

# MONTANA MUSIC NEWS



MONTANA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2022

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peachykeys38@gmail.com

**Kalispell Area:** Ginny Reese

(425) 248-7112

ginnyreese10@gmail.com

**Missoula:** Christopher Hahn,

NCTM, (405) 546-5932

christopher.hahn@umontana.edu

**Southwest Montana:**

Jessica Olson, Interim Contact

(406) 451-4848

pianohearder@gmail.com

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\*Committee chairs are underlined.

**LOCAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS**

**Billings:** Alma Wiesner

(406) 245-2468

inoneachord@hotmail.com

**Butte-Anaconda:** Tricia Cox

(406) 491-4209

eastridgepiano@gmail.com

**MSMTA Officers**

**2020-2022**

**President**

Laura Detrick

(406) 750-7402

laurainmt@hotmail.com

**President-Elect**

Ginny Reese

(425) 248-7112

ginnyreese10@gmail.com

**Immediate Past President**

Margaret McGillvray, NCTM

(406) 670-5165

memcgillvray@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Charlene Loge

(406) 683-4344

charneloge@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Carla Bell

(406) 788-7181

cjpiano@gmail.com

**Membership Secretary**

Kimberly Peachy, NCTM

(804) 852-7191

peachykeys38@gmail.com

**Northwest Division Director**

Jody Graves, NCTM

jgraves@ewu.edu

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Minutes from all meetings conducted at the 2021 state conference are available online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/MSMTAF2021Meetings>

Our state conference was made possible in part by a Strategic Investment Grant from the Montana Arts Council and an MTNA Community Engagement Grant. MSMTA thanks MAC and MTNA for their generous support.



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# Message from the President

During last fall's conference, one student's Philosophy of Music Education was read. To be sure that the words of the philosophy would have the focus, the author was not mentioned. In fact, a good many MSMTA members can be considered as co-authors, because that evolving philosophy is an outgrowth of our members' stories and demonstrations in their everyday vocation that for each, is really quite extraordinary.



*"Music education teaches students literacy and artistry in a crucial form of communication that is unlike any other while yet employing many others. Cultures around the world and throughout time have been dependent on music for the sharing of and common affirmation of thought. It is an audible (though not necessarily) human expression, sometimes emanating from—sometimes resulting in motion, both physically and psychologically. There are a great many people for whom music is the most available conduit through which understanding of one's existences can be gained or shared. Therefore, it is imperative that its medium is*

*made available to everyone. Human interaction without music is inconceivable, but in such a case, it would certainly be of greatly reduced quality."*

Members have vested themselves with the knowledge and skill to make this happen. At least as importantly, they have a desire to increase those qualities *and* to participate in providing venue for other music teachers to acquire and build on the same. Starting in the local association, teachers meet to share their studio experiences and collaborate to bring about offerings for themselves, their students, and their communities. The evidence of growth each year is clearly manifested.

Yet, exciting as this is, teachers' insatiable appetites are not satisfied! Through MSMTA Fall Conference, MTNA National Conference, and the vast number of other programs, the wealth of possibilities is exponentially greater. Are you a member? Membership at every level demonstrates music teachers' thirst for knowledge and thrill of sharing it as far as each may. The active involvement of each member makes work light while increasing connections and perspective. Even those who are not teachers, but who love to support musical outreach, can make great contributions through membership and through the many collaborative opportunities, from combined concerts, to advertising, to sponsorship, to attending events, just to name a few.

The excellence of MSMTA members, the benefits of membership, and the worthiness of establishing interconnections between music organizations to enrich lives with music cannot be overstated. It is a true honor to be a part of and to grow through so marvelous an association!

*Laura Detrick*



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# 2021 Conference in Review

## ROOTS AND WINGS:

### How Classical Training Provides Both Foundation and Freedom

Joseph Martin

---

In his session, Joseph talked about the value of the classical tradition, from composer to teacher to performer; finding the heart and intention, the journey to realization.

