review, assessment, demonstration, guided practice and preparation for independent work create reliable success in both group and one-on-one settings. We can help all students draw on deeper cognitive processes like chunking (grouping pieces of information together to aid retention), building conceptual connections, and transferring past learning to new scenarios. Discipline-specific best practices like careful pacing of material, selecting goals for improvement that are important and achievable in a short time, focusing on technique in the context of its effect on sound and helping students develop increasingly discerning auditory targets show great promise in research studies on music education.

Although the learning styles model has been largely debunked in the field of educational research, exciting new information is always one click away. The MTNA e-Journal (available at mtna.org) is a great resource for academic papers targeted toward private music teachers. The Center for Music Learning at the University of Texas at Austin regularly conducts pedagogy research and shares its results online at cml.music.utexas.edu. Private music teachers are most effective when we stay abreast of the vast, continually-unfolding landscape of current academic research and draw on the rich legacy of proven teaching practices specific to our discipline.

For a full list of article references, contact Jessica Olson by email at pianohearer@gmail.com.

The Continuing and Changing Availability of Acoustic Pianos in Montana

LAURA DETRICK

The acoustic piano is an essential instrument for any serious music study and profession. In addition to its value as an instrument in its own right, it is used to accompany nearly every instrument and voice. Symphony orchestras use piano reductions for rehearsals with soloists and choirs. Certainly those reading this article could accumulate a long list of other integral roles the piano plays.

With this in mind, knowledge of where to obtain a good piano becomes necessary. Thankfully, we have two galleries in Montana: Montana Piano and All About Pianos, both of which have been integral providers to individuals, institutions, and to east-of-the-Rockies MSMTA conferences. Steinway Spokane is also a great source and has been at many a west-of-the-Rockies conference. Availability has also been found at music stores and piano services. Since we're so dependent on these sources, it's good to know of significant changes to them.

After 26 years of Belgrade's All About Pianos' existence, current owner Dianne Baker is retiring and the gallery is closing on September 30. The piano clearance sale is on now until then! One of MSMTA's own recent connections is of the wonderful collaboration for the Fall 2022 Conference and Competitions, along with All About Pianos' related business, Heppler Piano. They provided and serviced pianos, both of which were of the highest quality. Says Dianne, "I very much enjoyed working with you for the MSMTA Conference last fall. I value our friendship!" Aaron and Elisabeth Heppler plan to fill the void, scheduling their new gallery to open on October 1 with Kawai, Mason & Hamelin, and used pianos.

There are no retirement plans for Montana Piano's Greg Depner in Billings. With a vested interest in benefiting the Montana music community, he is expanding his inventory of new Bösendorfer Vienna Concert series grand pianos in addition to his Yamaha collection. He says, "Providing quality pianos to teachers, students and performers in Montana is a wonderful profession and I am very grateful to be able to do it." Both MSMTA and BMTA find Depner a delight to work with.

As for music stores, MSMTA's relationship with Morgenroth, now called Morgenroth Music & Arts, is as long standing and just as personal as that of our galleries. Can anyone imagine a conference without them? Print music salesman John Pennington's knowledge of repertoire and personable nature has been a great resource, receiving special honor at the 2022 MSMTA Fall Conference. He has very deservedly retired, along with store owner and manager Gary Bowman. With the resulting store acquisition, there is no plan to continue selling acoustic pianos once the current inventory is depleted, according to John's protégé, Saje Johns. He predicts better prices on print music, however.

Only one of the music stores I spoke with said they would order acoustic pianos (specifically Yamaha): Piccolo's in Helena. Bozeman's Eckroth Music (exhibitor at the 2022 MSMTA Conference), like Hansen Music of Billings and many other music stores, offer digital consoles, keyboards, and the like. Quality Piano of Great Falls sells used acoustic pianos that they've purchased and refurbished, or sells them on consignment. They are one example of several piano services throughout the state that might have these rejuvenated treasures available.

With Montana piano galleries, stores, and services, the future looks bright for acquisition of the versatile and essential acoustic piano of high quality in Montana. Not only can they be acquired, but the great relationships that are a part of the process are also a fantastic opportunity for networking toward mutually beneficial goals.

