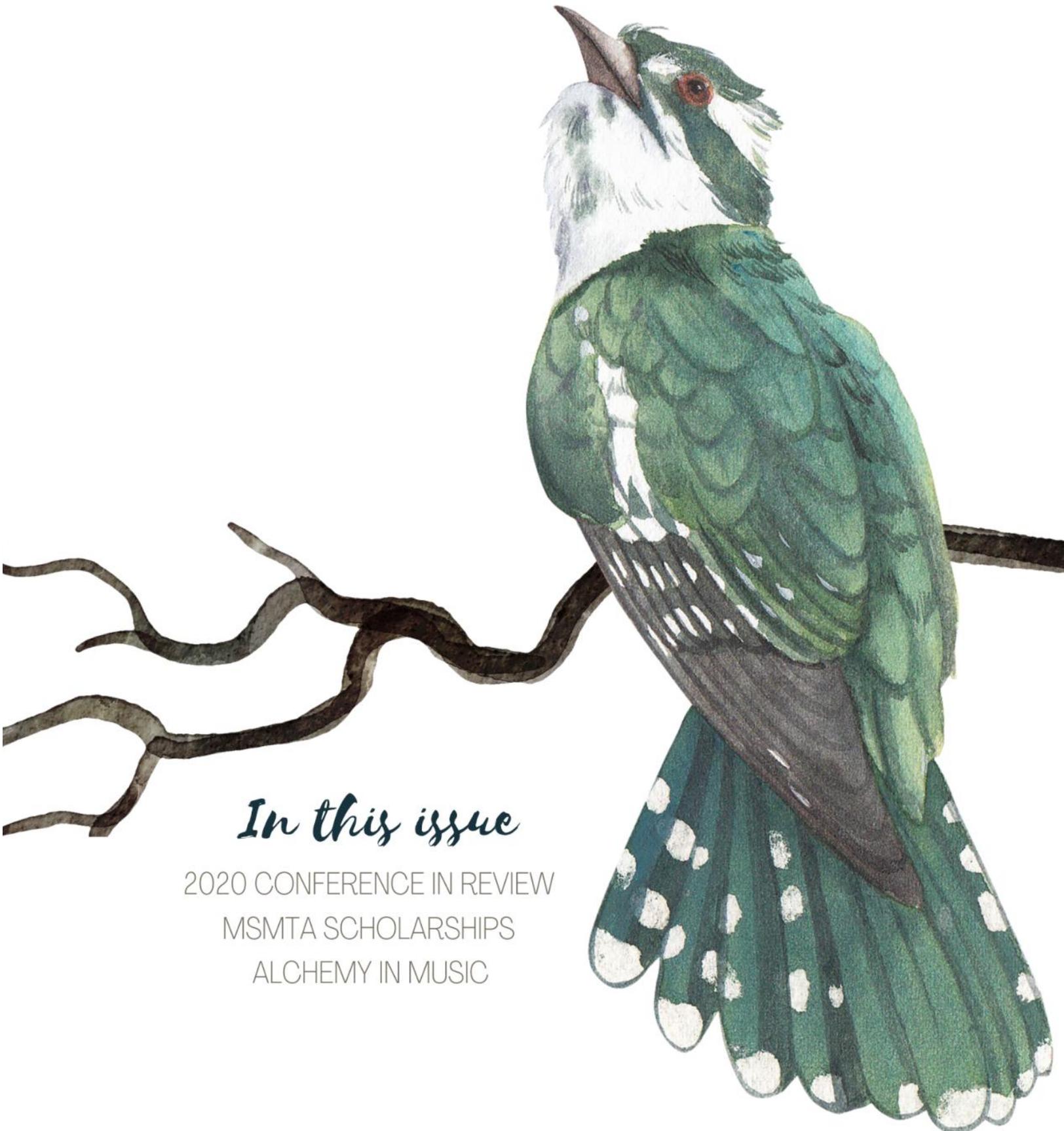


MONTANA MUSIC NEWS

MONTANA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2021



In this issue

2020 CONFERENCE IN REVIEW

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October 28-30, 2021

Holiday Inn Convention Center

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I consider the evidence of our members' passion for music and for encouraging its manifestation in our students, it becomes clear that MSMTA not only gives venue to such high ideals, but also drives them. Specifically, this can be seen in the diligent work of those who met weekly to plan and prepare our aptly



named "2020 Inspiration" conference last fall and equally in the responses of those who attended. In addition to Margaret McGillvray's excellent line-up of events, a very pivotal key to providing all of the marvelous sessions to our membership was our tech team: Carla Bell, Linda Holden and Diane Volkman. Read on about the treasured knowledge shared.

MSMTA is an incredibly valuable resource for perpetuating our essential profession. As with any organization, there are challenges. This is true now more than ever. Yet, the indefatigable work of the committed music teacher compels the importance of giving said

work venue and support. One such teacher is Dr. Christopher Hahn, this year's Teacher of the Year. His incredibly prolific contributions to MSMTA, MTNA, the University of Montana and a plethora of others make him a clear choice for this honor.

As it so happens, our next Foundation Fellow is also from Missoula. While she was president, she established a warm and inviting connection with members. Among the many ways she has enriched our Montana association, she knew that a consolidated vision was needed to coordinate the many programs provided through MSMTA. Through her efforts and work with the committee she established, we now have our Strategic Plan, providing a readily accessible way to focus our goals. It is an honor to name Sharon Weaver-Knowles for this honor.

That plan, to embrace technology, grow membership, and increase public awareness, can be found in the member directory. MSMTA is making great strides toward achieving many of the goals set forth therein and has yet much to reach for. In my conversations with many members, it is clear that MSMTA plays a crucial role in their profession. It is imperative that we continue to make membership benefits known to those who can partake of them. Competitions, Conferences, Certification, Collaboration, Legal Guidance, Studio Insurances, and Scholarships are just some of the many offerings that can boost the career of any music teacher.

