

# MONTANA MUSIC NEWS



A PUBLICATION OF THE  
**MONTANA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

*PUBLISHED Since 1968*

*Affiliated with the  
Music Teachers  
National Association*

***Fall 2016***

## Contents

MSMTA Officers.....	2
Message from the President .....	4
MSMTA Conference Schedule.....	5
Conference Registration Form.....	6
Lodging Information.....	7
Presentations and Workshops.....	8
Presenters.....	9
Adjudicators.....	10-11
Commissioned Composer.....	13
Teacher of the Year.....	13
Fall Festival.....	14-20
Local Association News.....	22-23
Scholarship Winners.....	25
New from U of M.....	27
Foundation Fellow.....	28-30
Treasury Report.....	32

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## 2016 MSMTA CONFERENCE & FALL FESTIVAL

Thursday, November 3 - Saturday, November 5  
Holiday Inn  
Great Falls, MT

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**HISTORIAN** - If you have any digital photos (or hard copy photos) you would like included, please send them to our historian:

Linda Holden  
540 Westwind Rd.  
Valier, MT 59486  
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### ADVERTISERS INDEX

Montana State University.....	3
Morgenroth Music Center.....	7
Eckroth Music.....	10
Steinway Piano .....	12
Quality Piano.....	24
Hansen Music.....	24
Celebrate Piano Series.....	26
All About Pianos.....	31
Montana Piano.....	33

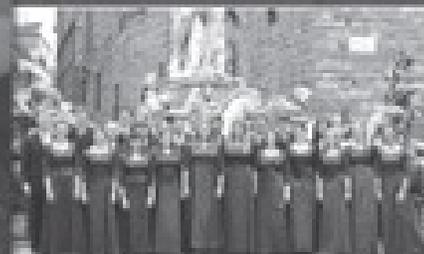
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# Message from the President

It's mid July as I write this and one of those beautiful summer days you wish you could wrap up and keep forever. And amidst the boating adventures, fireworks and barbecues we are kept up to date on the horrible violence our world has been experiencing. I continue to be so grateful for our profession and its importance cannot be overemphasized at this time. We are teachers of a universal language that knows no boundaries and yet celebrates diversity. Our conference, November 3-5 with Dr. Jody Graves could not be more timely. As you read through her topics, in this newsletter, you will gain a better understanding of the impact of her message. But the impact can only be fully realized by attending the conference. Come and be restored and renewed and rejuvenated; come and learn how we can help our students make sense of the world we now live in and help them to make it a better place.



I am so thrilled to announce our new committee chairs. My thanks and gratitude go out to the retiring chairs for all their hard work. Heidi Brower is our MTNA Jr/Sr Chair. She is a recent graduate of the U of M and is doing her student teaching this fall. Mike Evock of Missoula is our new MTNA Composition Chair. Cari Wilson of Bozeman is our Grant Writer and this is a newly established Chair. Laura Detrick has taken over the advertising Chair. Take a moment to thank these people when you see them.

Speaking of thanks, let's also add some congratulations to our President-Elect, Margaret McGillvray of Billings. Although Jessica Olson is listed as president-Elect right now, she will take over as President at the end on conference in November. Please lend her all the help and support you can. She's a busy mother of twin girls, works a day job and somehow manages to find time to teach and do so much for MSMTA. And it's always done with a smile. She will be a great President.

Please note our Foundation Fellow this year is Ken Christensen. His dedication to MSMTA and MTNA knows no bounds. Take a moment to let the fact that an MTNA President was from Montana and was Ken Christensen sink in. It's huge and on such a deep level. We are honored by his service and working with him is a privilege. Our contributions to the Foundation in Ken's name shows our gratitude and respect.

I can't believe this is my last newsletter message. What fun it has been to serve as your President these last two years. I couldn't have done it without the assistance and support of all of you. I would especially like to thank Sharon Weaver-Knowles, Jessica Olson and Carla Bell. They were the ones I turned to the most for help and advice. Thank you ladies!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in November!

Last newsletter message - Check!

Judy O'Dell



# MSMTA 2016 State Conference Schedule

## *Tentative Schedule*

### **2016 MSMTA Conference: The Heart of Performance**

All Sessions will be held in the Aronson Room

#### **Thursday—Nov. 3**

9:00-10:15 Executive Committee

10:30-11:45 Board Meeting (Committee Chairs, Local Association Presidents)

Lunch

1:00-1:15 A 15-minute mini “Keynote” talk to kick off the conference and offer some salient points about the theme/purpose.

2:00-3:30 “Over the Barline and Through the Notes” – How to foster creative activities and practice techniques between the lessons!

3:45-4:30 Opening Reception and Vendor Presentations

4:45-5:45 IMTF

#### **Friday—Nov. 4**

9:00-10:00 Collegiate Chapter Presentation

10:30-Noon **“The Heart of Performance, Part I”**

12:00-1:30 Local Presidents Association Lunch (All are welcome; fee paid separately on Registration Form)

1:30-2:30 Voice/Strings Masterclass with Steve Olson

2:45-3:45 Commissioned Composer Greg Bolin

4:00-5:00 Anita Brandon Session—“Please Help Me to **Learn** . . . as You **Teach** Me to Play” (What can the future hold for our profession?)

7:00 Jody Graves Concert - 1st Congregational/United Methodist Church

#### **Saturday—Nov. 5**

9:00-10:00 Business Meeting

10:00-11:30 **“The Heart of Performance, Part II”**

11:45-12:45 Master Class

1:00 Awards Lunch

# 89th MSMTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## REGISTRATION FORM

November 3-5, 2016 | Holiday Inn, Great Falls, Montana

Dr. Jody Graves, Conference Clinician

Greg Bolin, Commissioned Composer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Registration - Deadline: October 10      Late Fee (after October 10): \$15

**Check only one:**

\_\_\_ \$140 MSMTA Member Full Registration - includes all MSMTA conference sessions, performances, competitions, Concert (Friday), and Members' Awards Luncheon (Saturday)

\_\_\_ \$175 Non-Members Full Registration - includes all of the above

\_\_\_ \$110 MSMTA Member First-Time Attendee - includes all of the above

\_\_\_ \$15 Late Registration Fee - Add to above Registration October 11 & later

**Special Categories:**

\_\_\_ \$65 MSMTA Collegiate Student Registration - includes all of the above

\_\_\_ \$75 Daily Registration - Does NOT include Concert (Friday) & Awards Luncheon (Saturday)

Please circle which day(s) you will attend:    Thursday    Friday    Saturday

**Add-ons:**

\_\_\_ \$20 Members' Awards Luncheon, Saturday, November 5 (Deadline: October 25)

Daily attendees and guests

\_\_\_ \$15 Local Association Presidents' Luncheon, Friday, November 4 (Deadline: October 25)

Open to all attendees - Not included in Full Registration

\_\_\_ \$10 Additional Concert tickets (Friday evening)

\_\_\_\_\_ Grand Total

**Send Registration Form and Check (payable to MSMTA) to:**

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

**or Register Online at [msmta.com](http://msmta.com)**



# CONFERENCE LODGING

Holiday Inn Great Falls

1100 5th St South, Great Falls, MT 59405  
Phone (406) 727-7200 Fax (406) 268-0472

There is a link on the MSMTA website to Reserve your room  
or

Call 406-268-2803 and ask for Hannah Ragland  
(Be sure to mention you are with the MSMTA Conference and  
have your credit card ready.)

MSMTA Conference Rate: \$ 89.00/night (valid Nov 2-5)  
Deadline is Wednesday, October 5, 2016 to get the special rate.



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# Conference Presentations and Workshops

## Anita Brandon

TITLE: “Please Help Me to **Learn** . . . as You **Teach** Me to Play”  
(What can the future hold for our profession?)

