

MONTANA MUSIC NEWS

MONTANA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2020



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October 29-31, 2020

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FOLLOW US!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As I write this today, it's barely above zero – quite normal for January in Montana! I must remind myself that I'm writing this for the spring newsletter, and that spring and all the musical activities that go along with it are right around the corner. Hope springs eternal!



I have so many wonderful memories from our October conference. The concert with commissioned composer Phil Aaberg left everyone inspired and smiling. Hearing his kind words about his beloved teacher Margy May Ott and his head nod to all of us teachers of music was very affirming. The awards banquet, with honor and respect being paid to those among us who have made an incredible difference in the giving of themselves and their time, was enjoyable and heart-warming. The sessions were full of energy and fantastic ideas, but what is hanging in the forefront of my mind are Marvin B's comments on the last morning when he came to our business

meeting! He said, "I don't usually attend other state's business meetings, but I had to figure out what makes your group so special"- That is a big deal! I could email him and ask if he figured it out, but I already have a few ideas, so please bear with me while I suggest a few.

We are FOR each other. We celebrate each other's accomplishments and go to great lengths to do so. Example: Dorothy Peterson contacting Dennis Alexander to make the video honoring Molly Morrison. In a dog-eat-dog world, this is refreshing and wonderful.

For the most part, members of our organization are willing to take on projects that take time and effort with little recognition. Example: Carole Hatley, Molly Morrison, and Laura Detrick facilitating the competitions, and not just doing the busy work, but also being with the students and teachers while giving them a fantastic experience.

We embrace change! Example: Billings MTA going above and beyond to host events and reach out to a young group of teachers. As you know, our organization is a Q-tip group (white on top), and we oldies can take a little time to come around, but we are recognizing that if MSMTA/MTNA is to continue on, we must adjust to and embrace this new generation. I commend our local organizations across the state for hosting events and being curious about what will motivate and appeal to this next generation.

Let's keep on keeping on. My best to you in this new year!

Sincerely,
Margaret



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PEDAGOGY 101

Marvin Blickenstaff

Marvin's talk addressed a young student's very first lesson, and how you, as the teacher, might approach this very important moment. He started by saying "when I start a new student, I consider it a privilege" and reminded us that students come with expectations and fears. He quoted Richard Chronister: "Piano students come to their lesson for one reason only - to make exciting sound at the piano." He defined music as the expression of the total human experience through organized sound, and that we, as teachers, are in the business of teaching musical expression.



Marvin Blickenstaff answers audience questions at the 2019 MSMTA State Conference in Billings

At the very first lesson, we must offer non-fail icebreakers and foolproof activities to provide a positive experience for the student. He provided many examples - can you play something? What is the piano made of? Look

at the groups of black keys; listen to loud/soft and high/low sounds. He emphasized not using UP and DOWN as directions, but instead "[RH] upward to right, [LH] downward to the left". Exaggerating movements, gestures, and words is so important before we refine things. Use the words "Sit Tall." He uses the familiar song "Engine Engine No. 9" in many ways and teaches the first lesson (45 min) by rote, allowing ample observation time. The student goes home with 2 rote pieces, hand stretching exercises, and a black key composition assignment (including a title!).

Marvin went on to describe the second lesson, going more in-depth to rhythmic reinforcement - make students feel the steady beat, count out loud, and do some very basic non-note notation. Rhythm cards are great to use. OTB (off-the-bench) activities are important. For later reading, he emphasized using landmarks (Francis Clark's influence), intervals, shapes, steps and skips versus naming each note.

He concluded by saying students have the right to think that all music can be played by five fingers, and shared a finger game to play (hand on leg, "Start Finger 1 up a skip, down a step, etc., ...what finger are you on?").

Addressing pedagogy students (or us as teachers), he said required lesson plans must include technique, expression, reading, rhythm, aural work, and creativity (TERRAC). Pedagogy 101 is preparation, presentation, and reinforcement.

Marvin certainly captivated and energized us as he shared his creative teaching ideas for those first all-important lessons!
-Sharon Marble, Billings

DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY

Marvin Blickenstaff

Music comes as naturally as our heartbeats. We can see that even the youngest child resonates with the sound as they move to the beat. A steady beat is as essential to music as that of our hearts is to life. That is equally true of breath, which sets apart melodic phrases. As we strive to instill this and other truths in our students, it is important that we do so as overarching principles that can be extrapolated endlessly beyond one moment in one piece of music.

The young child asks, to many parent's chagrin, "Why?" Indeed, that is a question that we must bear in mind and be answering in the interpretation of music. We and our students should be aware of the reasons. Is there an ascending phrase? The gravitational fact that more effort is required to raise an object should be evident in our approach to and descent from its apex. Is there a great interval between those two notes? As our dear Marcy had to spend more time than the rest of us in her travels to conference, so the greater distance can be made manifest in music. We should be able to hear the law that governs the way an object requires a push to get moving and decelerates to a rest in the sounds the performer makes, allowing them and the listener to feel the natural effect.