MSMTA President

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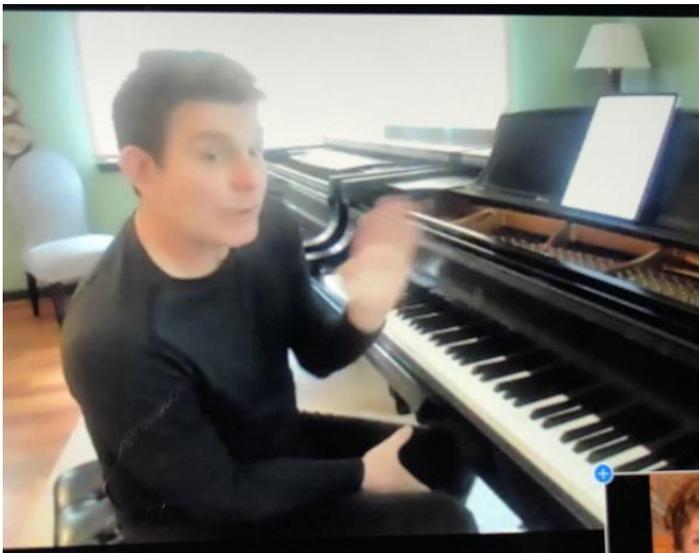
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Music

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUNG BEGINNER

Sasha Starceвич

Dr. Sasha Starceвич spoke about the importance of technical development of the young beginner. Dr. Starceвич gave a complete and precise summary of the most important aspects of good technique and how to make students aware of their muscles and joints during the process of that development.

Dr. Starceвич started with Physical Essentials. He teaches the student that there are seven joints in your body to be aware of beginning with the first finger joint and ending with the back.



Sasha Starceвич presenting from his studio in Seattle during the 2020 MSMTA Virtual Conference

For their first sounds he recommends them playing different sounds and keys while being aware of each joint and how it can feel and sound different.

There are exercises that will develop each joint as well; full arm gravity drops, raise-

throw-rest for the fingers and the wrist, push ups for the wrist, and circular legato for the forearm and elbow. Use the description of a clock to rotate the elbow, right starts at 6:00, then to 3:00, 12:00, then to 9:00. The left elbow rotates the opposite.

Dr. Starceвич uses certain exercises to teach basic touch. He teaches a legato with arm weight, a hand staccato with wrist motion, and thumb articulation. He says to grab one note with the thumb sideways, straighten, then go to the next key. So thumb under, straighten, then play finger 2, repeat using thumb then finger 3, then 4, then 5.

To develop finger independence he has students hold one note while playing the other four in a pentascale. Dr. Starceвич says to be sure the student is relaxing the joint of the finger that is holding the key while the other fingers play.

Other than scales, Dr. Starceвич recommends using Hanon, Pischna and Cortot as well as the Royal Conservatory of Music Achievement Program technical requirements for piano.

We were very lucky to have Dr. Starceвич as our clinician at our very first online conference! He was such an inspiration to us all!!

- Diane Volkman NCTM, Kalispell

ORDERING THE REPERTOIRE OF THE GREAT MASTERS

Sasha Starceвич

Dr. Sasha Starceвич presented a wonderful program guiding us through the repertoire of some master composers. He admitted it is tough to include all of the composers we have

available to us as teachers, so he focused on Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy and concerto repertoire. We were given a fantastic list of pieces Sasha put together to follow during his discussion.

As we order repertoire for our students, it is important to know where everything comes from; what music or composers “came before.” He explained that knowing how to work with these composers in a progressive way is very important. Many of the well-known composers learned from one another, and sharing that information with students will benefit their understanding of the music. It is also part of training students in their own sense of sound and articulation.

Sasha gave us great information on how to present particular aspects or attributes of each composer and the styles of their pieces. Certain introductory pieces lead into the understanding of the next level of repertoire, whether it is repertoire by the same composer or a different one. The ordered list of repertoire was organized in groups of compositions by each composer discussed. I personally found this to be extremely helpful and keep this list handy in my studio.

It is crucial to not overwhelm even the most precocious student. There are certain pieces that many of our students want to play, and it is advantageous to start students on music that will build their skills so they can play the familiar piano repertoire. Collaborating with students on concerto repertoire teaches them a great sense of communication, and it is just fun to play together.

It can be difficult selecting the right piece for the right student at the right time; it is certainly not an exact science. We often know the “rules” regarding leveling repertoire for students and yet we tend to break them as

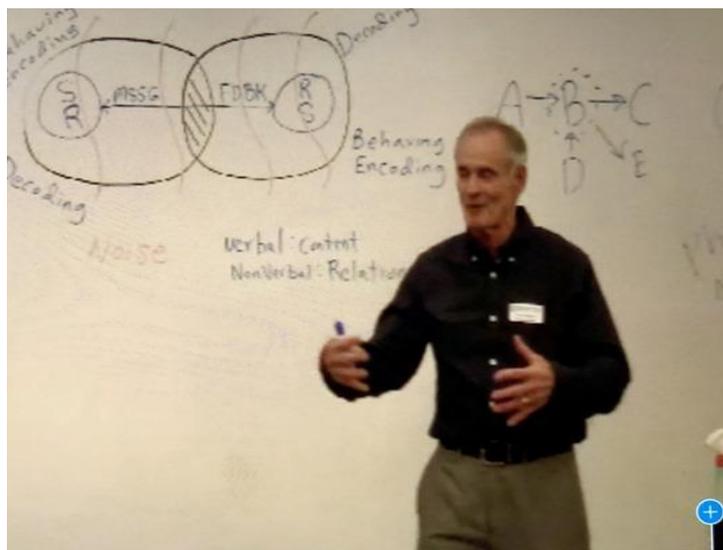
well. It is good to remember we are all still learners, and every day we have the chance to change people’s lives and do great work.

- Ginny Reese, Kalispell

DID YOU MEAN WHAT I THOUGHT YOU MEANT?

Larry Vaccaro

Larry Vaccaro, professor at Great Falls College MSU, presented the session, “Did You Mean What I Thought You Meant,” giving a wonderful succession of strategies for communication. He began by establishing a set of terms that could be used in describing those strategies in an illustration called the Transactional Model. This explains how messages are sent verbally and/or behaviorally and received through decoding of those sounds and/or actions. It also includes the occurrence of “noise” which can diminish and alter the reception of the message.



Larry Vaccaro presents his session via Zoom at the 2020 MSMTA Virtual Conference

In the first strategy, Perception Checking, someone who is receiving mixed messages can state the behavior observed, offer two possible interpretations and ask for clarification. An

interpretation is arrived at through a process (called “self-talk”) of selecting (being aware of), organizing, and attaching meaning to the sights and sounds we experience. This self-talk affects emotions. A strategy for minimizing strong and unpleasant emotions is shown in the A-B-C model. “A” refers to the activating stimuli perceived, “B” represents our self-talk, and “C” is for consequence — how one is affected by emotions. Irrational self-talk is a factor leading to adverse emotions. If it is replaced with a more reasonable thought, the consequential emotions can be improved, bringing a more accurate response to what was really meant.