He mentioned the shortening attention span of recent generations and explored how the classical tradition lays foundations:

1. Exploring diversity (“excellence without arrogance”)
2. The luxury of listening (the destination is the journey)
3. Cultivate the spirit of contemplative listening (he recommends the Great American Songbook)
4. The classical tradition allows us to explore deeper things:  
Never give up the joy of learning.  
Learn from the past, live in the present and for the future  
Dive deep and respect differences
5. Develop discipline and cultivate commitment
6. The classical tradition helps develop cranium calisthenics
7. See the sacred in the simple (cultivate the uncommon in the complex)

Final thoughts:

“What are we going to make beautiful today?”

“All people deserve access to beauty!”

Dream - Believe - Become

- Ruth Plesner, NCTM, Hamilton

## THEORY AND IMPROVISATION:

### Like Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup

Martha Hilley, NCTM

---

The incredible Martha Hilley began her series of MSMTA conference workshops with *Theory and Improvisation: Like Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup - You Can Have One Without the Other But It's Just Never As Good!* Too often, music students, and probably many of their teachers as well, categorize theory as simply math in disguise and are never really sure it matters to performance much less to improvisation.

Martha Hilley quickly puts those notions to rest in this workshop! She reminds us that theory brings an understanding of a composer's intentions to a musical performance while supplying tools for making intentional choices and creating patterns that make improvisation seem free-form. She has built a website, [www.pdmpiano.org](http://www.pdmpiano.org), or <https://pdmpiano.org>, that is accessible to students and teachers to help them review theoretical concepts and gain confidence with improvisation in fun, non-threatening and interesting ways. She began with a discussion of intervals and how triads and their inversions are constructed. She then discussed simple five-finger pentascales and how they can be modified into modes and blues scales and how common tones have been utilized to build cadence patterns. She ended her workshop by sharing exercises to develop improvisation skills using given meters and harmonic progressions as foundations over which pentascales can be used to develop spontaneous melodies. With the progressive studies and exercises on her website, Martha

Hilley has taken two typically “scary” subjects, theory and improvisation, and created ADEs for music students and teachers that are Accessible, Doable and Enjoyable.

- Kate Hansen, NCTM, Billings

## INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM

Stephanie Stevens, NCTM

---

How do we define musical playing? How do we communicate musicality? How can we explain in words what makes a performer or performance musical? How can we teach this from the beginning?

Inspired by the book *From the Stage to the Studio: How Fine Musicians Become Great Teachers* by Cornelia Watkins and Laurie Scott, Stephanie Stevens had us explore the answers to these questions. We all agreed that we draw on our senses and personal experiences to help convey musical meaning. One of the highlights was listing our five senses and brainstorming descriptive words we could use to evoke musical expression based on each sense: “Sweet, bitter, sharp, warm, bright, dark...”

The session ended with us sharing what we have learned from online teaching during the pandemic. Many found it eye-opening to see the pianos/keyboards our students are using in their homes: the condition and the placement/environment. Many parents enjoyed the freedom of staying home without the hassle of driving to and from lessons. In the past, makeup lessons have been difficult to schedule and coordinate, but now we also have the flexibility of the virtual option.

We left this wonderfully interactive session motivated and energized with fresh ideas and approaches to enhance our teaching! Thank you, Stephanie!

- Margery Whatley, Missoula

## LITERACY, HISTORY, ARTISTRY:

### Our Three-Fold Purpose

Joseph Martin

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Performing his arrangement of “Morning Has Broken” was an inspiring way to capture our attention. The basis of Joseph’s talk was asking us to look to our core values as teachers, so we can define the next ten years. **Literacy** is the common language and is at the heart of our calling. Our perspective changes as time goes by, and he shared the example of his Grandma asking him to play “Whispering Hope” through the years, which changed after she passed and it became a memory of her for him, not just a song he felt forced to play. He asked us to consider whether we are a specialist (focused; finding strengths and see how they fit in), or a generalist (seeing the bigger picture and how music relates to other aspects in life). “You can know the facts, but may be unable to write a symphony.” He talked about how a phrase is more than a musical sentence, and how literacy must transcend the definition. You can be the best technician, but you need to connect the dots. Music is more than a process, it is a journey. We use language in our teaching, and should model musical literacy in everything we do at each lesson. Tell stories – even the youngest students are watching everything you do. Sing your students’ names. A vocal approach to piano is radical. You always want to do things that point your children to music. Sightreading is the #1 attribute of a student, and it makes music literacy alive. **History** shows that music happened in real time and can be appreciated more within the context of history. Telling stories about composer’s lives makes it real. “Hamilton” is a great example of blending history and music together. We must strive for **artistry**. You know it when you hear it, the beauty inside the truth. What did Mozart hear?