Referring once again to the heart recalls that it is also the cause of tension and release in its distribution of life-giving substance. Among the many ways this is perceptible in music is in the cadential progression, moving gradually from the tension of the second inversion tonic, through the dominant to the release found in the tonic. Beat, breath,

gravity, distance, inertia, tension and release—the laws of nature are laws of music which when applied, bring out the otherwise hidden gems of its natural beauty.

- *Laura Detrick, Great Falls*

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE MAGIC STOPS?

Marvin Blickenstaff

Noting a 92% dropout rate after one year, Marvin Blickenstaff insightfully encouraged us to ask ourselves the following questions.

- 1) Are my lessons truly musical experiences? Do they express human emotions? How does the composer make the piece fit its title?
- 2) Are lessons student-oriented or teacher-oriented? Do we evoke responses from students, asking "Why do you think ...? What fingering fits your hand best?"
- 3) How do I help my students avoid mistakes? How can my students practice correctly the first week? Be proactive in how to overcome playing errors the first time. Send a student home with both aural and physical skills. Practice face-saving: begin the second lesson at the "work" spot by counting together and playing hands alone. Don't test; do encourage accurate, successful performances. Don't say "This is wrong"; do say "How can we get closer to the composer's intention?"
- 4) How do I celebrate success and accomplishment? Give much positive true reinforcement. "Let's do this every week and make it our song." "I hope I will never forget this sound." Make a repertoire list of memorized pieces and begin each lesson with a performance rather than moving quickly through new struggles with curriculum pieces.
- 5) Is my teaching vocabulary wide and

descriptive enough to describe the sound? What words do I use to help students elevate the experience of sound?

6) How do I assure new repertoire selections will be successful? Observe rhythm before playing notes: tap the rhythm first.

7) Listen for musical highlights at each lesson; a student deserves this. How was it celebrated? Affirm a student's role in the highlight. If there was no highlight, then find it in the duet playing of the piece.

8) How was the lesson summarized? Finally, we can ask ourselves, "Why do I teach children?" Marvin Blickenstaff wisely answered: "To write on the slate before it is too full." "How wonderful it is to express human experience through music and to do it with others."

-Charlene Loge, Dillon

THE PRACTICE BUY-IN

Stephanie Davis

Stephanie started the session "The Practice Buy-In" by identifying the parts of the brain. Over the summer she had done extensive research on the brain, applying her findings to piano playing.

Her focus was on building myelin. Myelin is an insulated layer that forms around nerve axons. This speeds nerve impulses to muscles. She referred to a TED Ed video about this topic. Gray matter of the brain processes information. White matter is mostly made up of myelin. Practicing the piano is an effective way to enhance white matter.

She went on to talk about repetition in piano playing. When repetition is done, myelin grows. Repetition is the key to learning, leading to mastery.

Then she talked about productive practicing. A student is to be consistent, focused and target on issues. When a student has limited time she stressed focus, focus, focus. Also to set goals. One is to target why errors are occurring. Could it be fingering? Practice slow. Visualize the piece.

Stephanie concluded with an example of a detailed lesson plan for a student. This session reinforced that playing the piano is very healthy for the brain.

- Char Waddingham, Billings

PLAYING YOUR BEST WHEN IT COUNTS

Kenneth Christensen, NCTM

Ken Christensen presented a workshop based on Dr. Bill Moore's book, *Playing Your Best When It Counts: Mental Skills for Musicians*. As a performance psychology consultant, Dr. Moore has focused on assisting anyone who must perform and make decisions in stressful circumstances, be they musicians, first responders, business people, or athletes. The book focuses on musicians and their unique circumstances of preparing for performance



Kenneth Christensen, NCTM, presenting at the 2019 MSMTA State Conference

and emphasizes that practice must include the development of both mental and physical performance skills. Teachers were given a variety of techniques for self-evaluation and the development of a performance mindset.

The workshop clearly delineated the practice mindset from performance mindset and how to approach performance with courage, to execute the performance with trust, and afterward, to respond to the performance with acceptance. As all performers face some degree of fear or nervousness while performing or preparing for performance, this workshop was both useful and timely for music teachers and performers. Ken Christensen presented this fantastic workshop in his usual style as a well-organized, thoughtful, and engaging presenter. "Ya shoulda been there!"

- Kate Hansen, NCTM, Billings

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Pete Bolenbaugh

Pete is the Executive Director of Wise Wonders Children's Museum and has also been a "hobbyist musician", playing in bands. His grandfather was a luthier who built guitars for 50 years.

Pete asked, what does he have in common with music teachers? He listed three things:

1. We teach about things that are considered "chores".
2. We can get bogged down in details we consider interesting.
3. A large portion of our clientele are children.