An index of businesses who advertise in MMN is available on page 3. Contact information can be found within each company's advertisement. MSMTA is grateful for our ongoing partnership with these businesses and the relationships we have built with them over the years. Steinway Piano Gallery, Montana Piano, and All About Pianos have played a vital role in our ability to host MTNA State Competitions in cities across Montana, and all of our business partners have contributed to our work in important ways. Thank you!



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IN MEMORIAM: Janis Hoffman



Janis Hoffman, 72, passed away on February 25, 2023, after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer. Janis was born in 1950 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Walter and Miriam Keeney, the oldest of three children. She graduated from Manheim Township High School in 1968 and went on to Indiana University of Pennsylvania,

graduating as a home economics major in 1972. She met the love of her life, Sam Hoffman, the summer of 1969, and they married in 1972. In 1974 they moved to Kalispell. Eric was born in June of 1975; Greg arrived in September 1976.

Janis worked as a dental assistant for 16 years for Dr. Denny Schultz. In 1998 she began as church secretary at Bethel Baptist Church, continuing there until her death. She taught Sunday School for 43 years and served as a pianist for many years. She greatly loved teaching children about the Bible. Janis taught piano to many students, mostly beginners.

According to friend and fellow KAMTA member Ginny Reese, “Jan was an integral part of our

organization for over 30 years and will be greatly missed. We remember Jan for her exuberance and clear caring of each individual she came into contact with, whether it be a student or fellow teacher. Jan was the secretary for KAMTA for over 20 years and was the glue that held us together as an organization. We will always honor her memory and keep all her friends and family in our hearts and prayers.”

Jan’s love for teaching music extended to her work with Junior Music Academy, a music school for young students, where she worked for 11 years. She also enjoyed hiking and backpacking in Montana. Many Glacier was her favorite area.

Janis is survived by Sam; their two sons, Eric (Christie) and Greg (Heidi); and 10 grandchildren, Caleb, Joseph, Samuel, Elizabeth, Lily and Lydia, near Salt Lake City, and Anna, Alli, Jacob and Owen, near Tucson, Arizona. She loved spending time with each of them, reading, going to lunch, watching movies and teaching them piano. She is also survived by her father, Walter Keeney, 95; her sister Nancy Swingler (“C”); her brother Mike (Kathy); and two nieces, Jenna Ginder and Lindsay Oehme and their families.

Janis loved Lake Blaine Baptist Bible Camp and did much to assist in keeping the camp running smoothly. She requested that in lieu of flowers memorial gifts be given to LBBBC through their website. A memorial service was held at Bethel Baptist Church in Kalispell on March 18, 2023.



The MSMTA Legacy Fund is now housed within the Joyce B. Andersen Endowment at the MTNA Foundation. This endowment was initiated in memory of longtime Great Falls member Joyce B. Andersen, and contributions made in memory of beloved MSMTA teachers will be used for the purpose of supporting music programs for students, teachers and public education in the state of Montana and MTNA’s Northwest Division. To contribute to the endowment, visit www.mtnafoundation.org/endowment-funds and select “Named Endowment Funds.”

CINDA TOMPKINS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: Landon Kleeman

MARCY HOLSTON



Landon Kleeman began music lessons at age 3 and continued throughout high school. Currently Landon is a performance and pedagogy major at the University of Montana and hopes to one day become a performer, composer and instructor. He is thrilled to be able to pass along his ever-growing knowledge of the piano to the next generation. During the summer of 2023, Landon served as a counselor at the University of Montana Piano Camp. During his free time he enjoys reading, noodling on the guitar, woodworking, watching sports, listening to records and building cars.

MSMTA currently offers two student scholarships, the Cinda Tompkins Memorial Scholarship and the June Werner Memorial Scholarship. Applications for scholarships are published in the spring issue of MMN each year.



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Call for Collegiate Chapter Sessions

Only collegiate chapter members may submit proposals

REQUIRED SUBMISSION MATERIALS:

- Session Title
- Maximum 100-word abstract
- 35-word maximum session description
- Contact information for one presenter
- Names/degree status of presenters
- Faculty advisor name
- Equipment needs
- Group photo of presenters
- Minimum of 2 presenters per proposal

Call for Poster Sessions

Anyone may submit a proposal. Two sessions are held during the conference; selected posters must be presented at both sessions. Only one submission per person will be accepted.