Joseph shared a story of seeing the Mona Lisa, and the more he studied the painting, the more he discovered ... including the quality of the frame and thinking about the frame-maker. He said, "We are the keepers of the song, and can make windows of opportunity and show students something beautiful. We are the frame-makers." The mystery of the music keeps coming back, and we must combine our knowledge to help our students appreciate the hidden beauty. Sharing an example of holding a heavy hymnal out to his son paralleled the obligation we have to feel the weight and power of the music arts. Don't break the chain, the mystery. "Go be the best frame-maker you can be," were his parting words to us.

- Sharon Marble, Billings

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

Martha Hilley, NCTM

I want to begin by saying I was able to attend the conference on one day virtually, and I am very grateful that it was made available. Thank you to the technical crew!

I enjoyed hearing and watching Martha Hilley explain, discuss, teach and demonstrate her points. She emphasized how we can help our students to scan the music before they even begin to play. Ask these questions: What do you see? How many measures are in a system? Where do the hands alternate? Are there repeated notes? What is the time signature, etc.? Then play the rhythm on a table and count it. Why do you think the piece has this title?

She said we should teach so students want to play a steady beat. Discuss what parallel, contrary and oblique (one hand stays put and

other hand moves) mean.

Look at the phrasing. How many measures are in the phrase? Bartok has 3 bar phrases.

I always have my students sightread their pieces with me from lesson one. Being able to sightread well opens a window into the music for the student so they can begin to go down the path of learning it. One of my high school students actually thanked me for teaching her to sightread when she was a little girl because she can now play for friends and family to "sing along." Music is so important in our lives.

I loved this statement from Martha: "Sightreading is the ability to see what is coming next."

- Diane Dwyer, Bozeman

## COLLEGIATE CHAPTER PRESENTATION

UM Keyboard Society

The fantastic presentation given by the University of Montana Keyboard Society informed attendees of learning styles in a wonderfully prepared and delivered session. Attendees were first given an assessment to establish their own learning style among the three featured: Visual, Kinesthetic, and Aural. Then a specific piece of piano music was demonstrated, to be used as an example to illustrate students' characteristics, strengths, weakness, and ways to approach teaching with each style.

Visual learners tend to show attention to their appearance, show strength in sight-reading and orderliness, and weakness in adapting all details of the score, especially emotive qualities. Previewing and harmonizing the score are useful approaches. The restlessness and high energy level of a student IDs them as a kinesthetic learner. Their strength is in tactile awareness, however the inclination toward kinesthetic memory leads to difficulty recovering when the memory slips in

performance. Interactive approaches like repetition, duet playing, call and response and quizzing score facts target their needs well. Be sure to teach pieces in small sections and insist on correct fingering from the start. It is important to have “short burst of activity,” tasks that are relevant to the music at the ready when students’ energy is so great that they lose their focus. Auditory learners are evident when easily distracted by sounds, in talkativeness, and in diverting from presented repertoire to playing music they hear within themselves. Their memorizing with musicality and improvising are strengths, while they show weakness with fingering, sight-reading, and thorough attention to all aspects of the score. A quiet environment is more conducive for these learners. They can benefit from improvising in the key of a piece being introduced, singing phrases of the music, and playing newly heard music by ear.

As an overview of all three styles, the practice of teaching to the strengths of each can be augmented with assignments that also improve weaknesses. Rote learning is especially useful as it addresses all three styles at the same time. The session closed with a reference to Susanna Garcia’s work on learning styles which can easily be found through a web search. Thank you, UM Keyboard Society, for this wonderful presentation!