### TOPIC SUMMARY:

1. A brief look at the piano pedagogy of **past centuries** can help us better understand where we are in the **present** and consider possible solutions for a more secure place in the **future**.
2. In a changing world of technological acceleration, the availability of music and teaching materials is certainly offering us many alternatives for teaching our students to play the piano, but let’s “Re-Think Learning “ as a viable option.
3. To conclude the presentation, a practical application and demonstration of the “Multi-Sensory Learning” approach will show how it can be modeled in the lesson and developed for a successful Practice Plan at home.

## Dr. Jody Graves

### Thursday

- 1:00-1:15 A 15-minute mini “Keynote” talk to kick off the conference and offer some salient points about the theme/purpose.
- 2:00-3:30 “Over the Barline and Through the Notes” – How to foster creative activities and practice techniques between the lessons!

### Friday

- 10:30-Noon **“The Heart of Performance, Part I”** - *The heart of performance is the ultimate pursuit of excellence within, and the ability to deliver that excellence in performance. It is a “communion” experience between the performer and the listener. The intersection of humanity vibrates between both participants, joining hearts that beat with the anticipation of a transforming experience. The performer with an open heart, pours out their talent and intention, and the heart of the receiver is flooded with possibility and hope. This unique experience treats the wounded spirit, and advances us a few steps further into enlightenment and joyous living. What could be more noble?*

### Saturday

- 10:00-11:30 **“The Heart of Performance, Part II”** *As you deepen your understanding of the miracle of you, the awareness of what you emit through words, attitudes and yes, your performance becomes clear and intentional. Your presence and energy has an impact on everyone and everything around you...how you mold and design your personhood is intimately tied to what comes from within you in performance...and you can change the world with that gift – one word, one gesture, one note at a time!*



## Anita Brandon

Bachelor's Degree in Music: Piano

(Corban University, formerly Western Baptist College, Salem, Oregon)

Master's Degree: Piano Performance

(California State University, San Jose)

**Anita Brandon** has taught music/piano for almost 50 years in a variety of educational settings to include eight (8) years of collegiate level teaching private and class piano, piano pedagogy and a variety of music history and theory classes. Two years were spent in Seoul, Korea developing a K-12 music curriculum during an accreditation process for an International Christian School. The predominant focus of her teaching thereafter has been in her *Music Learning Center*, researching and developing through test-teaching, a concept-based music/piano curriculum for young children. Anita has been an adjudicator, conference presenter, director of children and adult choirs, accompanist for choirs and solo performers as well as performing in solo, duet and ensemble programs. She has three compositions published with FJH and continues to share her creativity through her website: [rethinklearninginc.com](http://rethinklearninginc.com). and the publication of methods and materials for young beginners.

## Jody Graves

**Jody Graves** maintains an exciting, diverse and active performing career, and is recognized nationally as a distinguished artist and master teacher of piano. Her recital engagements as a soloist and collaborative pianist take her across the United States and abroad. She has performed concerts in Austria, Norway, France, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Japan, and has toured in the Persian Gulf serving as a Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. State Department. The Middle East Tour, with the Sapphire Trio, included concerts in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The press reviews have called their performances **“exciting...imaginative and compelling.”** Her work in the Middle East since then has continued and in April, 2010, she was a judge for the National Palestinian Piano Festival in Jerusalem, and following that event toured the West Bank region with the Sapphire Trio performing concerts and giving master classes. The Sapphire Trio returned to the Middle East for a concert tour and master classes in April, 2011, and Dr. Graves returned to the Middle East to perform concerts and give master classes and lectures in March 2012. The Sapphire Trio recently performed concerts and gave master classes in Bogota and Medellin, Colombia in June 2016.



Dr. Graves is in great demand as an adjudicator for piano competitions and festivals. Each season takes her across the country as an MTA clinician, and she has an active schedule each year as a workshop presenter for teachers. Ms. Graves has been a presenter at the **National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy**, and in 2015 was a Keynote Speaker for NCKP in Chicago, IL. She has been a presenter and performer at numerous State and National MTNA conferences such as the **National MTNA Conferences** in Kansas City, Milwaukee, L.A. and Las Vegas. She was the guest artist for the **Utah State MTA** conference in 2013, and has been invited to be the guest artist for both the Idaho and Montana State conferences in 2016. Dr. Graves has served as a judge for the **International Piano Competition** at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and also served on the faculty for the Eastman Summer Session titled **'Plays Well With Others'**, featuring sessions on collaborative arts performance. Additionally, Dr. Graves has authored articles for the **American Music Teacher** and **Clavier** magazines, and is currently on the editorial board for the **AMT e-journal**.

Her 4th recording project **'ANANDA – Notes from the Heart'** was released in May 2015 featuring the music of Brahms, Liszt, Berg, Copland and others. She has performed solo and chamber recitals across the country at university guest artist series and community concert events, and has been a featured performing artist several times on public radio. Ms. Graves has been a soloist with the Spokane Symphony, the Butte Symphony and the Wenatchee Symphony and has received rave reviews of her performance of 'Rhapsody in Blue'. Graves is the pianist with the nationally acclaimed **Sapphire Trio** and they have been featured guest artists at the **National MTNA** conference, the **International Clarinet Festivals** in Tokyo, Los Angeles, Assisi, Italy, Baton Rouge, LA, and Madrid, Spain in 2015.

Dr. Graves also offers her popular **“Artists' Retreat”** seminars which focus on the **“Heart of Performance”** addressing everything from the issues of stage delivery, to living an artistic life. Graves is especially interested in promoting concert art music, creating unique and contemporary ways to foster a collaborative experience between artist and listener, and is dedicated to maintaining the life of music in our schools and culture. Ms. Graves is recognized for her creative ability to engage the audience during her concerts with anecdotes, historical perspectives and humor, and often uses multi-media to highlight the musical works. The press has referred to her as **“Victoria Borge”**.

She holds a Doctorate Degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and is currently Professor of Piano at Eastern Washington University, in Cheney, WA. She was recently awarded the Fosseen-Kusaka Distinguished International Exchange Scholar Award which took her to Japan as a solo artist and master class clinician in 2014.

For more detailed information: [www.drjodygraves.com](http://www.drjodygraves.com) Or: [jgraves@ewu.edu](mailto:jgraves@ewu.edu)

# Adjudicators



## Mark R. Hansen

**Mark R. Hansen** is Professor of Music at Boise State University. Dr. Hansen performs as both solo and collaborative pianist, having concertized abroad and throughout the United States. Research interest in Catalan piano literature and pedagogical methods inspires regular programming of Spanish composers' works in performances. His broad musical interests also provide opportunities where he enjoys choral conducting, organ performance, and the composition and publication of sacred choral music.

Mark's teachers and coaches have included Joseph Banowetz, Alicia de Larrocha, Paul Pollei, and Gladys Gladstone. He has played in the masterclasses of Lili Kraus, Adele Marcus, Illana Vered, Karl Schnabel, Joanne Baker, and Reid Nibley. An experienced pedagogue himself, successes of his own students are numerous—many now hold faculty positions at prominent

national and international institutions and have completed advanced degrees with some of the world's most respected pianists.

Dr. Hansen was recently honored with designation as a Steinway Artist. As such, he joins a distinguished roster of artists which Steinway and Sons has created with the world's greatest classical pianists from historical figures such as Sergei Rachmaninoff, George Gershwin, and Vladimir Horowitz to present day artists in classical and popular genres such as Martha Argerich, Lang Lang, and Harry Connick Jr.

Prior appointments include administrative and/or faculty experience at Gettysburg College, Western Illinois University, Illinois Wesleyan University, the University of Central Arkansas, and Brigham Young University. Educational credentials encompass graduate degrees in piano performance (D.M.A. – University of North Texas, M.M. – Brigham Young University) and an undergraduate degree in music theory (B.M. – University of Utah).