- *Laura Detrick, Great Falls*

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM

Ruth Plesner, NCTM

Ruth Plesner, NCTM, facilitated our group, starting the discussion with the question – What is your favorite party theme? Many favorite event ideas were shared – Bach’s birthday, Beethoven’s birthday, Baroque Suites and dances, duets/duos/multiple performers, nature themes, world music, the idea of a “party” versus a “recital” (one example was a Cowboy themed party, after which “trail mix grub” was served), a dance concert where everyone tried dance steps which were taught by a surprise visit from a professional dancer, sharing original compositions, and doing Christmas sing-a-longs at nursing care facilities, to name a few.

Ruth’s second question was “What has 2020 meant to you, in 4 words?” Ah, that brought a moment of silence before everyone started writing their 4 words in the Chat Box. Probably

the most prominent and repeated word was challenging. The question was raised whether these words could be put on the MSMTA Conference website, and Carla Bell might assist with that.

The discussion then flowed to members questioning what setups others were using in their studios to enhance their teaching – external microphones (Steve Hesla demonstrated two specific brands), laptops, Ipads, phones, cameras, stands. We are all doing the best we can, and learning!

The hour was up before we knew it, and Ruth thanked us for participating. We, in turn, say “thank you, Ruth, for all these years you organized and led the IMTF”. She is stepping down, and now taking over as Chair of the Continuing Education Committee.

- *Sharon Marble, Billings*



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CONFERENCE PHOTOS



Dora Chen, student of Sasha Starceвич, delivers the final performance at the MSMTA Conference Recital



Outgoing MSMTA President Margaret McGillvray leads the day's events

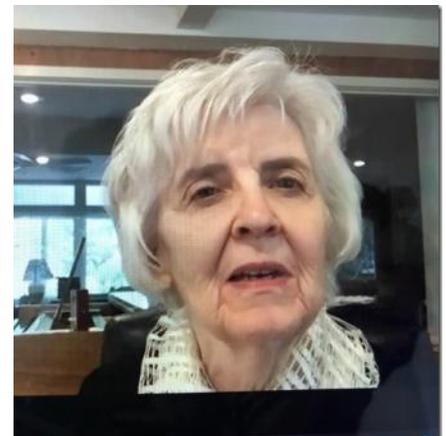


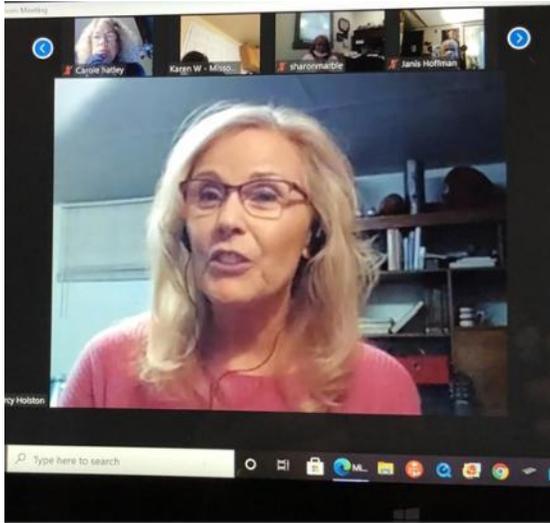
Left: "2020 Inspiration" was the theme of the first-ever virtual MSMTA Conference, held October 29-30, 2020, via Zoom.

Below: Master Class Chair Sherlon Orth, NCTM, introduces students during the virtual piano master class taught by Dr. Sasha Starceвич.



Q. Frewin, student of Elinore Quander, NCTM, receives comments during the virtual piano master class.

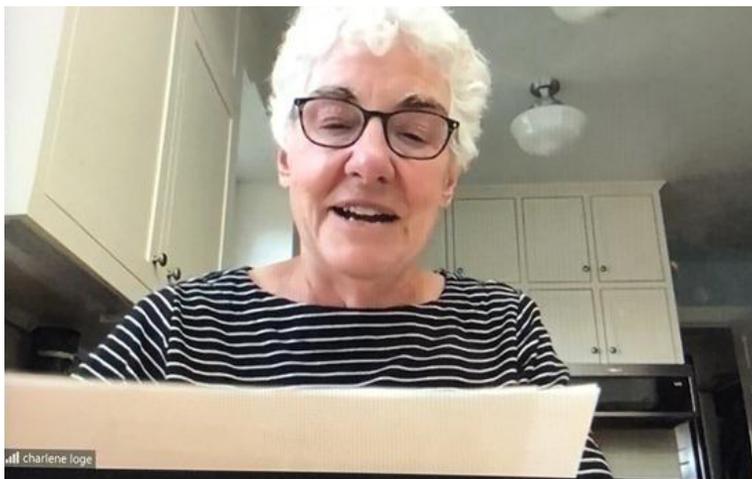




Outgoing Membership Secretary Marcy Holston presents membership recognitions during the 2020 virtual conference



Dianna Anderson, State MTNA Piano Competition Judge, greets conference attendees from her studio at Minot State University



Charlene Loge, 2020 MSMTA Teacher of the Year, delivers her acceptance remarks



Above: Candy Li, student of Stephanie Davis, performs for the virtual piano master class.



Left: Nathaniel Zhang, student of Sasha Starceвич, performs during the MSMTA Conference Recital

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STATE MTNA COMPETITION RESULTS

JUNIOR PIANO

Yuan Du, student of Christopher Hahn, NCTM (representative)



Yuan Du

SENIOR STRINGS

Aidan McCormack, student of Amelia Thornton (representative)

YOUNG ARTIST STRINGS

Winner: Cade Fiddaman, student of Angela Ahn

Alternate: David Harmsworth, student of Adam Collins

Honorable Mentions: Noah Certalic and Zac Masiba, students of Angela Ahn

SENIOR PIANO

Tanner Jordan, student of Dorothea Cromley (representative)



Tanner Jordan



Cade Fiddaman

JUNIOR COMPOSITION

Charles Parker, student of Judy O'Dell (representative)

SENIOR COMPOSITION

Aidan McCormack, student of Amelia Thornton (representative)

JUDGES:

Piano: Dianna Anderson

Strings: Abby Swidler

Composition: Olivia Davis

Northwest Division Competition Results, page 27



Ingrid De Groot

YOUNG ARTIST PIANO

Ingrid De Groot, student of Christopher Hahn, NCTM (representative)

YOUNG ARTIST BRASS

Jacob Kittleson, student of Jeannie Little (representative), *pictured on page 26*

FALL FESTIVAL RESULTS

STRINGS

SHORT PROGRAM,
ELEMENTARY DIVISION
1st Place – Felixe Becker,
student of Pam Hillygus