- *Laura Detrick, Great Falls*

## DESIGN THINKING AND CREATIVE TEACHING

Joseph Martin

---

For his third presentation, “Design Thinking and Creative Teaching”, Mr. Martin emphasized the need for synergy in our teaching approach. So much can be gained and our lives enriched by teaming up with other music teachers, whether they teach

piano, any instrument, or voice. We need to make efforts to make connections – they don’t always happen on their own. Always stay aware of changing trends and developing needs in the marketplace in order to find your niche and do what you were designed to do. By developing our own individual credos, we can focus the direction and purpose of our careers, and enrich the lives of those around us.

- *Cari Wilson, Bozeman*

## PREMIER: JAZZ SUITE, OP. 163

MSMTA Commissioned Composer Eric Funk and Pianist Stefan Stern

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Our members enjoyed a tremendous performance of the MSMTA Commissioned work for 2021-2022, *Jazz Suite for Solo Piano, op. 163*, by renowned composer Eric Funk, at our fall conference in Great Falls. Pianist Stefan Stern gave us an evocative and moving performance of the work on the beautiful Fazioli grand piano at Mansfield Hall. After the performance, the composer shared his vision for his ground-breaking five movement work with the audience, discussing the commonalities that he found between pairs of jazz and classical composers, their musical ideals and their compositional approaches, and how students and teachers may best discover these commonalities for themselves. In addition to arranging the music for solo piano, he also announced that he has arranged this music for piano and 12-piece ensemble and has orchestrated it for symphony.

Since the premiere, many members have asked how they may obtain copies of the suite. To order the \$10 ea. manuscripts of *Jazz Suite for Solo Piano* or the \$3 ea. audio recording of Mr. Stern’s performance, please contact Eric Funk at [ericfunk@ericfunk.com](mailto:ericfunk@ericfunk.com), or 3400 Wagonwheel Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715.

*(Continued on page 26)*

# Conference Highlights



Conference presenters Joseph Martin and Martha Hilley, NCTM, enjoy dinner at the conference. Hilley currently serves as the Immediate Past President of MTNA.

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***“Celebrate Music” was the theme of the 2021 MSMTA Conference, held October 28-30, 2021, in Great Falls.***

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Above: MSMTA President Laura Detrick introduces the 2021 Conference Recital, featuring the music of Joseph Martin.  
Below: Linda Holden, Janelle Holden, Margaret Onstad, and Judy Pleskac



The MSMTA Community Choir sings an original choral work by Joseph Martin during the 2021 Conference Recital. Martin conducted the choir, composed of MSMTA members and singers from the Great Falls area.

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# State MTNA Competition Results

## JUNIOR PIANO

Felixe Becker, student of Karen Huffman, Portland, OR (representative)



## YOUNG ARTIST STRINGS

Noah Certalic, student of Angella Ahn, MSU Bozeman (representative), *not pictured*



YOUNG ARTIST WOODWIND  
Antonio Jarvey, student of Johan Eriksson, University of Montana, Missoula (representative)

## SENIOR PIANO

Yuan Du, student of Christopher Hahn, NCTM, University of Montana, Missoula (representative)



## YOUNG ARTIST PIANO

Tanner Jordan, student of Scott Holden, Brigham Young University, Utah (representative)



## SENIOR COMPOSITION

Aidan McCormack, student of Amelia Thornton, Missoula (representative)



## JUDGES:

Piano: Jensina Oliver  
Strings: Carrie Krause  
Composition: Levi Brown

## YOUNG ARTIST BRASS

Jacob Kittleson, student of Jeannie Little, Montana State University, Bozeman (representative)



---

*Montana was well represented by a slate of six competitors in the Northwest Division MTNA Competitions. Tanner Jordan from Billings, a student of Scott Holden at BYU, was named alternate for the Northwest Division Young Artist Piano Performance Competition! Congratulations to all who competed!*