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## Steve Olson

**Steve Olson**, a native of Belt, Montana, holds a Bachelor of Music Performance-Piano and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Montana. Steve studied under the direction of Prof. Steve Hesla, Dr. Margaret Baldrige, Prof. Fern Glass, and Dr. Luis Millan. While in college, Steve became a violinist with the Helena Symphony, Glacier Symphony, Great Falls Symphony, and Missoula Symphony, and also sang in the Missoula Symphony Chorale. Steve also participated in numerous chamber ensembles at the University, playing both piano and violin. Steve is also the president-elect of the Montana chapter of American String Teachers Association.

In August 2010, Steve moved to Great Falls and began student teaching with Ruth Johnson and Linda Lydiard. After graduating, Steve worked as a substitute teacher in Great Falls and began playing with the Billings Symphony. He also dabbled in creating music arrangements and original compositions. In June 2012, Steve was hired as the new orchestra director of Charles M. Russell High School in Great Falls and is now in his fourth year of teaching.

In August 2012, Steve founded The Big Sky Telemann Players, a local Great Falls baroque music ensemble. The ensemble has produced four successful summer festivals and two baroque Christmas concerts, totaling twelve performances of non-repeated repertoire. Steve currently serves as music director and conductor for the Players, where he conducts the orchestra from the concertmaster chair.

Steve also works as a freelance collaborative pianist, and often performs with guest soloists performing with Montana symphonies. Steve has presented duo recitals with Ovidiu Marinescu (West Chester University, cello professor), Stephan Cepeda (Helena Symphony, concertmaster), David Halen (St. Louis Symphony, concertmaster), and Sooyun Kim (Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center). Steve has also performed as a collaborative artist in masterclasses with Rachel Barton Pine and Amit Peled, and as a solo pianist with Stewart Goodyear.

In April 2016, Steve was a guest soloist for the Helena Symphony's *And the Winner is...* concert where he performed Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. And in August 2016, Steve was a guest artist for the Glacier Symphony's *Festival Amadeus* where he performed solo harpsichord for Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5*.

During the summer of 2015, at the behest of close friend and colleague, Joel Corda, Steve embarked upon and completed on a monumental endeavor – writing a Christmas album of all-new original arrangements to be recorded and produced for the 2015 Christmas season. The album includes twelve all-new, from scratch, arrangements of Christmas favorites like *Do You Hear What I Hear?*, *O Holy Night*, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. The album also includes one original transcription of Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, and Steve's first original composition, *Snow Day!*. Arrangements include full orchestra, string orchestra, piano trio, string quartet, woodwind choir, and percussion ensemble. The album features Joel Corda as vocal soloist, and The Steve Olson Orchestra, a 47-piece orchestra of all local Great Falls musicians.

An avid performer, Steve also enjoys musical theater. In the summer of 2004, Steve worked as rehearsal accompanist on his first show, *Footloose*. That same summer he played violin for *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. The next year he played violin for *Two by Two*, and at the end of his senior year of high school, Steve was the rehearsal accompanist and played violin in the pit for *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (2006). During college, Steve played in the orchestra pits for *Into the Woods* and *Peter Pan* (2010), and also served as concertmaster for a run of Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi* (2008). After moving to Great Falls, Steve's musical theatre experience greatly expanded when he served as rehearsal accompanist, lead keyboardist, and orchestra director of *The Wiz* (July 2012). He then played lead keyboard for both CMR's production of *The 1940's Radio Hour* (December 2012), and Great Falls High School's production of *Footloose* (November 2013).

In June 2014, Steve was the rehearsal accompanist, vocal director and orchestra director for a production of *The Sound of Music*, where he worked closely with the show's director, Joel Corda. Two months later he did the same jobs for a production of *The Wizard of Oz-RSC*. In December 2014, Steve was keyboardist and directed the orchestra for CMR's production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. And in December 2015, Steve worked as rehearsal accompanist, vocal director, and orchestra director for a production Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* with Miss Linda's Act I Theatre Company, a branch of Miss Linda's School of Dance in downtown Great Falls.

A champion of youth arts education, Steve co-directs Miss Linda's Musical Theatre I & II classes on Monday evenings and also serves as their accompanist. In 2015, the company produced *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*, and *Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr.* in 2016. Steve is also the music director for Miss Linda's Ballet Ensemble, where he directs a student-centered music ensemble for accompanying live ballet.

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# Commissioned Composer



Greg Bolin

**Greg Bolin**, A native of Helena, Montana, Greg received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in music composition from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007. His primary composition teachers have included David Maslanka, Dan Asia, Kevin Puts, Donald Grantham and Dan Welcher, and his piano teachers include Marjorie Schreoter, Dennis Alexander, Monique Duphil and Robert MacDonald.

Greg's original compositions have been performed across the country and around the globe. His piece for symphonic winds, *Fleisher Pass*, was premiered in Japan in 2007, and was subsequently included in the sixth volume of *Better Teaching Through Performance in Band* (GIA Publications). In 2013, Greg completed his second opera, *Tango*, which toured the country the following spring, courtesy of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts

and the National Performance Network.

Greg currently serves as the Head of Music Direction for Texas State University's Department of Theatre and Dance. The Austin Critics' Table has twice named Greg 'Music Director of the Year'. In addition to his work at Texas State, he has also acted as music director for more than forty shows in major theaters across the country and is a highly regarded vocal coach and clinician. He is also certified in the Michael Maresca One Voice singing theory/technique.

An accomplished arranger and orchestrator, Greg has provided original vocal arrangements and orchestrations for Andrew Lippa's *A Little Princess* and Zachary Scott Theater's *Porgy and Bess* (for which he received a special citation from the Austin Critics' Table). He has also created original arrangements for Larry Gatlin, Shirley Knight, Marva Hicks and David Jennings.

# Teacher of the Year



Diane Volkman

**Diane Volkman**, NCTM, was a member of KAMTA when it was first organized in 1977 and became a member of MSMTA and MTNA in 1979. Betty Hanzel from Kalispell, was influential as a mentor through the first years of her piano teaching career. Betty was first her piano teacher, then her coach, and now Diane is honored to call Betty her colleague!

Through those first years of teaching, Diane attended workshops, entered students in festivals, and attended MSMTA conferences. These activities helped her grow exponentially as a private piano teacher. In 1987 she began studying with Master Teacher, Kay Lund of Whitefish. Kay not only helped her to further her performance talents, but coached her through those years of studying for the MTNA certification process. Diane earned her MTNA certification by exam in 1993. She furthered her education in 2000 and earned her BA in Elementary Education from the University of Great Falls in 2003. Diane currently

teaches general music at Ruder Elementary School in Columbia Falls and maintains a private piano studio. Diane's students have performed in master classes at MSMTA conferences in the past and one of her former students won the MSMTA composition competition. Diane's teaching philosophy can be summed up with these words; "We must first teach our students a love of, and passion for, music. All else will follow."

Diane Volkman has been honored to serve our MSMTA organization as Membership Treasurer, Secretary, and MSMTA President in 2011-12. She has served as MTNA Northwest Divisional Senior Competitions Coordinator and currently serves as the co-chair for our MSMTA Competitions.

"I believe in giving back to MSMTA by volunteering my service as I am able. It is an organization that has helped shape my life both professionally and personally. My hope is others will feel the same support and friendship I have found through being an active member of MSMTA for 37 years. I am honored and humbled to be given the Teacher of the Year award. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! "

Diane Volkman, NCTM

# Fall Festival

SINGLE-PIECE  
PIANO COMPETITION

## MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL: Single-Piece Competition

**Dates: November 4-5, 2016**

**Location: Holiday Inn, Great Falls, MT**

Entry Forms are available for download at [www.msmta.com](http://www.msmta.com) (click on *Fall Festival* or *Student Activities*)  
Online registration is also available (click on *Conference Registration* button)

*This competition is offered for piano only. Students will perform only ONE piece of repertoire. Ribbons will be awarded for each division. Students who enter Single-Piece Competition, either as individuals or as a duet, may also enter the Fall Festival Short Program Competition.*

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

**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.

**Deadline:** Entry Form should be postmarked by September 15, 2016.

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

**Elementary:** Ages 9-12 as of Jan. 1, 2017  
**Junior:** Ages 12-15\* as of Jan. 1, 2017  
**Senior:** Ages 15\*-19 as of Jan. 1, 2017

\*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.