Felix Becker

PIANO

SINGLE PIECE COMPETITION, ELEMENTARY
DIVISION
1st Place – Felixe Becker, student of Karen
Huffman
2nd Place – Damien Law, student of Lynette
Tedlund
Honorable Mentions – Candy Li, student of
Stephanie Davis; Abe Ochs, student of Adam
Sears



Laura Martin



Damien Law



Abe Ochs

SINGLE PIECE COMPETITION,
JUNIOR DIVISION
1st Place – Laura Martin, student of Charlene
Loge

SINGLE PIECE COMPETITION,
SENIOR DIVISION
1st Place – Lexie Taylor,
student of Margaret
McGillvray, NCTM
2nd Place - Ryan Webster,
student of Ginny Reese



Lexie Taylor

SHORT PROGRAM COMPETITION,
ELEMENTARY DIVISION
1st Place – Candy Li, student of Stephanie
Davis
2nd Place - Emily Loveless, student of
Margaret McGillvray, NCTM



Candi Li



Emily Loveless

SHORT PROGRAM COMPETITION,
JUNIOR DIVISION
1st Place – Addison Teini, student of Carole
Hatley
2nd Place - Shelby Schrepfer, student of
Charlene Loge



Addison Teini



Shelby Schrepfer



Ryan Webster

SHORT PROGRAM
COMPETITION,
SENIOR DIVISION
1st Place – Ryan Webster,
student of Ginny Reese

ADJUDICATORS

Piano: Dianna Anderson
Strings: Abby Swidler

MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL: Short Program Competition

Application and Fee Deadline: Saturday, October 2, 2021

Video submission via YouTube is required and must be submitted to the Fall Festival Coordinator by Saturday, October 16, 2021

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

Announcement of Winners: October 30, 2021 (Date of MSMTA conference)

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

Students who are entered in the MTNA competition may not be entered in the Fall Festival competition in the same category (such as Short Program Piano Solo in MSMTA Fall Festival and Piano Solo in MTNA). A student may enter both the Single-Piece Category and the Short Program Category in the Fall Festival but may not play the same selection in both categories.

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

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

Program Requirements for All Entry Categories

I. SOLO

A. Elementary: Ages 9 – 12* as of January 1, 2022

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

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

1. Pianists:

- a. Memorization is required
- b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) pieces from contrasting style periods; **quality** pedagogical material is encouraged (See "Repertoire Selection Guidelines")

2. Instrumentalists:

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

B. Junior: Ages 12* – 15** as of January 1, 2022

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

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

1. Pianists:

- a. Memorization is required
- b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least two (2) works from contrasting style periods of the following:
 - (1) Baroque
 - (2) Classical (including Beethoven)
 - (3) Romantic
 - (4) Contemporary (Impressionism)
 - (5) Educational Composers

2. Vocalists:

- a. Memorization is required
- b. Repertoire requirement: Program must be made up of three art songs (one non-English and two English)
- c. Include the name of any identifying work from which a song is taken
- d. Difficult arias are discouraged

3. Instrumentalists:

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

C. Senior: Ages 15 – 19 as of January 1, 2022**

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

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

1. Pianists:

- a. Memorization is required
- b. Repertoire requirement: Program must include at least three (3) works from contrasting style periods of the following:
 - (1) Baroque
 - (2) Classical (including Beethoven)
 - (3) Romantic
 - (4) Contemporary (Impressionism)
 - (5) Educational Composers

2. Vocalists:

- a. Memorization is required
- b. Repertoire requirement: Program should include four (4) selections (two non-English art songs, one English art song, and one song of the entrant's choice)
- c. Include the name of any identifying work from which a song is taken
- d. Difficult arias are discouraged

3. Instrumentalists:

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

II. PIANO DUET

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

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

TEACHERS, PLEASE NOTE:

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

REPERTOIRE SELECTION GUIDELINES

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

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

Fall Festival Fees for Short Program (No Refunds)**Students:**

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

Teachers:

- Current MSMTA member - \$0 **
- Non-Member - \$20
- Subsequent Student - \$0 (Teacher fee is paid only once, with the first student’s application)
- ** Membership dues must be paid by 10/1/21

Send entry forms and fees (checks payable to MSMTA) postmarked no later than October 2, 2021 to:

Carole Hatley, MSMTA Fall Festival Coordinator
3108 – 5A Street N. E., Great Falls, MT 59404
Phone (406) 453-0184 or (406) 781-3538
Email: carolehatley@yahoo.com

Complete entry forms and guidelines can be found at msmta.com/fall-festival.

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2021 KEYNOTE PRESENTER



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BILLINGS MTA

The Billings chapter had recital activities scheduled in October and December. The infamous virus kept our students from performing. We kept the dates open up to one week before performance. We tried, we really tried. However, for our community service, we created 100 Christmas and non-holiday cards and distributed to four retirement communities. Since no family or friends are allowed at the homes at this time, it was greatly appreciated. The cards were very creative and absolutely beautiful.

Our goal is to hold recitals in the spring, and for the Spring Festival we are requesting every one of our teachers submit at least one of their students. Let's go Billings!

- *Alma Wiesner, President*

GREAT FALLS MTA

Happy New Year from the members of the GFMTA! Our fall has been calm, with the effects of Covid-quarantining still keeping us physically isolated from one another. We have been meeting online monthly to touch bases and keep up moral support during these crazy times.

Towards that end, we are indebted to Chris Hahn from Missoula for inviting us to their monthly Zoom meetings with nationally recognized guests this fall - thank you, Chris! Within our ranks we are sharing knowledge amongst ourselves, and Melissa Smith did a very helpful, short presentation for us titled "Put Zip In Your Zoom." We also had an online sharing of Christmas carols at our December

meeting, where we each presented a different carol arrangement/setting at our Zoom meeting. This resulted in an in-house concert of varied music and seasonal cheer.

We have plans in place for our annual Spring Festival 2021, which will be online this year. Also, instead of a live Honors Recital we are opting to issue "Honors Recognitions" in its place. The experience gained from the virtual state-wide conference this fall resides largely within Carla Bell (lucky for us), so this virtual festival concept seems more feasible for us to do.

- *Jennifer Smith, President*

KALISPELL AREA MTA

Greetings from Kalispell! I hope this finds you well, healthy and staying warm. With the winter season, lack of social events and live performances, this has definitely been the perfect time to be more cozy and practice more hygge.