REQUIRED SUBMISSION MATERIALS:

- Maximum 250-word abstract/description of the proposal
- An electronic graphic representation of the poster (multiple PowerPoint slides are not acceptable).
- DO NOT include name or affiliation on representation
- Poster Title

Deadline: October 2, 2023, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.

Visit www.mtna.org for more details



2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Saturday, October 29, 2022
GranTree Inn, Bozeman

With nineteen members present, President Laura Detrick called the annual meeting to order just after 9:00 a.m.

The Secretary's Minutes of the October 21, 2021 General Membership Meeting of the Association, as presented on page 37 in the Conference booklet and on page 43 of September 2022 *Montana Music News*, were approved.

Treasurer Carla Bell's report that "we took in more than we spent" drew applause. She noted a net annual revenue of \$5,777 at fiscal year-end on June 30, 2022. Maryruth Fallon's motion, seconded by Stephanie Stevens, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted was approved.

Membership Secretary Kim Peachy announced that as of October 20, 2022, MSMTA has 99 members.

Old Business. Steve Hesla and Judy O'Dell of the Legacy Fund committee support the recommendation of the Board to transfer the money held in MSMTA's Legacy Fund to the Joyce B. Andersen Endowment within the MTNA Foundation, initiated in memory of long-time Great Falls, Montana, piano teacher "for the purpose of supporting music programs for students, teachers and public education in the state of Montana and MTNA's Northwest Division." A motion by Diane Volkman, seconded by Marcy Holston, passed.

The proceeds of the raffle held at our annual conference have been contributed equally to the MSMTA travel grants fund (Reno, NV national conference in March, 2023) and the MTNA Foundation. A motion by Sharon Marble, seconded by Molly Morrison, that the portion previously sent to the MTNA Foundation be deposited more specifically into the Joyce B. Andersen Endowment of the MTNA Foundation passed.

On October 13, 2022, Sharon Marble and Margaret McGillvray completed a required two-year review of MSMTA financial records. In their review for the two fiscal years 7/1/20 to 6/30/21 and 7/1/21 to 6/30/22, they "found the records and reports neatly organized, making it easy to cross-check with monthly bank statement, quarterly portfolio statements and receipts. . . . Our compliments to Carla Bell for the accuracy of her bookkeeping, retention of receipts, detailed reports, and quick explanation to questions."

President Laura Detrick acknowledged local sponsors of the Bozeman conference and noted Alfred Publishing had supported the travel expenses of conference presenter Dennis Alexander.

The Internship Committee of Dorothy Beck Peterson, Diane Volkman and Margaret McGillvray have consulted with university faculty to develop a one-credit independent study for pedagogy students involved with MSMTA.

New Business. Accepting the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, President Elect Margery Whatley, Secretary Cassi Bak and Membership Secretary Kim Peachy were elected.

Dorothy Beck Peterson reported the MTNA competitions consisted of one composition and eighteen performances at two locations in Bozeman.

Deep discussion regarding the date for our next conference followed the report that "the Executive Board recommends moving annual conference to June, beginning in June 2024, not 2023." Support focused on how busy October is with competing conferences by MMEA and All-State events for teachers who could more easily leave their teaching studios in summer break time. The fall weather is unpredictable for travel distance across Montana. Among objections to a summer conference were that college students are away at summer jobs and unavailable to attend a conference. Piano camps in June and July might draw college faculty away from attending. With competitions remaining in the fall, conference attendance would suffer. It is financially advantageous to combine the two events.

Stephanie Stevens moved the Executive Board's recommendation be amended to the "first weekend of November" but later withdrew it; Laura Detrick suggested the last weekend in September while Steve Hesla observed students weren't yet ready for competitions then. Carla Bell proposed to table the motion of a June conference and send it back to the Executive Committee who by Zoom can look further into the implications of changing the time of year for the annual conference. The 2023 conference is presently scheduled for November 2-4, 2023.

The annual meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

- Charlene Loge, Secretary

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