<b>Fees:</b> (No refunds)	<b>Solo</b>	<b>Duet</b>
<b>Students:</b>	\$20.00	\$20.00 per team

**Teachers:** (single fee for all entries)

1. Registered for Conference	Fees are waived
2. MSMTA Member – no Conference	\$20.00 (Membership dues must be paid before 10/1/16)
3. Non-Member – no Conference	\$40.00

**Send entry forms and fees** (checks payable to MSMTA) to:

Carole Hatley  
3108 – 5A Street N. E.  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
Phone: (406) 453-0184  
E-mail: [carolehatley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolehatley@yahoo.com)

Or register online at [www.msmta.com](http://www.msmta.com) (click on *Fall Festival* or *Student Activities*)

**SINGLE-PIECE  
PIANO COMPETITION**

**2016 MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL APPLICATION  
Application Deadline: POSTMARKED Sept. 15, 2016**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Age as of Jan. 1, 2017 \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Fees:**  **MSMTA Member (\$20)**  **Non-Member (\$40)**  **Subsequent Student (\$0)**

(This fee is waived if the teacher is registered for the Conference; Teacher fee is paid only once, with the first student's application.)

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

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

<b>Student Fee</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Teacher Fee</b>	_____
<b>Total</b>	_____

## **MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL: Short Program Competition**

Dates: November 4-5, 2016

Location: Holiday Inn, Great Falls

**Entry Deadline: Postmarked September 15, 2016**

Entry Forms are available for download on [www.msmta.com](http://www.msmta.com) (click on Fall Festival or Student Activities). Online registration is also available (click on Conference Registration button).

Students who are entered in the MTNA competition may not be entered in the Fall Festival competition in the same category.

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

### **Program Requirements for All Entry Categories**

#### **I. SOLO**

##### **A. Elementary: Ages 9 - 12 as of January 1, 2017**

1. Maximum performance time: 10 minutes
2. Open to all instrumentalists; **no voice**
3. Pianists:
  - a. Memorization is required
  - b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) pieces of contrasting style/periods; **quality** pedagogical material is encouraged (See "Repertoire Selection Guidelines")
4. Instrumentalists:
  - a. Memorization is not required
  - b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) selections from contrasting style periods

##### **B. Junior: Ages 12 – 15\* as of January 1, 2017**

1. Maximum performance time: 15 minutes
2. Open to all instrumentalists and vocalists
3. Pianists:
  - a. Memorization is required
  - b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) works from contrasting style periods of the following:
    - (1) Baroque
    - (2) Classical (including Beethoven)
    - (3) Romantic
    - (4) Contemporary (Impressionism)
    - (5) Educational Composers
4. 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
5. Instrumentalists:

- a. Memorization is not required
- b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) selections from contrasting style periods

**C. Senior: Ages 15\* – 19 as of January 1, 2017**

1. Maximum performance time: 20 minutes
2. Open to all instrumentalists and vocalists
3. Pianists:
  - a. Memorization is required
  - b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least three (3) works from contrasting style periods of the following:
    - (1) Baroque
    - (2) Classical (including Beethoven)
    - (3) Romantic
    - (4) Contemporary (Impressionism)
    - (5) Educational Composers
4. Vocalists:
  - a. Memorization is required
  - b. Repertoire requirement: Program should include only 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
5. Instrumentalists:
  - a. Memorization is not required
  - b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) compositions 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

**\* 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.**

**TEACHERS, PLEASE NOTE:**

- ◆ **Because of time constraints and the number of students who compete in Fall Festival, your student's performance may be stopped if it exceeds the time limit.**
- ◆ **If your student wins or has won Fall Festival, he/she cannot compete a second year in the same division. Your options are to perform "for comments only," to move up a division, or to enter the MTNA 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.”
- ◆ Teachers or students are responsible for obtaining, compensating, rehearsing with, and scheduling an accompanist for performance. This is not handled by festival organizers. If you would like to hire someone in Great Falls, please contact Carole Hatley by email at [carolehatley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolehatley@yahoo.com) or by calling 406-453-0184.
- ◆ 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 McGrath’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 in the adjudication room unless accompanied by written permission from the publisher, stating that the selection is out of print. (Teachers are cautioned to seek this permission well in advance of the Fall Festival date.)

*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 (No Refunds)**

##### **Students:**

- Elementary - \$35.00
- Junior - \$40.00
- Senior - \$45.00
- Piano Duet - \$40.00 (for the duet team)

##### **Teachers:** One-time annual fee for all entries

1. Current MSMTA member\*\* (Registered for Conference) --- Fees are waived
2. Current MSMTA member\*\* (Not registered for Conference) --- \$20.00
3. Non-Member (Not registered for Conference) --- \$40.00

\*\* Membership dues must be paid before 10/1/16

#### **Send entries and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) to:**

**Carole Hatley**  
**3108 – 5A Street N. E.**  
**Great Falls, MT 59404**  
**Phone 406-453-0184**  
**Email: [carolehatley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolehatley@yahoo.com)**

Registration is available online at [www.msmta.com](http://www.msmta.com) (click on *Fall Festival* or *Student Activities*)

**SHORT PROGRAM**

**MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL Nov. 4-5, 2016**  
**Location: Holiday Inn, Great Falls, MT**  
**Application Deadline: POSTMARKED Sept. 15, 2016**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Age as of Jan. 1, 2017 \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanist's Name \_\_\_\_\_

(An accompanist is required for vocalists and instrumentalists. Teachers may accompany their own students.)

Instrument or Voice Classification \_\_\_\_\_

**\*List repertoire on the second page\***

**Piano:**       Duet       Solo Performer

**Division:**     Elementary (Ages 9-12 as of Jan. 1, 2017)

Junior (Ages 12-15\* as of Jan. 1, 2017)

Senior (Ages 15\*-19 as of Jan. 1, 2017)

\*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 (Short Program) (No refunds)**

Elementary    \$35.00

Junior         \$40.00

Senior         \$45.00

Piano Duet    \$40.00

**Teacher Fees:**       MSMTA Member (\$20)     Non-Member (\$40)     Subsequent Student (\$0)

(This fee is waived if the teacher is registered for the Conference; Teacher fee is paid only once, with the first student's application.)

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

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

<b>Student Fee</b>	_____
<b>Teacher Fee</b>	_____
<b>Total</b>	_____

**Or register online at [www.msmta.com](http://www.msmta.com) (click on *Fall Festival* or *Student Activities*)**

MSMTA 2016  
SHORT PROGRAM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument or Voice Classification \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

I. Title \_\_\_\_\_

Movement(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Composer's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Performance Time \_\_\_\_\_ Style/Period \_\_\_\_\_

II. Title \_\_\_\_\_

Movement(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Composer's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Performance Time \_\_\_\_\_ Style/Period \_\_\_\_\_

III. Title \_\_\_\_\_

Movement(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Composer's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Performance Time \_\_\_\_\_ Style/Period \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Title \_\_\_\_\_

Movement(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Composer's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Performance Time \_\_\_\_\_ Style/Period \_\_\_\_\_

## MTNA COMPETITIONS ENTRY DEADLINE

**3:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

**WED. SEPT. 14, 2016**

You can find all the information you need here;

<http://www.mtna.org/programs/competitions/>

Competition Chairs:

Composition...Mike Evock

YA/Chamber...Diane Volkman

Jr/Sr...Heidi Brower



## FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/MontanaStateMusicTeachersAssociation/>

As we become more and more aware of the influence social media can have on our personal AND professional lives, the usefulness of a Facebook Page becomes apparent. If you are interested in contributing ideas and articles to MSMTA members, please let me know. We would love to have more posts!