Pete's job is to keep old concepts new and exciting. He believes we need to meet someone at their level of commitment. He

pays someone else to teach his children music! His number one "take-away" for us is that engagement leads to genuine interest. Engagement is long-lasting. We have to consider



Ruth Plesner, NCTM, Marcy Holston, and Laura Detrick participate in a hands-on activity during Pete Bolenbaugh's session

"what I want to teach" versus "what they want to learn", and bring all our teaching back to the goal of engagement.

Pete led the teachers through some "dinner questions": (What was your favorite teaching moment? What is your "guilty pleasure" song? Who is your favorite Beatle?) These led to some fun discussions.

How do we get from "before" songs to "after" songs (pop music to classics?) We need to be flexible and creative in our choice of music and teach every student differently. It is also important to see live performances, to see someone actually playing our instrument in an

continued on page 15

CONFERENCE PHOTOS



2019 MSMTA State Conference Attendees



Past MSMTA President,
Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM



Guest Artist and Commissioned Composer Phil Aaberg
and Sharon Marble, Billings



Members of BMTA take on a musical challenge during
Pete Bolenbaugh's presentation



2019 MSMTA Teacher of the Year
Molly Morrison, NCTM, Missoula



MSMTA President Margaret McGillvray, NCTM, honors long-time MSMTA volunteer, Tami Park of Great Falls



Kate Hansen, NCTM, introduces MSMTA's 2020 Foundation Fellow Nominee, Carla Bell. Also pictured: Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM, and Professor Steven Hesla, NCTM



Left: The MSMTA State Board during its annual meeting. Pictured left to right: Certification Chair Ruth Plesner, NCTM, Fall Festival Chair Carole Hatley, President Margaret McGillvray, NCTM, and Marketing and Promotions Chair Tammie Cypher-Nelson



Con Spirito, a singing group from Billings, entertains banquet attendees



Marcy Holston, Kalispell, and past MSMTA President, Gay Gerard-Brewer, NCTM

STATE MTNA COMPETITION RESULTS

JUNIOR PIANO

Yuan Du, student of Christopher Hahn (single entrant)

SENIOR PIANO

Winner: Tanner Jordan, student of Dorothea Cromley

Alternate: Matthew Knight, student of Christopher Hahn

Honorable Mention: Nicole Rodriguez, student of Sherlon Orth

JUNIOR STRINGS

Beatrice Shimanek, student of Margaret Baldrige (single entrant)

SENIOR WOODWIND

Kevin Halsey, student of Laurel Linde (single entrant)

YOUNG ADULT WOODWIND

Antonio Jarvey, student of Johan Eriksson (single entrant)

YOUNG ADULT STRINGS

Winner: David Harmsworth, student of Adam Collins

Alternate: Zacarias Masiba, student of Angella Ahn

YOUNG ADULT COMPOSITION

Athena Carson, student of Angella Ahn (NW Division alternate)

JUDGES:

Piano: Stephen Thomas

Strings: Ken Gilstrap

Composition: Josh Fishbein



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STRINGS

SHORT PROGRAM, SENIOR DIVISION

1st Place – Marian Kale (violin), student of Mary LaMonaca

2nd Place – Jacey Mitchell (violin), student of Mary LaMonaca

Honorable Mention – Bethany Rippeon (violin), student of Mary LaMonaca

PIANO

SINGLE PIECE COMPETITION,
ELEMENTARY DIVISION

1st Place – Felixe Becker, student of Karen Huffman

2nd Place – Damien Law, student of Lynette Tedlund

Honorable Mention – Gracie Shea, student of Lynette Tedlund

SHORT PROGRAM COMPETITION, SENIOR DIVISION

1st Place – Persephone Ulrich, student of Carol Mathew

Honorable Mention – LeeRoy Maxwell, Carol Mathew

ADJUDICATORS

Piano: Stephen Thomas

Strings: Ken Gilstrap

Congratulations

Tanner Jordan, student of Dorothea Cromley
MTNA Northwest Division Competition
Senior Piano Winner



COMPETITION PHOTOS



Left to right: Nicole Rodriguez, MTNA Senior Piano honorable mention, student of Sherlon Orth, NCTM, Matthew Knight, alternate, student of Christopher Hahn, NCTM, and Tanner Jorden, winner, student of Dorothea Cromley



Left to right: Felixe Becker, student of Karen Huffman, MSMTA Fall Festival Elementary Single Piece Piano Competition winner; Damien Law, second place, student of Lynette Tedlund; and Gracie Shea, honorable mention, student of Lynette Tedlund. Also pictured: Stephen Thomas, adjudicator



Left to right: Adjudicator Ken Gilstrap, Marian Kale, Fall Festival Senior Strings Short Program Competition winner, student of Mary LaMonaca; Jacey Mitchell, second place, student of Mary LaMonaca; and Bethany Rippeon, honorable mention, student of Mary LaMonaca



Left to right: Adjudicator Ken Gilstrap, Young Adult Strings winner David Harmsworth, student of Adam Collins, and Zacarias Masiba, alternate, student of Angella Ahn



Stephen Thomas, adjudicator, Yuan Du, MTNA Junior Piano representative, and Professor Christopher Hahn, NCTM

exciting and inspiring way.