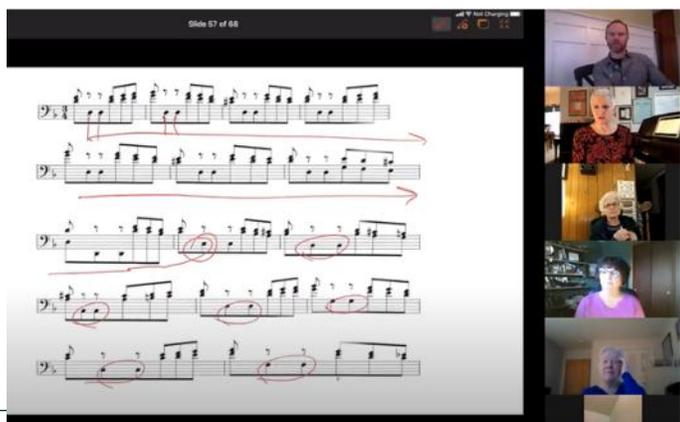
Many members of KAMTA enjoyed our virtual MSMTA State Conference. The sessions were informative and interesting. We are so grateful for the abilities and expertise of our wonderful conference committee setting up the technology and making the conference possible. Thank you to all involved!

KAMTA is looking forward and planning for future events, including more collaboration with Nicole Sanford and her music students at Flathead Valley Community College. Our Spring Festival will be online and features Jordan Neiman as our adjudicator. We are still working on the details of how that will happen. We continue to support two KAMTA "alumni"

college students as they pursue careers in the musical field.

Here in the valley, some of us are teaching in person, online or a combination of both. I believe we have learned a lot about ourselves; especially our ability to adapt and teach in unusual circumstances. We understand the benefit of arts and music for our students, as well as for us. Despite sometimes not having much to discuss, we still hold our monthly business meetings via Zoom to make sure we are checking in with each other and continuing the work of our chapter.

Thank you to Chris Hahn for sharing very informative and interesting presenters and programs! His generous monthly Zoom program offerings to all of us during this time have been beneficial intellectually and



Dr. Deborah Rambo Sinn served as guest presenter via Zoom for the Missoula MTA's monthly meeting on December 12, 2020

emotionally as we are able to visually connect with our state-wide colleagues.

I truly do not want to have distance from others become a normal aspect of our lives, but perhaps the silver lining in all of this is learning we all have the technological capacity to unite with those further away.

- Ginny Reese, President

SOUTHWEST MONTANA MTA

Greetings from Bozeman! Although our chapter has been on hiatus since the onset of Covid last spring, our members continue to benefit from online events offered through MTNA and Missoula MTA, along with the virtual conference hosted by MSMTA last fall! We were grateful for the opportunity greet old friends and receive teaching ideas and encouragement from such accomplished musicians and teachers.

We look forward to resuming our usual activities soon, and we're grateful for the role that music continues to play in our community and in the lives of our students. We are lucky to live in a city with a vital collegiate music department, as well as abundant opportunities to support local musicians through online platforms like Bozeman Arts-Live!, and these musical moments point to brighter days ahead!

Wishing good health and happiness to our colleagues around the state in 2021!

- Jessica Olson, Secretary/Treasurer

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

MSMTA wants to share member activities, local news and photos from your local events on social media and in upcoming newsletters, especially during this challenging time. Please email your news and photos (including date and caption information) to Jessica Olson, editor, at pianoheader@gmail.com.

Remember to visit us online at msmta.com for certification information, student events, conference information, and more!



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

As we begin the spring semester during this unprecedented academic year, the faculty, staff, and students at the Montana State University School of Music invite you to join us virtually to share in our musical endeavors.

We continue to stream performances live and add prerecorded concerts and recitals, lectures, student projects, pedagogy videos (beginner through high school) by faculty and students, and other materials on our MSU School of Music YouTube channel.

Our students continue to thrive during this unusual and challenging time. Cade Fiddaman, Naomi Vliet, and Christopher Landeck were selected as prize winners in the MSU School of Music 2020 Concerto/Aria Competition. Music Education and bass clarinet student Lauren Vandette was elected NAFME Collegiate President. Students of Angella Ahn (violin/viola), Cade Fiddaman won 1st place in the State MTNA Young Artist Competition, and Noah Certalic won Honorable Mention.

The MSU Symphony Orchestra was selected to perform at the NAFME All-Northwest conference to be held in Spokane in February 2021. Unfortunately, the live conference will not be happening, so the performance will not occur this year.

The Montanans were invited to participate in a national virtual choir performance of Jocelyn Hagen's "The Greatest Good" from her multi-media symphony, *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*. The students worked with

Jocelyn this fall and made their recordings in November. The video is scheduled to be released nationwide in early 2021.

In February, The Montanans will work with author and composer Dale Trumbore performing her composition, "In the Middle." Dale has recently been composer-in-residence for Chorale Chameleon, and her book, "Staying Composed: Overcoming Anxiety and Self-Doubt Within a Creative Life," was published in 2019.

During the Fall 2020 semester, the MSU Trumpet Studio implemented a new guest series called Learn Local as part of the MSU Trumpet Online Hangouts in the Mountains and Minds. This series features Montana musicians and is focused on connecting trumpeters statewide and beyond. Special guests included Thomas Lee (Principal Trumpet of Helena Symphony), Daniel Wood (Bozeman Symphony 2nd Trumpet) and Nicholas Slaggert (MSU Alum and Helena 3rd Trumpet).

Gregory Young (clarinet) had eight students present their research at the annual MSU Student Research Celebration in December. The presentations can be seen on the MSU YouTube channel. As a co-author, Young signed a contract with Routledge Press for his 8th book in the Undergraduate Research Series, this one in Religious Studies, with co-authors in San Antonio.

Bobcat Brass Trio, comprised of Dr. Jeannie Little (trombone), Professor Mike Nelson (horn), and Dr. Sarah Stoneback (trumpet) presented a Virtual Tour from Bozeman to Missoula during the Fall 2020 semester. During this virtual tour, the group visited schools throughout Montana.

Professors Kenneth Christensen and Julie Gosswiller (piano) performed in a virtual faculty recital this past November. Works performed were the “Scaramouch for Two Pianos,” Darius Milhaud, “Sonata in f minor, OP. 120, No. 1 for Clarinet and Piano,” Johannes Brahms (Julie Gosswiller and Dr. Greg Young) “Prelude in b minor, Op. 32, No. 10,” Rachmaninov (Kenneth Christensen). Professors Gosswiller and Christensen are currently preparing their applied piano students for a virtual performance of the second annual PianoForte concert in conjunction with the Montana State University Giving Day in February. This concert is a fundraising event in which all proceeds will go to the Magic88 fund in the Montana State University Foundation. From this fund, scholarships are awarded specifically to students studying applied piano.