Other Facebook pages of interest include: MTNA, GFMTA, Southwest Mt. MTA, The Art of Piano Pedagogy, and many, many, more. Simply search music teaching, your instrument, choral, orchestra, etc. and you will find something informative and useful!

Facebook Chair, Diane Volkman NCTM

## MTNA Certification Update for Montana

Nationwide, there were 73 newly certified teachers as of March 2016. Almost half of those (36) came from five states—Utah, Wisconsin, Washington, Virginia, and Texas. Montana is still in the upper half (#24) of percentage of certified members (14.4%).

There were no new certifications in Montana during this period. However, things are changing! One recent graduate from UM has applied for certification and is in the process of fulfilling the requirements. There are two other teachers in the state who have expressed interest in applying in the near future.

I gave a talk to UM students at their March Keyboard Society meeting about the certification process. There are MANY resources available on the MTNA website to help applicants through the process. Especially helpful are articles on videotaping. I encouraged students to practice with each other and with students to become comfortable with the videotaping process.

Some of the information I shared with the students was also passed on to Great Falls for a certification presentation there. If any other groups or individuals are interested in learning more about the certification process, please check out the website, and feel free to contact me. I would be glad to share information and encourage you!

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Plesner

# Local Association News

## *Billings*

BMTA is gearing up for another exciting year of workshops and events. Fall 2016 will open with a presentation from Kate Hansen on Performance Preparation followed by our Annual Fall Marathon at Billings Clinic.

Spring 2016 ended with a bang as Kate Hansen presented our commissioned piece by Dennis Alexander "Toccatina Tempestosa" a late intermediate piano solo published by Alfred. The piece is full of life and big sounds and many are looking forward to sharing it with their students. Also, a magnificent workshop was presented by Ramie Streeter and Char Waddingham on Group Lessons and Games. We hope to expand on this subject even more in the coming year by hosting a Game Day workshop.

Looking Forward to an Exciting Year – Happy Teaching & Inspiring,

*Tammie Nelson, President BMTA*

## *Great Falls*

The Spring Festival on April 15-16 was the highlight of the second half of our year. Dorothea Cromley of Billings presented an inspiring workshop for the teachers. Her topics included spicing up the studio, intermediate piano repertoire, and using the internet and Facebook in our studios. She stressed the importance of learning to communicate with parents and students via the technology they use in their daily lives. She also spoke about promoting our services through these avenues.

Dorothea enthusiastically adjudicated our piano students and offered valuable comments. Jeanette McCormick adjudicated the vocal students, who included several adults. The Festival concluded with a wonderful Honors Recital featuring piano and vocal students of all levels and ages. Scholarships totaling \$450 were awarded to the winners.

Our May meeting featured a recital by select students, followed by a potluck luncheon. Officers for 2016-17 were elected.

GFMTA members, and especially Judy O'Dell (MSMTA president), are working on the 2016 MSMTA Fall Conference and competitions to be held in Great Falls November 3-5. Dr. Jody Graves is the conference presenter and will also play a recital. Make plans now to attend! Information and registration are available on the website at [www.msmta.com](http://www.msmta.com).

*Carole Hatley, President GFMTA*

## *Kalispell*

Greetings from the Flathead Valley! KAMTA is pleased to announce that we now have a website. You can find our website at: [kalispellmusicteachers.org](http://kalispellmusicteachers.org). Please check it out and feel free to link it to your website.

KAMTA had a great second half of the year with our annual Vocal Festival with adjudicator Micah Hunter. We had programs on the Boy's Changing Voice presented by Suzanne Rohrbach, a member book forum discussion of *A Soprano on Her Head* by Eloise Ristad, and a music history program on Shostakovich presented by Jan Hoffman. Molly Morrison served as our Spring Festival adjudicator and also presented a piano program on Learning by Rote. We concluded our year with our annual teacher musicale and potluck luncheon.

In May, KAMTA was pleased to award \$6,600 in KAMTA Scholarships. We awarded four Music Camp Scholarships, two Graduating Senior Scholarships, one Continuing College Scholarship, and one Graduate Studies Scholarship. We are so grateful for our generous sponsors!

This Fall we will start our year off with a fun interactive program called "Juggling and Rhythm Cups" presented by Jan Hoffman and John Weber. Other hopes and plans for the year include programs on strings, music history, a member book forum, a possible workshop, a student program about the organ called "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza," and our annual Scholarship Alumni Concert.

We are looking forward to another year of musical enrichment and friendship!

*Suzanne Rohrbach, President KAMTA*

## *Southwest*

The Southwest Montana Music Teachers Association began the year with a lively discussion at our January meeting pertaining to the subject of collaborative performance. As a result of that discussion members of SMMTA came together the following month and presented an informal soiree which consisted of various solo performances and collaborative performances with voice, cello and violin. It is the desire of the group to maintain these performances with our members and as well combine our piano students with other students from the area instrumental and voice studios to grow the passion and desire to engage in collaborative music making.

Our Spring Student Recital commenced in March of this year at the Reynolds Recital Hall which then lead to our Spring Festival that took place April 22 - 23 in Bozeman. Marilyn Snyder from Coeur d' Alene was our featured clinician and adjudicator. She presented two pedagogical sessions for our members titled "Experience is the Best Teacher: How Do You Know What to Do?" and "Repertoire of Lesser Known Composers."

Respectfully submitted,

*Kenneth Christensen, NCTM*

## *Missoula*

The past semester was a busy one for the MMTA. It started (soon after Steve Hesla's Trio Master Class) with the NW Division Competitions, that this took place in Missoula. After this, the MMTA meeting program was a beautiful collegiate student concert at the U. Next were 3 delightful (fundraising) Play-a-thons at the wonderful "Springs at Missoula" retirement home. Many children performed, and each raised money for their performance beforehand, from family and friends. The total funds raised, mostly to help prospective UM Summer Camp kids pay for their music camp, was close to \$4000! The following week the Spring Festival delighted us, with an exciting concert at the end.

The highly interesting meeting program following all these performing activities was about "The Interpretation of Articulation" by Chris Hahn. Barbara Ballas presented the next program, on: "Playing the Carillon". As a surprise, we got to actually go see the one in Missoula, and even play on it! Three Ensemble Concerts followed our End-of-the-Year meeting in May: our students joined up in different groups of various size and settings, although this year was mostly piano duets, violin duets, and piano-violin combinations.

Plans for coming semester include: an Ensemble Fair (in preparation for the Ensemble Concerts in the spring), programs about the harpsichord, the psychology of stage fright, and the use of movement for students and teachers, as well as more "mystery musician" performances.

With warm regards,

*Annelies Aiking-Taylor, President MMTA*

## *Butte-Anaconda*

Our year has included fun opportunities for students to play in the community. Some of our teachers visit the nursing/senior living homes to play for various holidays. Our big Christmas event is staged at the Butte Mall where we play and sing Christmas carols for family, friends, and shoppers.

Spring is the time for our local festival and this year our adjudicator was Eva Maxwell, a former Butte teacher who now lives in Kalispell. We had a wonderful Friday afternoon of students followed by a great visit and dinner with Eva and Max. Saturday was a full day of beautiful music. Sunday we enjoyed our annual Sampler Recital of festival participants.

Of greatest necessity is a fundraising event to expand the coffers of our local scholarship efforts. Teachers, friends, and students provided musical selections, refreshments, decorations and costumes on a theme honoring Scandinavian independence. Most important was the memorial to our two musical friends Lillianne Letourneau and David Ricci who passed away this last year. Fall and a new musical year is nearly upon us. May you enjoy it to the fullest.