- Ruth Plesner, NCTM, Hamilton

FINDING BEAUTY IN THE BEAT

UM Collegiate Presentation

UM's semi-annual collegiate presentation was once again filled with useful and interesting information. The presenters stressed that rhythm must be at the forefront of our teaching, but it must be infused with beautiful elements such as phrasing and rubato.

Students may pretend to understand rhythm or use their ear to "fake it." We can ask:

- 1) Is rhythm present in silence?
- 2) What is the purpose of phrasing?
- 3) How would music feel without bar lines?
- 4) How do we use rubato?
- 5) How do we feel movement on an immovable instrument?

After presenting a short history of the development of rhythmic constructs, the presenters gave practical advice for infusing rhythm with beauty. Bar lines can be a barrier to fluid rhythm, and playing by the beat instead of by the phrase can lead to feelings of motionlessness and stagnation. The metronome, while useful, can sometimes exaggerate this difficulty. The presenters suggested using the metronome to beat longer phrases to help students overcome this tendency.

Rubato echoes the working of gravity and momentum, so quick changes in tempo can be jarring to the listener. They suggested making phrasing and rubato authentic and personal by avoiding practicing mechanically.

The UM Collegiate Presentation was once again a highlight of our annual conference, and we look forward to hearing from our young colleagues for many years to come!

- Jessica Olson, Bozeman



Left to right: UM students Cassandra Bak, Karly Barthels, and Jessa Ives, with Professor Christopher Hahn, NCTM



Save the Date!

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2020 KEYNOTE PRESENTER



Pianist Sasha Starcevich is currently enjoying a rewarding career as an international performer and teacher with his engaging performances and passionate teaching, both at home and around the globe.

As a recitalist, he has appeared in many renowned venues such as New York's Carnegie Recital Hall, Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall, and in London's Wigmore Hall. His debut recital there was met with critical acclaim, and a review in the *Musical Opinion* stated: "The repertoire was brilliantly conceived; a thoroughly enjoyable recital at every level". He has continued to thrill audiences with Concerto appearances, chamber, and solo recitals throughout North America, Europe and Asia. The past two decades have seen Starcevich tour Russia with the Samara Philharmonic Orchestra, appear at the Holders Season, Barbados and the Henley Festival in England, and release several solo and Concerto recordings in the United States and England.

His principal teachers have included Ilana Vered, Peter Frankl, Claude Frank, Boris Berman, Jane Allen and Donna Fishwick. His Doctoral and post-graduate degrees are from Yale University, and his undergraduate degree is from the Saint Louis Conservatory. In addition, Starcevich has worked with Dimitri Bashkirov at the Gnessin School in Moscow, and also with many other world renowned artists.

He has been affiliate professor of piano at the State University of New York-Purchase, and Department Chair of Music and professor of piano at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts. He has maintained highly successful private studios in New York City, New Canaan, Connecticut, and Vancouver, Canada. Currently, Starcevich has an extremely active and internationally recognized private studio in Bellevue, Washington, and gives masterclasses around the world.

In August of 2011, he joined the faculty of Musicfest Perugia in Italy. Additional appointments include serving on juries for international competitions in North America, and faculty appointments to some of the more noted festivals in the United States and Canada.

His students have established themselves as grand prize winners in national and international piano competitions such as the Gina Bachauer International, Cooper International, Young Concert Artists International, Piano E Competition, Yamaha and Bosendorfer International, in addition to many others. These students have gone on to pursue serious study at the Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute, the Peabody Conservatory, the Yale School of Music, and the Royal Academy of Music in England, to name a few.

GREAT FALLS MTA

The GFMTA has had an active fall of musical activities. In late September we experimented with our first (annual) Music Marathon, which was quite successful. Focused on fund-raising for our adjudicator costs for Spring Festival we were happily able to meet our goal!

In October several of our members attended the State Conference and had a great time. Thanks to the Billings chapter for hosting this past year. December brought us our annual Christmas Stroll Recital at Quality Pianos, which started off the holiday season in musical style.

To recruit new members while having fun, we are now in the planning stages of sponsoring a Saturday Music Club. Focused on providing performing opportunities for ourselves as well as reaching out to include performer/teachers in the community-at-large, we plan to meet quarterly starting in May.

Lastly, we have our Spring Festival coming up March 13-14, 2020, with Master Adjudicator, Ken Christensen. All the above activities have been planned while we've been enjoying sampling the various coffee houses in Great Falls.

Wishing you a very happy and productive New Year!

- Jennifer Smith, President

KALISPELL AREA MTA

Happy new year from the Flathead Valley! We had an amazing start to our KAMTA teaching year! In September we had a

fantastic and helpful program sharing our own ideas about keeping students interested and engaged during the summer, starting adult students, and finding time for our own practice and study.