Professor Angella Ahn (violin/viola) accepted the position of Artistic Director of the Montana Chamber Music Society, succeeding founding director Michael Reynolds. As a professor at MSU, member of the Montana Arts Council, board member of the Bozeman Symphony, and Artistic Director of Bravo! Big Sky Festival, she is excited to combine all of her roles to continue helping and guiding her students.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

SCHOOL OF MUSIC KEYBOARD DIVISION

Hello from Missoula!

Like everyone this year, we have been adjusting to a new world and new ways of teaching. While the spring of 2020 involved finishing the semester online, we have been grateful to be back in-person for lessons and some classes on the UM campus. The fall

semester was still an adjustment process, with new cleaning protocols, air filtration systems, distanced pianos, and sitting far apart for studio class in the recital hall! But, everyone managed to be productive in spite of all of this. The beginning of the spring 2021 semester has proven to be one of the most engaged and fruitful in recent memory. The students are active and hard at work, with one recently commenting, “I arrived at 7 a.m. this morning, and all of the grand piano practice rooms were already full!” A good problem to have, I would say.

The Keyboard Division is thrilled to welcome Dr. David Morgenroth to our faculty, teaching our pianists in the ways of jazz. David is an incredible musician and pianist in both the classical and jazz realms, and we are extremely fortunate to welcome him to the faculty. At the moment, we have two gifted students with jazz piano as their main area of interest, and I know that David is thoroughly enjoying the process of working with them. Our fabulous instructor of organ, harpsichord, fortepiano, and carillon for over 25 years, Dr. Nancy Cooper, will retire at the end of this semester, however she will continue to teach organ for our students. Hurrah! A valuable skill taught by a highly valued faculty member! While there are some imminent departures in the Keyboard Division, and we wish our long-serving colleagues a happy and much-deserved retirement, we are making plans to ensure that our program stays as vital and robust as ever! Stay tuned for future developments and additions to our division!

Finally, we are working on some kind of Piano Camp for this summer to keep all of those fingers engaged. More information to come!

STEVEN HESLA

Is it possible? Steven will complete 43 years of teaching at UM on May 1st – UM's Commencement Day – and has determined that he will commence doing many fun and interesting things, both musical and otherwise, in his new life as a retiree! In the meantime he continues to love teaching his wonderful students via ZOOM with the great sound enhancements we've all been learning and hearing about. The students come to his UM studio and broadcast their lessons to Steven at his home studio for the same quality of sound going back and forth. It works super well! The sound is so good that Steven is able to hear every nuance, every fingernail clicking on the keys, and help students craft beautiful tone, balance, phrasing, style, everything. It has been the best possible outcome during the pandemic. He will continue to love everything about his musical life, including remaining a devoted MTNA local, state, and national member, and keeping up with the countless friendships that have developed through our common love of music and our associating with each other professionally. Thanks, everyone, for your great support across the years, and kudos to each of you for your contributions to music and to the many lives you've touched and will continue to touch – including mine! Lots of Love and Blessings! Steven, AKA "Professla!"

CHRISTOPHER HAHN

It has been an incredibly active semester despite the changes to schedules and routines. The lack of travel has been less missed than I might have thought, and some wonderful opportunities have still taken place. At UM, the 20+ piano majors are some of the most

incredible, resilient, and responsible young adults I have had the pleasure of working with in 17 years at UM. Our masterclasses are filled with beautiful music every week, with students who are all friends, and who share in the journey together. My teaching schedule has never been more full, and what I am getting out of teaching has never been more fulfilling. I am currently teaching students from age 4 to 74, and the incredible part is that the process is no different. This past fall, I adjudicated all levels of the Washington State MTNA state piano competition, a concerto competition in Seattle, and the Calgary Contemporary Showcase competition. My students, Yuan Du and Ingrid De Groot, represented Montana at the Divisional MTNA Competition in the junior and Young Artist categories, respectively. Yuan recently won the junior division of the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras (MASO) Concerto Competition, so hopefully he will get to play with an orchestra in the state. I will be performing Carnival of the Animals with Barbara Blegen and the Missoula Symphony Orchestra in February, which will be recorded and then streamed as part of the MSO's season concerts. I have been arranging presenters each month for the enjoyment and education of the MSMTA, which has been a silver lining of Zoom. Mostly, I am grateful for the music, and for the students and people in my life. To have live music, and to explore its beauty everyday with so many willing and wanting wonderful people is truly a blessing.

MSMTA wants to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our members and their students! Please email news and photos (including caption information) to Jessica Olson, editor, at pianoheader@gmail.com.

Hello to all the wonderful musicians in Montana! I hope you are all well, and finding joy despite the challenges we face as teachers and artists. At the national level the MTNA conference committee is preparing a fabulous virtual conference and the fee for members includes Pedagogy Saturday. The sessions promise to be exciting and enriching and I encourage you all to consider registering



for the conference. It is important to stay as connected as we can, as we all look forward to being together in person soon. Additionally, many of our NW states are preparing for spring festivals, adjudications in various forms offering in-person where safe, and online for anyone who chooses. Our fabulous adjudicators from around the NW region are really stepping up to serve, and we thank them all for their work. I offer a few thoughts for you on page 30, and hope you may find some renewed comfort and purpose in our collective mission.

- Dr. Jody Graves, NCTM, NW Division Director

Teaching Music
doesn't have to
be done alone.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual in-state conference, access to in-state seminars throughout the year

INFORMATION

Subscriptions to state magazine, *Cadenza*, featuring articles relevant to our ever-changing profession

CONNECTION

Collaborative communication with 600+ Montana music teachers

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

National magazines, online seminars, and membership to *Amplify*, an online music education forum

For more information, visit our website:

WWW.MTMUSICED.COM

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An affiliate of NAfME, The National Association for Music Education.



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Cari Wilson, Bozeman
Angella Ahn, Bozeman

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Suzanne Gorder, Bozeman
Laura Detrick, Great Falls

20 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Julie Gosswiller, Bozeman
Ginny Reese, Kalispell

25 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Michael Evock, Missoula
Beth Pirrie, Kalispell

30 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Jodell Winter, Great Falls
Diane Dwyer, Bozeman
Maryruth Fallon, Kalispell

35 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Margaret McGillvray, NCTM,
Billings

**Thank you for your years of
service and support!**

Congratulations to

Jacob Kittleson, student of Jeannie Little
Northwest Division Winner, Young Artist Brass

Cade Fiddaman, student of Angela Ahn
Northwest Division Winner, Young Artist Strings

Aidan McCormack, student of Amelia Thornton
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So Much More Than A Music Store!!!

Just as I sat down to write this article I was asked, "How is the money we send to the MTNA Foundation used?"