*Donna Jean Pickett, President Butte*

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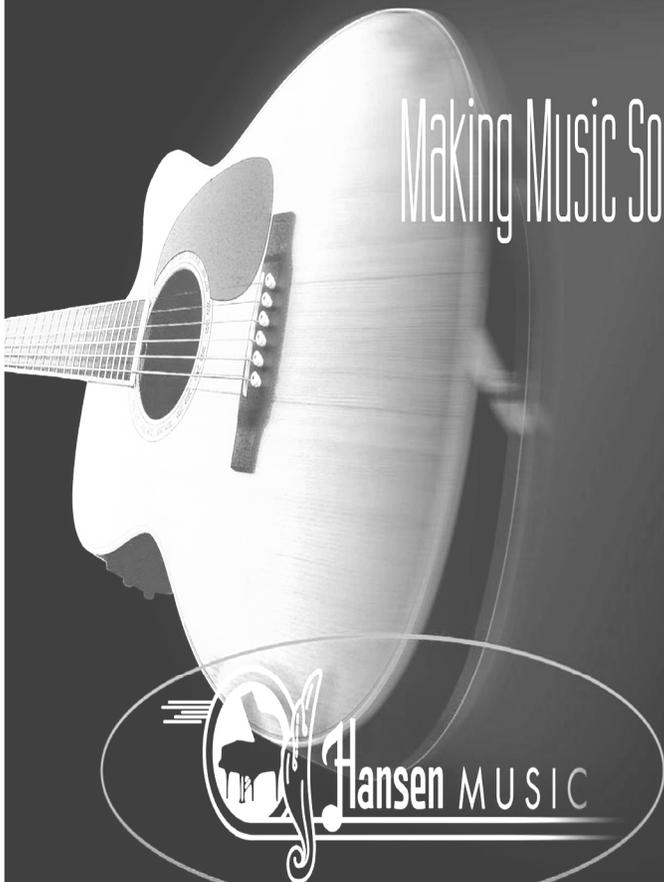
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## 2016 June D. Werner Scholarship Winner



My name is Dylan Bautista, and I am writing to thank the family of June Werner for providing the scholarship I was awarded, which was used for the University of Montana Piano Camp 2016. This experience was meaningful for me in many ways. The intense lessons with the professors of piano at the University of Montana were always inspiring and beneficial, and working together with other people was definitely worthwhile. The pieces that I worked on and performed at the camp included the “Sunken Cathedral” Prelude by Debussy, “Gretchen at the Spinning Wheel” by Schubert, a piano quintet arrangement, and “Vocalise” Op. 34, No. 14 by Rachmaninoff, an arrangement for piano duet. This camp helped me grow as a musician by showing how music creates strong friendships and brings people together.

I look forward to utilizing the skills and concepts that have been further developed through the piano camp, and I am very grateful to have been the recipient of this scholarship.

## Cinda Tompkins Scholarship Winner

MSMTA Cinda Tompkins Scholarship winner is Haley Johnson for this coming year. Haley studied nine years with Margaret McGillvray and is currently studying piano with Dorothea Cromley at MSU Billings where she is a music major. Haley not only plays classical piano but has worked tirelessly to become proficient in jazz piano and plays with the MSUB Jazz Band. Her expected college graduation year is 2018. She plans to pass on her love of playing to her students and has already purchased a piano for teaching after college. Haley is the daughter of Mark & Cammie Johnson of Billings, Montana.

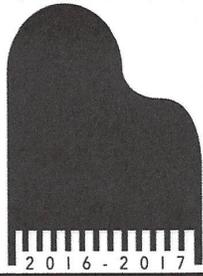


Linda Holden

MSMTA Scholarship Chairman



# CELEBRATE PIANO SERIES

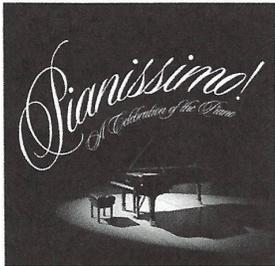


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or [www.griztix.com](http://www.griztix.com)

## Season Tickets

Save up to 20%  
through October 14th at 6pm.  
Available at the UMArts Box Office  
or by calling (406) 243-4581



### Friday & Saturday, October 14-15, 2016, 7:30pm - Celebrate Piano Series I & II **Pianissimo!**

A Missoula original, this concert is a hit with all audiences! Join us for the 9th annual Pianissimo! concerts, a fun-filled, high-energy evening with music of all genres performed on multiple pianos by multiple pianists! The featured performers include UM faculty members Christopher Hahn, Steven Hesla and Barbara Blegen, community members include Dorothy Beck-Peterson, Scott Billadeau, Paul Nonnenmacher and Scott Koljonen, as well as many of the fabulous student pianists from the award-winning University of Montana Keyboard Society. This popular event often sells out, so get your tickets early!

Music Recital Hall: \$25 General; \$15 Seniors/Students

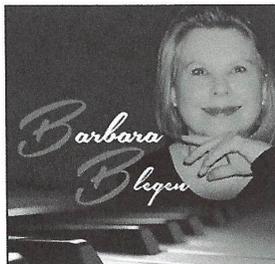


### Wednesday, November 16, 2016, 7:30pm - Celebrate Piano Series III **American Piano Quartet**

*"The four pianists overwhelmed their audience with total command and orchestral sonority that almost lifted the roof." Der Enztäler (Germany)*

Founded in 1984 by visionary pianist and professor of piano at Brigham Young University, the late Paul Pollei, the American Piano Quartet continues to dazzle audiences with their electrifying performances on 2 pianos with 8 hands. At the pianos will be Robin Hancock, Scott Holden, Del Parkinson, and Jeffrey Shumway. You'll thrill to popular and familiar tunes as well as scintillating renditions of symphonic and other works. Hancock, Holden, and Shumway are professors of piano at Brigham Young University, and Parkinson teaches at Boise State University.

Dennison Theatre: \$25 General; \$15 Seniors/Students



### Sunday, January 22, 2017, 3pm - Celebrate Piano Series IV **Barbara Blegen**

*Reviewers have described her solo recitals as "a feast of sound and musical values," "scintillating," "matchless," with "impeccable brilliance."*

A Missoula native, Barbara continues to grace the stages of venues in Montana and beyond, as musical collaborator par excellence and also as an outstanding soloist, in command of an impressive repertoire of classical favorites. She has performed at the Marlboro, Spoleto and Casals festivals, with the NY Philharmonic, St. Louis and Baltimore Symphonies, and concertized in the US and in Canada under Columbia Artists Management.

Music Recital Hall: \$20 General; \$15 Seniors/Students



### Saturday, April 22, 2017, 7:30pm - Celebrate Piano Series V **Blaha & Fitz-Gerald Piano Duo**

*"Musical sparks shimmered and whirled...with spectacular, sometimes frenzied speed, as husband-and-wife pianists Kevin Fitz-Gerald and Bernadene Blaha blazed through a thrilling recital." Arizona Star*

Internationally recognized as gifted recitalists, orchestra soloists and chamber musicians, Canadian pianists Bernadene Blaha and Kevin Fitz-Gerald are also in demand as duo pianists on the international stage. When not performing, the husband-wife duo teaches at the University of Southern California's prestigious Thornton School of Music.

Music Recital Hall: \$20 General; \$15 Seniors/Students

**Don't miss any of these five great concerts!  
Become a Celebrate Piano Series season ticket holder.**

# News from the University of Montana

Dear MSMTA Colleagues,

Happy Autumn 2016 from your friends and colleagues at UM! We are thrilled to be catching up with everyone again as we all look forward to that time of year when schools begin anew, and kids show up with yet another growth ring! That's the image that comes to mind when we consider how far our students progress each year, each according to their own particular talents and interests.

No doubt each of us teachers can think back to the role that music played in our young lives, and imagine what many of our students are currently experiencing. We came to each new season of lessons with renewed ambitions. Those of you who take students from the earliest years know that their piano or music lessons might be the most special moment of their week. Not every student will feel that way, naturally, but many students will often have such feelings, for sure.

Yet, that isn't the most important thing. What is most important is that we teachers are sharing our passion for music and musical growth with young people, and they can no doubt feel this. Thanks to all of you for continuing to pass along music's great beauty, spirit and power with your students., and best wishes for a great new teaching year!