In November, Daryl Frank, piano tuner and technician, presented a program on how a piano works from the inside out. He also explained the proper care and maintenance of the piano. We had about 45 students, parents, and teachers in attendance. It was a very informative presentation and important for all of us to see how to care for our beautiful instruments.

On January 3, we had our 18th annual KAMTA Scholarship Alumni Concert. Nathan Connell, who is the new choral director at Glacier High School, performed on various percussion instruments and sang. Paul Bruce, graduating this year with a degree in music education, played his tuba, Anna Schultz performed on flute, and Jordan Neiman came all the way from Cincinnati to share his love of music and virtuosity on the piano. Almost \$900 was raised that night from tickets and donations for our scholarship fund.

Molly Morrison will be here to adjudicate our Spring Festival and present a program for our March meeting. We look forward to sharing our students with her and gaining new insights to our teaching.

- Ginny Reese, President

SOUTHWEST MONTANA MTA

Greetings from SMMTA! The Southwest Montana Music Teachers Association continued our popular monthly Piano

Pedagogy Roundtables this fall with a presentation from MSU piano professor Kenneth Christensen. Ken gave us a teaser for his presentation on developing a performance mindset, which he delivered in its full form at the MSMTA State Conference in October.

MSU piano professor Julie Gosswiller gave a discussion on piano technique, which the association plans to turn into a session for students this spring.

In conjunction with SMMTA, award-winning composer and MSU professor Eric Funk will present a workshop titled "Montana, op. 157," an album of Twelve Tone Paintings for intermediate to advanced piano students in early February.

Our organization looks forward to our Piano Palooza fundraising event this spring, along with our ongoing outreach activities.

- Julie Gosswiller, President

BUTTE/ANACONDA MTA

We are hanging on. There are very few of us left, but happily, we have enough students to come together for a Spring Festival on March 7 with Molly Morrison. We are looking forward to this event.

- Tricia Cox, BAAMTA

BILLINGS MTA

We were so excited to see so many familiar (and new) faces at last October's MSMTA Conference. With everyone's efforts, it was quite a success and we know everyone went home energized with new insights on teaching.

Our chapter's winter/spring activities

included a kick-off session in January as we invited non-members to come learn about what our tri-level association has to offer (at *pro rata* dues prices). In February the members of our Mentoring Committee will explain what they can offer in order to help our members and students. In March the topic is *BMTA's Partnership with School District #2*, talking with the head of the District's music department to learn how we independent music teachers can work together with the schools and be on the same track with our students' music education. Our *Sonatina Festival* is always a well-attended, adjudicated event in March. April Fool's Day is our game day, where our members will participate in game-based learning and theory activities. Our *Duets and Donuts Recital* also is in April, a hit with our members and the residents at St. John's Retirement Home. Our Spring Festival is in early May, as well as our year-end business meeting, and when we always welcome our undergraduate scholarship recipient to perform.

I am so thankful and proud of all of our members who step up and lend a helping hand to make our activities such a success for our students, and a learning opportunity for us all.

- Sharon Marble, BMTA President

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

MSMTA wants to share news and photos from your local association's events on social media and in upcoming newsletters. Email your news and photos (please include date and caption information) to Jessica Olson, editor, at msmtanewsletter@gmail.com.



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

For the first time, Montana State University in Bozeman is hosting pianoForte. This year's event will be a piano recital featuring "Montana, Op. 157," an album of Twelve Tone Paintings and Trees for Two Pianos by Eric Funk, an award-winning composer and MSU Professor of Music.

School of Music piano students will perform a variety of ensemble pieces. This occasion gives our students a rare opportunity to work with a living composer. The event will raise funds for current and future piano students.

The concert is on Saturday, February 29th at 7:30 p.m. in Reynolds Recital Hall. Please visit <http://www.montana.edu/music/> for more information and tickets.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Keyboard Division at the University of Montana continues its tradition of excellence with many concerts and events that feature students, faculty, and guest artists. In early January, we kicked off the new year with a Celebrate Piano Series concert featuring a return engagement with Tanya Gabrielian. In addition to her concert, masterclass, and performance on KUFM, she also was our Missoula Music Teachers Association January guest speaker. Her time in Montana was part of a residency in Seeley Lake where she interacted with the various schools in the area. Our next concert will be part of the UM

Keyboard Festival, April 2-4, featuring Kairy Koshoeva and Charl Louw from Princeton, NJ. They will both teach a lesson to each of our piano students as part of their residency. We have four students competing in the annual UM Concerto/Aria competition this semester: Aubrey Benson (Saint-Saens Concerto no. 2), Matthew Knight (Rachmaninoff Concerto no. 1), Ellen Sears (Beethoven, Concerto no. 5), and Sylvia Wood (Liszt Concerto no. 1). Also, we have several students giving junior, senior and graduate recitals. We would love to have you at these events! This summer, our annual UM Piano Camp will run from June 14-20. This is always a popular event for students of all levels entering 8th grade through high school. Please visit www.umt.edu/music and click on "Festivals & Camps" for applications and more information. Go Griz!!