The purpose of the MTNA Foundation Fund is to support MTNA'S three-pillar Strategic Plan to 1) Engage the Public, 2) Sustain the Profession, and 3) Inspire the Member. This is accomplished through grants in a number of areas for which we can apply.

Community Engagement Grants provide financial support of up to \$750 to any individual, affiliate or collegiate chapter, focusing on projects that engage the community in making music, appreciating music, or attending live music events.

Professional Development Grants ensure the long-term future of the profession. Included are Enrichment Grants which provide financial support of up to \$750 for the purpose of professional development, continuing education, or personal/community enrichment.

1. *Teacher Enrichment Grants*, to any individual member/non-member. (Our Tricia Cox of Butte applied for and received this grant some years back.)

2. *Affiliate Enrichment Grants* to any local or state affiliate. (Oregon received this grant a few

years ago.)

3. *Collegiate Chapter Enrichment Grants* to any collegiate chapter. (UM's Collegiate Chapter has applied for and received this award twice.)

In addition, MTNA awards outstanding affiliates and members for their work to further the mission of MTNA. Of special interest among those awards for our Montana members may be the American Music Teacher Article of the Year, Collegiate Chapter of the Year, Local Association of the Year, MarySue Harris Studio Teacher Fellowship Award, MTNA e-Journal Article of the Year, State Affiliate of the Year (Both California and North Carolina were recipients of this award in 2020) and Teacher of the Year.

Please go to mtna.org and click on Donate to find the information on the Foundation Grants and Awards, including application deadlines.

The total of your individual gifts to the MTNA Foundation Fund for 2020 amounted to \$215.75. Thank you to all who contributed!

- Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM
MTNA Foundation Chair

SPRING FESTIVAL CERTIFICATES

When it's time to order your Spring Festival Certificates, please allow two weeks for processing and include the following: 1) The town where festival will be held; 2) Date of festival; 3) Number of certificates needed; 4) Number of honors seals needed (if any); 5) The name and address where certificates should be sent.

Please send your request to: Diane Volkman, NCTM, Spring Festivals Chair, at vvdlv@gmail.com
The fee of \$1.00 per certificate should be sent to state treasurer, Carla Bell, at 2700 1st Ave No, Great Falls, MT 59401.

PLEASE DO NOT send checks to Diane Volkman

ALCHEMY IN MUSIC

DR. JODY GRAVES

"Music is a powerful form of alchemy that allows us to connect, on a deeply visceral and emotional level, to who we are and to our sense of belonging and purpose in the world."

- Frank Fitzpatrick

Ralph Waldo Emerson remarked, "Tis wonderful, how soon a piano gets into a log hut on the frontier. You would think they found it under a pine-stump." From the beginning, human beings were entertained amidst communion with one another. The most ancient forms would occur around a campfire: music, dance, and the recitation of stories. We are coded for creative expression, and to absorb music, art, story and dance with and through each other.

We are human "doings" so much of the time! Music takes us into the space of our "human being-ness" and provides moments of respite, stirs our memories, and ignites our emotions. Today more than ever we see the power of music through the thousands of uploads on the internet and the special music shows on TV presenting a wide array of music. It is vibrating on a level right now that is stunning and aching to be released in traditional form with hearts beating in the same room or space together.

Psychologists/therapists will often "prescribe" music as part of the therapeutic tools for a patient suffering with anxiety or depression. There is something almost magical that happens when listening to music, or playing music. The vibrations of the harmonies, melodies and rhythms resonate with our very physiology, and our mind and heart sync into a peaceful or uplifting state. In this time of social distancing, music connects us! It softens the edges of loneliness in this time of isolation and

lack of human touch. Music goes beyond the alchemy of its universality ... music heals.

Music strengthens social ties among people in every culture and beyond borders throughout history. Singing, dancing, and playing instruments together has been a part of every culture since the beginning of time. Notice what musicians are doing now since we went into shut down! Singing from their balconies to each other, arranging zoom concerts, and the creative ways our students are working hard to play together and continue lessons despite the physical distance and internet challenges.

Enjoying/listening to music brings inspiration and calm and even excitement, but making music together or performing for someone else boosts endorphins! Musicians in this time are doing amazing things, from celebrity concerts where they have raised millions to help people who have lost jobs/businesses, to families gathered to sing outside the window of a loved one in a nursing home.

When I was a music director at a large church in New York, I did about 70 funerals a year. People would come in, shaken and even stone-faced, often not talking. But when the music played the tears would come, and that's when the spirit is soothed in those searing moments when words fail.

On Sept. 11, 2001, roughly 150 members of Congress came together in the evening on the

building's east front steps to express the resolve of the nation during a time of great tragedy. Senators stood by Representatives, Democrats next to Republicans, and the leadership of both houses gathered as a symbol of strength for a country shocked and saddened by the day's horrific acts of terrorism. After a moment of silence, they broke into singing "God Bless America" because there was nothing else that made sense in that moment of solidarity and pain.

Music invites us to create the space for curiosity to bloom, for imagination to marinate and fuel inspiration. It crosses every perceived "barrier" and allows people who do not speak the same language, or embrace the same political/religious views, to engage with each other in something meaningful that resonates deep within the human heart. We must teach our student musicians to be part of this vital and valuable force in our world. Music should never be considered an "extra-curricular activity," but rather an essential component of any curriculum, program, business, and community. Music trains the mind to think and problem-solve in creative, collaborative and innovative ways. Isn't now the time more than ever in our lifetime when we need the most artistic thinkers on board as we face this crisis?

I am often in discussions with administrators to justify our program, and to explain what is needed in terms of faculty/instruments etc., to thrive. Music brings us together when nothing else can, and we must never eliminate the arts from our educational systems. If we do so, our students won't have anything to synthesize their math, science, reading, writing and technology skills. They will just be empty "tasks" without purpose and intention.

Let me close with a letter I wrote to my university students:

THE ARTISTRY COVENANT

"We (musicians) are the 'keepers of the gate' into the world of music, and we have a mission to pass this wonderful legacy on.

Today, more than ever, people are looking to us for beauty and peace ... to make sense out of a world that is changing, and often confusing; to understand that what we do as musicians and artists at any age is a vital part of our society and culture!

It articulates our human condition at the deepest level, when words fail to express the human cry of 'I am here ... see me, hear me, I matter!'

Every time we play or sing a note of music, we are adding something glorious to a world that is so hungry for our gifts of creativity!

We must nurture and foster those gifts, as our work is vital and valuable to the development and health of the human spirit. It starts by keeping our own artistry 'awake!'

Music is a celebration of the 'human being,' rather than the 'human doing.' It's about the process of awakening the artist within, which becomes the fertile ground for a beautiful life."