**News from UM:** Our students had a great spring semester. They played junior, senior and graduate recitals, accompanied many classmates, and participated in chamber music ensembles. Many also played in bands, orchestra, or sang in choirs. Several went on tour with their large ensembles. Intriguingly, one of the strongest indicators of all this activity comes from our building's custodians, who often remark that the music building is the liveliest building on campus. With nearly 200 music majors and minors, the building is humming with music from the earliest hours of the day to the final minutes until the building closes each night.

In February and March, Steven Hesla and Chris Hahn enjoyed collaborating with our percussion colleague, Bob LedBetter and one of his most talented students on Bartok's Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion. Learning the piece, a monument of the twentieth century, was a labor of love, and its intricacies demanded so much of each performer that we welcomed the opportunity to play it on two different occasions. We added Lutoslawski's Variations on the famous Paganini Theme, playing a version that included the same percussionists as the Bartok Sonata. Fun!

As many of you know, our student ensemble, the Missoula Piano Trio, comprised of Adam Sears, piano, Sarah Harmsworth, violin, and David Harmsworth, cello, won the Northwest Division level of the MTNA Young Artist Chamber Music Competition. The update is that they went on to place third at the MTNA National Competition in San Antonio. They distinguished themselves with their passionate, sophisticated performances of Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 1 and Beethoven's Ghost Trio, a profound masterwork in three movements. Congratulations, "Missoula Piano Trio!" Adam studies with Steven Hesla, Sarah with Margaret Baldrige, and David with his father. Adam also studied with Dorothy Peterson during his pre-college years.

Sarah Harmsworth was selected as the alternate winner of the Northwest Division of the MTNA Young Artist String Division, and then, unexpectedly, the Northwest Division winner became ill shortly before

the MTNA National Competition. As a result, Sarah had slightly more than a week to pull her solo program back together and performed it beautifully in San Antonio – a great accomplishment and experience. As circumstances would have it, Sarah was the only alternate winner in the United States who advanced to nationals. It's a rare occurrence, and one that challenges the fortitude of talented and motivated students.

Ingrid De Groot, a pre-college student of Charlene Loge in Dillon and freshman piano major with Christopher Hahn, was one of three winners in the UM Concerto and Aria Competition. Ingrid gave a beautiful performance of the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major with the UM Symphony Orchestra in the Dennison Theatre in March.

Finally, in the realm of competitions, Chris Hahn's student, Michael Zarlino of Helena, was one of only three pianists selected to compete in the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle Music Competition. The other pianists were from Seattle and San Francisco. Along with three other winners in strings, winds, and voice Michael was the only winning pianist. Each of the four winning soloists will perform in a week-long tour of concerts in the state of Washington in September. Michael has also studied piano with Cinda Tompkins, Julie Gosswiller, and Steven Hesla. He just completed his coursework in UM's Skaggs School of Pharmacy, and he will now spend a year doing his rotations in Billings. Congratulations, Michael!

While we are proud of winning achievements of these students, we feel that their successes are indicative of the level of playing that **all** our students are aspiring to achieve. Dedication can be contagious, and our eternal hope is that each student will continuously strive toward the greatness that resides within.

Heidi Brower and Julian Jaszczak, co-presidents of the UM Keyboard Society, accepted the MTNA National Collegiate Chapter of the Year award in San Antonio. Chris Hahn became the MTNA Northwest Division President, and served our division at the MTNA Summit in Cincinnati in July, and Steven Hesla accepted the MTNA Fellowship for Montana at the MTNA Gala Banquet in San Antonio. All in all, it was a banner year for Montana!

We are looking forward to our fifth season of the Celebrate Piano Series. Take a look at the lineup and dates on our full-page ad in this newsletter. Along with Pianissimo in October, we will welcome the American Piano Quartet in November, Barbara Blegen in January, and the Piano Duo of Kevin Fitz-Gerald and Bernadene Blaha in April. We hope that many of you can attend one or more of these special concerts.

With music being one of the highest endeavors, what young adult can lose from dedicating themselves to something that really matters? Carry on, everyone – continue making a difference! You are touching many young musical lives!

We look forward to enjoying our colleagues from across the state in Great Falls in November.

With best wishes from your UM colleagues, Steven Hesla, Christopher Hahn, Nancy Cooper and Barbara Blegen





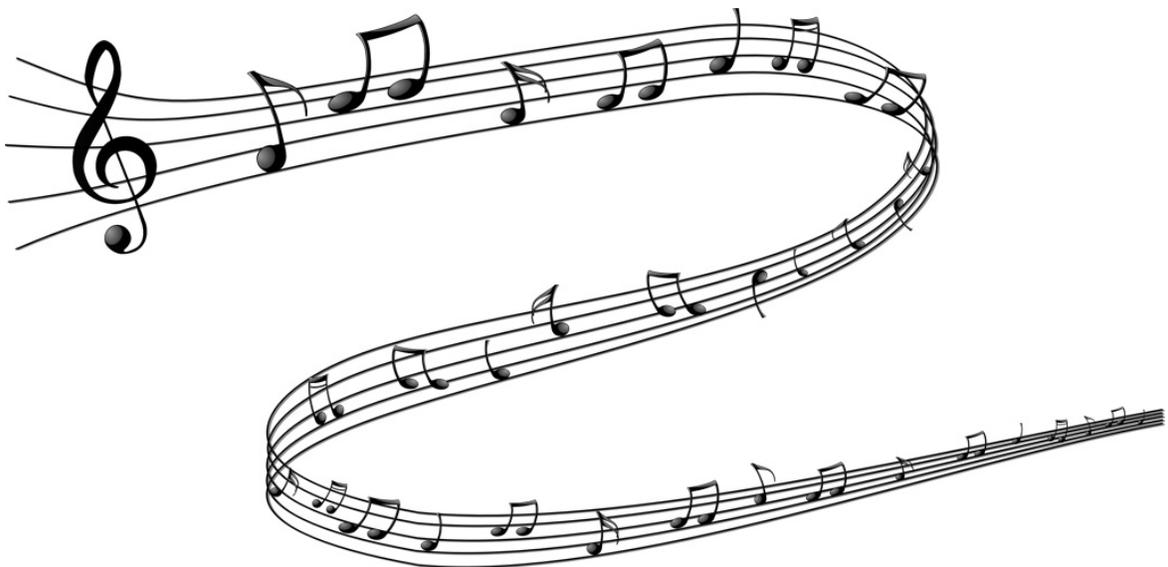
Missoula Piano Trio



MTNA National Collegiate Chapter of the Year



Montana attendees at the  
MTNA Conference 2016—San Antonio



# Foundation Fellow 2016

## MTNA FOUNDATION NEWS

~ANNOUNCING~

### Montana's 2017 Foundation Fellow: Kenneth Christensen, NCTM

I'm thrilled to announce our next Foundation Fellow nominee, Ken Christensen of Bozeman, MTNA's Immediate Past President. You will find Ken's Bio herein so please take the time to become acquainted with his incredible contribution to music education through his private teaching, performing and work in the many offices he has held, including president of MTNA, MSMTA and SW Montana MTA throughout his career.

Please plan to support Ken's nomination as our Montana Fellow individually with a tax-deductible donation in any amount with Ken's name in the memo on your check and mail to our MSMTA Treasurer, Carla Bell, at 2700 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. No., Great Falls, MT 59401.

Carla will then send all checks at the same time to MTNA and you will receive a donor letter from National as your receipt for your tax purposes. The deadline to get your checks to Carla is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our Local Associations are also encouraged to consider a donation. The recommendation for our local chapters is \$100 but any amount your association can budget is greatly appreciated. It's just very nice to see everyone participating at whatever level they can.