Dr. Nancy Cooper, adjunct assistant professor of organ and piano, has spent most of the fall semester completing her biography of early 20th century pianist/accompanist Anna Maude Van Hoose. The manuscript is under consideration by an academic press and has passed an initial review; fingers are crossed for eventual publication.

Over winter break, Cooper traveled to Los Angeles to finish research at the UCLA archives, and while there, was also part of a Leadership Conference sponsored by the American Guild of Organists. Cooper and 50 of her colleagues from across the United States, all in some form of leadership position in the Guild, were funded by the national organization to attend the event.

Dr. Christopher Hahn has a busy semester of performances, including Messiaen's Quartet

for the End of Time as part of the Chamber Music Montana Series, Rachmaninoff's Suite for Two Pianos, op. 5 with Barbara Blegen, a performance with the Montana Piano Trio featuring Margaret Baldrige, violin, and Adam Collins, cello, and a concert with Kimberly James, mezzo soprano, and Jennifer Cavanaugh, oboe/English Horn. This summer, he will spend a week at the New School for Music Study as a guest lecturer and teacher, and will travel to Calgary, AB for a residency at their Calgary Arts Summer School Association annual piano camp. Finally, in his spare time, he is excited to begin work on a Masterworks Series of piano concertos for Alfred Music.

Professor Steven Hesla is looking forward to attending his 50th Class Reunion at Oberlin College in May, for which he is serving as the representative for the Conservatory of Music.

In addition to inviting his "Con" classmates to attend, he is also helping plan an exciting schedule of activities with particular appeal to conservatory graduates. At UM, he continues to enjoy mentoring piano majors as well as secondary pianists – the ongoing privilege of his life's work. His springtime performances will include collaborating with UM's talented cellist, Adam Collins, and Missoula's Barbara Blegen, who is being honored along with her talented sister, Metropolitan Opera star Judith Blegen, at UM's annual Odyssey of the Stars in March. In April, Steven will present a solo recital at Birmingham Southern Conservatory, and the 2019-2020 school year will conclude with yet another opportunity to work with pre-college pianists of all levels and abilities at UM's Summer Piano Camp – come one and all!



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Greetings and Happy New Year, Montana! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and renewing break and are looking forward to 2020. I'd like to share with you some upcoming MTNA news.

Be looking for an e-mail from MTNA about an important member survey. It's been nearly 15 years since the last survey and your MTNA board wants to hear from you. Please take the time to complete the survey when it arrives. The information collected will be used to help better serve the needs of you, our members. An informational e-mail with all the pertinent details will be sent out a week or two in advance.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming National Conference, March 21-25 in Chicago. If you've never been to an MTNA conference, or if it's been a while, don't miss it! It's not too late to register and details can be found on the MTNA website at www.mtna.org. We'll be at the Marriott Downtown, right on Magnificent Mile. You'll be very close to many iconic Chicago experiences. Be sure to set aside time for the Art Institute of Chicago, Shedd Aquarium, and/or the Architectural River Tour which are some of my personal favorites.

A particularly fun part of our time at conference is the Northwest Division Dinner. Thanks to Jody Graves in Washington for arranging our evening at Quartino, a wonderful Italian restaurant in downtown Chicago, walking distance from the hotel. Dinner will follow our Northwest Division meeting, which is open to all members. Please join us! Details about the dinner will be

forthcoming from your state president, Margaret McGillvray.



Northwest Division Director Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM, and MSMTA President Margaret McGillvray, NCTM

As I write this, the MTNA performance competition winners from our NW states are being adjudicated at the Division level. Best of luck to your Montana students! I hope you'll plan to hear the selected winners compete in Chicago. It's always wonderful for them to have a supportive audience enjoying the results of their very hard work.

Finally, I'd just like to thank everyone again for your warmth and hospitality when I visited in October. The Montana state conference was truly one of the highlights of my time as your Northwest Division Director. I'll be stepping down in March, and you'll be in the very capable hands of Jody Graves. As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me. It's sincerely been my honor and pleasure to represent you on the MTNA board.

- Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM, Northwest Division Director

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC



School of Music

We award scholarships for outstanding performance to music majors, music minors and non-music majors. For audition requirements, and to sign up for an audition time, go to www.montana.edu/music/scholarships.