Dr. Jody Graves, NCTM, serves as Associate Professor of Piano at Eastern Washington University in Cheney and is the current Northwest Division Director for MTNA.

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.

PROCEDURE:

1. An application form and a MSMTA teacher recommendation must be submitted to the Scholarship Chairman by May 1, 2021.
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 2021.

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, 2021.

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, 2021

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

2021 MSMTA CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 28-30, 2021
Holiday Inn Great Falls
Convention Center
Registration opens September 2021



JOSEPH MARTIN,
GUEST ARTIST AND
PRESENTER

GALA CONCERT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021

MTNA STATE COMPETITIONS

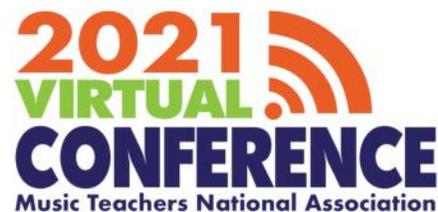
Winners advance to MTNA Northwest
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Open to instrumentalists, vocalists,
and composers
Entry deadline early September
Visit mtna.org for full guidelines

MSMTA FALL FESTIVAL

Non-advancing festival open to
instrumentalists and vocalists
Entry deadline October 2, 2021
See full guidelines on pages 15-17

MSMTA members will have several fantastic opportunities for continuing education during 2021!

Registration is now open for the MTNA National Conference, which will be held virtually from March 13-17, 2021. According to MTNA, the national conference will feature more than 100 sessions, master classes, keynote addresses, recitals, and opportunities for live interaction with artists and presenters. When perusing this year's conference lineup, I was struck by the diversity of sessions, artists, and presenters the conference committee has selected, and with discounted registration fees and no need to travel, this year's national conference is more accessible than ever!



MSMTA's annual conference will provide another enriching learning opportunity! Scheduled for October 28-30, 2021, in Great Falls, this year's conference will feature renowned composer Joseph Martin. I hope to see you there!

- Jessica Olson, Social Media Chair

IN MEMORIAM

DR. NELITA TRUE LAIRES passed away Sunday, January 17, 2021. She was, according to Clavier Companion magazine, "One of the world's most sought-after and beloved pianist-teachers."

Preceded in death by her husband Fernando Laires, she is survived by her brother, Wesley (Marilyn), step-daughters Jennifer Laires Hilterbrick (Scott), Barbara Cambell (Ken), and Suzanne Borbon, nieces Carolyn True (Brian Petkovich) and Amy Nelita Belden (David), and seven grandchildren.



Dr. True was born in Bozeman, Montana, in 1936. A lover of walking, while those much younger flocked to the elevator, Dr. True always took the stairs. She hiked as often as her schedule allowed, traveling the mountains and trails of her beloved Montana. A favorite spot was Palisade Falls outside of Bozeman.

Since Dr. True made her debut at age seventeen with the Chicago Symphony in Orchestra Hall and her New York debut with the Juilliard Orchestra in Avery Fisher Hall, her career took her to the major cities of Western and Eastern Europe, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Mexico, Iceland, New Zealand, Brazil, Australia, Canada, India, and to Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as to all fifty United States. She was a visiting professor at the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, performing and conducting master classes, and had been in the People's Republic of China more than 20 times for recitals and master classes.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan as a student of Helen Titus, Dr. True went on to Juilliard to study with Sascha Gorodnitzki, and then earned a DMA with Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Conservatory. In Paris, she studied with Nadia Boulanger on a Fulbright grant. Dr. True was the epitome of artist/teacher, teaching at Interlochen Arts Academy and Camp, was a Distinguished Professor the University of Maryland, College Park, The Eastman School of Music (1989 - 2018, Professor Emerita 2018 - 2021), and in hundreds of workshops and master classes across the globe.

Professor Emerita Nelita True was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, the Eisenhart Award for Excellence in Teaching at Eastman, the 2002 Achievement Award from the Music Teachers' National Association, the Lifetime Achievement Award in Graduate Education from the University of Rochester, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Keyboard Pedagogy Conference (USA).

Dr. True has been a jury member for the China International Piano Competition (Beijing), the Queen Sonja International Piano Competition (Oslo), the National Piano Competition in Brazil, the Horowitz Competition (Kiev), the Concours de Musique in Canada, the PTNA (Tokyo), the Lev Vlassenko Competition in Australia, and the Gina Bachauer, New Orleans, Hilton Head, and William Kapell International Piano Competitions in the United States.

Above all, Nelita was an incredible human being, always listening, caring, and interacting with everyone she met. The family asks you to remember her musicianship, her teaching, her grace, her infectious laugh, and her charm. The world is lessened by her physical absence, but her legacy will continue through her family and her students far and wide. There will be a celebration of life at the Eastman School of Music at a later date.

MSMTA LEGACY FUND

MSMTA is in the process of establishing a legacy fund in honor of beloved member teachers. Members who would like to join the planning committee may contact Judy O'Dell at judyodell4@gmail.com.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Laura Detrick: Update street address to 1108 3rd Ave. N., Great Falls, MT 59401

Ryan Detrick: Update street address to 318 N. 9th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715

Christopher Hahn: Update area code to (406)

Kathleen Hansen: Update phone number to

(406) 696-1517

Mary (Ginny) Reese: Update address to 37 Penny Lane, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Adam Sears: Update phone number to (406) 214-0588

Sam Smetana: Update address to 101 Yucca St, Burnett, TX 78611

Julia Slovarp: Update email address to julia.slovarp@montana.edu

Kylar Sprenger: New entry
2601 College Ave

Fort Worth TX 76110-3114

(682) 220-6251

sprenger@gmail.com

Sarah Stoneback, C/UF t, cm, ped: New entry
1108 Biehl St, Unit B

Belgrade, MT 59714

(720) 878-8764

sarah.stoneback@montana.edu

Carol Strizich: Update email address to pushinivory15@gmail.com

Amelia Thornton: Member of Missoula MTA

Alma Wiesner: Add "me" to teaching code

Karen Woodgerd: Add phone number as (406) 544-9430

Directory information is received directly from the MTNA home office, so if your contact information changes, please visit www.mtna.org to update your member profile.

MSMTA NEEDS YOU!

MSMTA is currently looking for a grant writer to serve on the Finance Committee. If your skill set would be a good fit for this position, please contact Laura Detrick at laurainmt@hotmail.com.

MSMTA ANNUAL MEETING
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Friday, October 30, 2020
via Zoom

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

Treasurer's Report

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

New Business

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

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

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

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

Old Business

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

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

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

Announcements

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

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

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

The annual meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Loge, Secretary

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