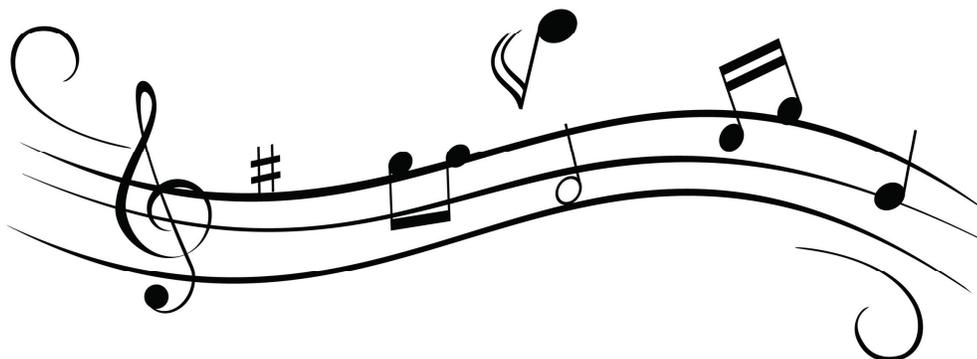
I want to express my most sincere thanks to all who gave so generously a year ago in support of Steven Hesla's nomination. I have to tell you that our total donations through the Fellow program came to a whopping \$1,510! The minimum amount we must raise is \$1,000 in order to have a Fellow. In addition to Montana, Steven's nomination drew donations from Washington state, Ohio, Idaho, Alabama and Georgia! Congratulations Steven and congratulations to all of you who participated.

As I understand it, Montana ranked second in the nation this past year in percentage of growth in giving to the Foundation. Fantastic! Thanks to each and every one of you for your support!

I want to also remind you of the Individual Teacher Enrichment Grants for Continuing Education given every year by the Foundation as well as the Local Association Awards and State Affiliate Awards. You can read about them in our American Music Teacher Journal (June/July issue) under National Association News (see our own Heidi Brower and Christopher Hahn on pg. 28 and Foundation Fellows pg. 35 - Steven Hesla in the front row).

For information on applications for the above grants and awards, go to [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org).

With Sincere Appreciation,  
Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM  
Immediate Past President and Foundation Chair, MSMTA



## Kenneth Christensen, Pianist

Kenneth Christensen, nationally certified teacher of music and pianist, has appeared as a soloist and collaborative artist throughout his home state of Montana as well as the United States, Europe and Asia. As a collaborative artist Mr. Christensen has performed with internationally renowned opera singers, the late Jerome Hines and Pablo Elvira from the New York Metropolitan Opera Company. His international performances include collaboration with composers and conductors John Rutter and Sir Richard Wilcox in performances at Kings College Chapel Cambridge, England and London's Royal Albert Hall. Other international appearances include performances at the First American Invitational Music Festival in China and the Philippines and the Montana State University 2012 Alumni Chorale Tour of Italy, Switzerland and France.

His academic achievements include receiving the prestigious "Award in Excellence in Teaching" while serving on the faculty at the School of Music at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. Mr. Christensen served as President for the Music Teachers National Association from 2013 to 2015 and currently continues to remain active as Immediate Past President of MTNA, performer and independent teacher of piano where his students continue to win state and regional competitions. In 2014 Mr. Christensen was awarded the Montana State Music Teachers Association "Teacher of the Year."

As a member of Music Teachers National Association, Mr. Christensen travels the Pacific Northwest judging piano competitions as well as presenting workshops and master classes for students and teachers. In the fall of 1997 Mr. Christensen collaborated with pianist Liza Hella to form their piano duo "2 Pianos 4 Hand." Together they concertized throughout the United States and performed their New York recital debut in April of 2006 at Carnegie Hall. In early 2008 "2 Pianos 4 Hands" appeared on the Emmy Award winning Montana PBS television program "11<sup>th</sup> and Grant" with Eric Funk.

Mr. Christensen earned a Bachelor of Music Degree from Montana State University and completed the Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Montana where he studied piano with Dennis Alexander. Mr. Christensen has performed in master classes with the late pianist Grant Johannsen and internationally acclaimed piano pedagogues Maurice Hinson, Nelita True, Eastman School of Music, and Margaret Ott, Whitworth College.



# MTNA

## FOUNDATION FUND

Thirty-two 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. Please refer to Endowment Funds section of 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.

***Please Use My Gift For:***

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard and Ann Gipson Endowment       | <input type="checkbox"/> Loran Olsen Endowment            | <input type="checkbox"/> MTNA Annual Fund                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MarySue Harris Endowment               | <input type="checkbox"/> Margaret Saunders Ott Endowment  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fellow (specify below)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beth Miller Harrod Endowment           | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert L. Pace Endowment         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Kenneth Christensen</b>           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maurice Hinson Endowment               | <input type="checkbox"/> Amanda Ward Penick Endowment     |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth L. and Bill Pitts Endowment |  |

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My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND is enclosed.

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

**Mail to: MTNA FOUNDATION FUND, 1 W. 4th St., Ste. 1550, Cincinnati, OH 45202**

*Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

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MSMTA Income/Expense - Last year  
7/1/2015 through 6/30/2016

Category	7/1/2015-6/30/2016
<b>INCOME</b>	
Competition	
Fall Festival Fees	335.00
MTNA Fee Rebate	785.00
TOTAL Competition	1,120.00
Conference	
Exhibitors Fees	225.00
Grants Received	1,000.00
Lunches-Conf	15.00
Local Pres Lunch	105.00
Membership Lunch	20.00
TOTAL Lunches-Conf	140.00
Program Ads	50.00
Registration	5,189.41
Daily Registration	245.00
Late Fee	15.00
TOTAL Registration	5,449.41
Ticket Sales	825.00
TOTAL Conference	7,689.41
Membership Dues	4,950.00
Newsletter Ads	750.00
Raffle	300.00
Scholarship Donations	
Cinda Tompkins Pedagogy Scholarship	200.00
June Werner Scholarship	650.00
TOTAL Scholarship Donations	850.00
Spring Festival	
Certificates	271.00
TOTAL Spring Festival	271.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>15,930.41</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Cash	-200.00
Fall Competition	144.14
Adjudicators	630.00
Hotel	272.43
Travel	400.00
TOTAL Adjudicators	1,302.43
Fall Festival	9.77
Printing,Copies,Postage	42.90
TOTAL Fall Competition	1,499.24
Fall Conference	
Artist & Clinician Exp	
Artist Fees	2,000.00
Clinician Fees	2,100.00
Hotel	272.43
Meals	66.30
Travel	376.00
TOTAL Clinician Fees	2,814.73
TOTAL Artist & Clinician Exp	4,814.73
Catering & Hospitality	
Lunches	1,191.80
TOTAL Catering & Hospitality	1,191.80
Facilities	1,248.00

MSMTA Income/Expense - Last year  
7/1/2015 through 6/30/2016

Category	7/1/2015-6/30/2016
AV Services	300.00
Piano Rental	500.00
TOTAL Facilities	2,048.00
Gifts & Awards	277.36
MasterClass	250.00
Misc Conf Exp	267.52
Printing & Postage	47.96
Conference Program	140.24
TOTAL Printing & Postage	188.20
TOTAL Fall Conference	9,037.61
Gifts Given	64.50
MTNA Foundation	
MTNA Raffle Donation	119.90
TOTAL MTNA Foundation	119.90
Newsletter	549.28
Postage	494.27
TOTAL Newsletter	1,043.55
Office	140.19
President's Expense	
MTNA Natl Conference	140.00
Hotel	612.95
Registration	445.00
Travel	483.20
TOTAL MTNA Natl Conference	1,681.15
NW Divisional Competition	
Hotel	102.58
Travel	182.50
TOTAL NW Divisional Competition	285.08
TOTAL President's Expense	1,966.23
Scholarship	
Cinda Tompkins P.Pedagogy	500.00
June Werner	100.00
TOTAL Scholarship	600.00
Spring Festival Exp	153.71
Web Site Exp	12.42
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>14,437.35</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,493.06</b>



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Montana State Music Teachers Association  
Judy O'Dell, President  
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