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www.montana.edu/music
406.994.3562

MEMBER MILESTONES



Some of the recipients of membership milestone recognitions at the MSMTA Conference Banquet in October 2019. Left to right: Char Waddingham, Sandy Soltis, Christopher Hahn, NCTM, Carole Hatley, Tim Bell, Frank Baril, Sharon Marble, Molly Morrison, NCTM, and Laura Morris

MSMTA THANKS AND CONGRATULATES

10 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Jennifer Smith, Great Falls
Tricia Cox, Butte
Anne Biegel Gramza, Billings

15 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Sandra Subotnick, Billings

20 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Charlene Waddingham, Billings
Sandy Soltis, Shepherd
Christopher Hahn, NCTM, Missoula
Florence Funk, Helena

25 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Carole Hatley, Great Falls
Joan Renne, Rollins
Jan Hoffman, Kalispell

30 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Herbert Iverson, San Bernardino, CA
Timothy Bell, Bozeman
Frank Baril, Bozeman
Ann Cogswell, NCTM, Great Falls
Hollis Snyder, Belgrade
Sharon Marble, Billings

35 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Molly Morrison, NCTM, Missoula
Kimberly Peachy, NCTM, Helena

40 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Virginia Gazewood, Lakeside
Laura Morris, Missoula

55 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Echolyn Travis, NCTM, Clancy

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MTNA FOUNDATION NEWS



We did it!
Congratulations to Carla Bell, our 2020 Foundation Fellow!
We were required to raise \$1,500 minimum in order to name our Fellow and as of today, due to your caring and your generosity, we raised \$1,558.00!
The final number may go higher since the deadline was

extended from January 15 to January 20!

Carla will be honored during our MTNA National Conference Banquet in Chicago in March. Her photograph will be on two large screens on either side of the stage along with all the other Fellows and will run throughout the Banquet. In addition, her bio will be read by our

National Officers. Her photo will be taken with all the other states' Fellows and she will be awarded a special certificate and pin with other memoires. It will be a very memorable event for Carla and all of our Montana teachers who can attend!

I wish to thank everyone for your financial support of our Fellow program. In addition, to all of you who regularly make a donation when you pay your dues, thank you!

Remember that the MTNA Foundation is there for us! Through this Foundation we can apply for grant monies for opening a new studio or studying privately to enhance our teaching and performing skills. Our local and state affiliates and collegiates can apply for monetary awards to further their activities as well!

With all best wishes for a healthy, happy and productive spring!

*-Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM
MSMTA Foundation Chair*

Spring Festivals 2020

When it's time to order your Spring Festival Certificates please allow 2 weeks for processing and include the following information:

- Town where Festival will be held
- Dates of Festival
- Number of Certificates
- Number of Honors Seals (if needed)
- Name and Address of where Certificates should be sent

Send to: judyodell4@gmail.com or call 406-761-4989

The fee of \$1.00 per festival entrant should be sent to our state treasurer, Carla Bell.

DO NOT send checks to Judy O'Dell

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KENNETH CHRISTENSEN



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Weill Recital Hall

Students have won state, regional piano
competitions and have advanced to national finalists



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WHAT ROLE DO I PLAY IN PROMOTING MSMTA?

Promote: to help or encourage to exist or flourish; further (Dictionary.com)

I ask you to ask yourself, "what role do I play in promoting MSMTA?" As independent music teachers we are writing our own employee handbooks, setting our own studio policies, making our own schedules and with each student, setting goals for success. We don't have a monthly quota, unless we choose to set one. Our student's performances don't determine our bonuses and our recitals are not met with an annual review of someone who has a vague understanding of our jobs. Why aren't our membership numbers skyrocketing?!?! This is the best job in the world!! But...how did you get here? Did you see a multi-million dollar commercial? Did you see a shiny flyer? Did you answer an ad? Did you apply? or DID SOMEONE INVITE YOU?

Consider inviting just one new person to each monthly meeting to showcase what your local association has to offer. As a bonus, if they are invited in September and October, extend an invitation to the State Conference. It will not disappoint!

I had a recent encounter as a stand by listener to a conversation. A former, now retired MSMTA member lamented on a organization that she was never asked to be a part of. She sorrowfully accounted the organization as "cliquish"... the once long standing and rather successful organization now no longer exists, and I can't help but draw some sorrowful conclusions. I urge each of you and your chapters to reflect ... and invite!

- Tammie Nelson, Billings
MSMTA Marketing & Promotions Chair



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CINDA TOMPKINS

PIANO PEDAGOGY SCHOLARSHIP



This scholarship honors Cinda Tompkins, an MSMTA member, who devoted her life to the profession of piano teaching. The purpose is to encourage and give support to a music student whose goal is to teach piano. It is to be awarded during the student's junior or senior year of undergraduate studies in music.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION

The student must be an upper classman working towards a degree in music, who intends to teach piano. The degree should be in piano pedagogy or music education which included piano pedagogy classes.

1. The student may be enrolled in an in-state or out-of-state program to qualify.
2. The student's former teacher must currently be a member of the Montana State Music Teachers Association and have been a member during the last year of the student's study before college.
3. Students may be nominated by the student's pre-college MSMTA teacher or by their current collegiate teacher. A letter of recommendation is sent to the MSMTA Scholarship Chair.
4. The student must meet an appropriate degree of proficiency decided upon by the keyboard faculty of that institution.

TO APPLY:

1. An application form and a MSMTA teacher recommendation must be submitted to the Scholarship Chairman by May 1, 2020.
2. A recipient will be selected by the scholarship committee, which will consist of the Scholarship Chair, the MSMTA President and another member.
3. The recipient and teacher will be notified in writing by May 15th. The scholarship money will be disbursed to the student the next fall semester for the enrolled student's undergraduate studies.
4. The award will be for \$500.

See directions for submission on the following application.

Application Form

MSMTA Cinda Tompkins Piano Pedagogy Scholarship

Please send or attach a photo to be used for our MSMTA Newsletter

Date _____

Name of Student _____

Address _____

Studying in the Department of Music at _____

Degree Program Pursuing _____

Expected Graduation Year _____

Current Teacher _____

(If applicable)

Former MSMTA Teacher _____

Address to mail Scholarship _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Return to:

Linda Holden

MSMTA Scholarship Chair

540 Westwind Road

Valier, MT 59486

melody@3rivers.net

JUNE D. WERNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



This scholarship honors June D. Werner, who was a devoted member of MSMTA.

MSMTA will award one \$100.00 scholarship for summer study at the camp of the student's choice for summer 2020.

CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

- The student's teacher must be a current member of MSMTA.
- The area of focus of the camp must be on the instrument the student studies with the MSMTA member.
- The student will record 2 pieces, contrasting in style. The recording must be on the instrument the student studies with the

MSMTA member. Please DO NOT put your name on the recording. The student will write a brief paragraph on a separate sheet of paper about their reasons for studying music and their motivations for attending a camp. Please DO NOT put your name on the paragraph.

- The award will be made directly to the camp the student wishes to attend. (If all fees have already been paid, the student must provide proof of registration to MSMTA.)
- The application, recording, and paragraph must be submitted by May 15, 2020.

APPLICATION FORM

Student's Name _____ Age _____

Student's Address _____ Email _____

Student's Phone _____ Teacher's Name _____

Name and Address of Summer Camp

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2020

Please send the completed application and your recording and paragraph to:

Judy O'Dell

1108 24th Ave SW

Great Falls, MT 59404

judyodell4@gmail.com

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GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Saturday, October 26, 2019

Big Horn Resort, Billings

The annual meeting with about 23 members present was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Margaret McGillvray.

Old Business:

- 1) The printed minutes of the 2018 General Meeting of the Association held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula November 3, 2018, were approved.
- 2) The Nominating Committee introduced President Elect Laura Detrick.
- 3) President Margaret McGillvray thanked Jessica Olson for design and Carla Bell for completion of the update of the MSMTA website.

New Business:

- 1) Carla Bell presented a Treasurer's Report. MSMTA's checking account has three designated funds for Cinda Tompkins, June Werner and travel grants for student competitors; the money market account of \$17,465 through American Funds has a goal of \$25,000 as an endowment from which scholarships can be offered from its investment income.
- 2) Chair reports will be available to read on the MSMTA website.
- 3) Steve Hesla proposed forming a Legacy Fund (not an endowment) to receive memorials or honorary donations (Ruth Rotondi, Palma Wolverton and others). A committee of Steve Hesla, Judy O'Dell and Laura Morris will determine a procedure for notifying families of donations to the fund and recommend policies for use of the proceeds.
- 4) Post Office non-profit status has been established for MSMTA.
- 5) Marcy Holston, Membership Chair, reported we have 106 members to date; last year from July 1 to June 30 our members numbered 117.
- 6) New Standing Committee Chairs: Molly Morrision – MTNA Competition; Dorothy Peterson – Mentoring; Tammie Nelson -- new Promotion and Marketing; Jessica Olson – Newsletter; Sherlon Orth – Local Association. Carol Hatley will continue as Fall Festival competition coordinator.
- 7) Tami Park's two papers prepared for Ph.D. coursework will appear on our website.
- 8) Proposed Bylaws revisions by committee Sharon Marble, Jessica Olson, Ken Christensen and Mike Evock were presented. Sharon Marble moved, Margaret McGillvray seconded, to accept and approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution, as printed and timely emailed to every MSMTA member in accordance with Article IX, Section 1 of the Constitution. The motion passed by a favorable vote of twenty-three members (of 23 present). Sharon Marble then moved, Tammie Nelson seconded, to accept and approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws, as printed and timely emailed to every MSMTA member in accordance with Article XII, Section 1, of the Bylaws. Discussion noted that Collegiate Membership is now defined as in the national MTNA constitution. This motion also passed by a favorable vote of twenty-three members (of 23 present).
- 9) MSMTA will attempt to select a date for next year's conference in Great Falls more compatible with the scheduled MMEA conference October 14-16, 2020.
- 10) Billings Music Teachers Association and the conference committee headed by Carol Mathew and Tammie Nelson received our special thanks.

The annual meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Loge, Secretary



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Montana Music News

Montana State Music Teachers Association

Margaret McGillvray, NCTM

3642 Donna Drive

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