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# Fall Festival Results

## PIANO SHORT PROGRAM

### ELEMENTARY DIVISION

1st: Cheyenne Wang, student of Dorothy Beck Peterson



Cheyenne Wang

Honorable Mention: Ryan Webster, student of Ginny Reese

## STRINGS SHORT PROGRAM

### ELEMENTARY DIVISION

1st: Addie Crist (viola), student of Jennifer Smith



Addie Crist

### JUNIOR DIVISION

1st: Jake Peng, student of Sharon Weaver-Knowles

Comments only: Madeline Allen

### JUNIOR DIVISION

1st: Eli Crist (violin), student of Jennifer Smith



Jake Peng



Beau Becker



Taj Bastick



Eli Crist



Zachariah Brown

## PIANO SINGLE PIECE

### ELEMENTARY DIVISION

Tie for 1st: Beau Becker, student of Karen Huffman, Taj Bastick, student of Ginny Reese

### SENIOR DIVISION

1st: Zachariah Brown (viola), student of Jennifer Smith



Addison Teini

### JUNIOR DIVISION

1st: Addison Teini, student of Carole Hatley

2nd: McHugh Frewin, student of Elinore Quander



Elizabeth Yeager



McHugh Frewin

### SENIOR DIVISION

1st: Ritu Bajwa, student of Ken Christensen

2nd: Elizabeth Yeager, student of Sherlon Orth



Ritu Bajwa

## ADJUDICATORS:

Piano: Jensina Oliver

Strings: Carrie Krause

*MSMTA congratulates all of the students who competed in the 2021 Fall Festival. We also wish to express our gratitude to Carole Hatley for her continuing service as Fall Festival coordinator.*

# thrive

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# 2022 Keynote Presenter



Since his original affiliation with Alfred Publishing Company in 1986 as a composer and clinician, DENNIS ALEXANDER has earned an international reputation as one of North America's most prolific and popular composers of educational piano music for students at all levels. Professor Alexander retired from his position at the University of Montana in May 1996, where he taught piano and piano pedagogy for 24 years. Upon moving to California, he taught privately in addition to serving on the faculties of Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Northridge. He currently lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he maintains an active composing and touring schedule. He currently publishes with Hal Leonard Corporation, the largest sheet music publisher in the world.

Professor Alexander is a native Kansan, having graduated from the University of Kansas where he was a student of Richard Reber. In 1972, he was invited to join the faculty at the University of Montana and served as piano department chair in addition

to his teaching duties in applied piano, class piano and piano pedagogy. In 1987, he made his New York debut at Carnegie Recital Hall with violinist Walter Olivares and continues to be active as a soloist, accompanist and chamber musician. He has served as a collaborative artist for numerous internationally recognized soloists, instrumentalists, and chamber groups. A former president of the Montana State Music Teachers Association, he is a popular clinician at state and national music teacher conventions. In 2009, he was invited by MTNA to conduct the intermediate level master class at their national convention in Atlanta and was invited to do so again in 2022 for the conference in Minneapolis. Professor Alexander was a judge for "Musiquess", a national piano competition in India, and has toured twice to the far east where he performed recitals and workshops.

Over the years, numerous organizations and state associations have commissioned him to write compositions. Many of his compositions are included in the National Federation of Music Study Clubs Festival required list and his music is being performed by students throughout the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Asia, and Europe. In 2015, he was honored by the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." *Dance Suite* for piano, violin, and cello was commissioned by MTNA in 2013. His *Nocturnes for Piano*, Books 1 and 2, were selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2020 MTNA/Frances Clark Pedagogy Award. Mr. Alexander's website, [www.DennisAlexander.com](http://www.DennisAlexander.com), has become a favorite with piano teachers, featuring recordings, videos, teaching tips, and much more!

# News from Around the State

## BILLINGS MTA

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What a lovely conference we enjoyed in Great Falls in October! Thank you, GFMTA, for your adept and welcoming presence.

On September 11 we were the fortunate recipients of the diligent efforts of Kate Hanson and Sharon Marble in procuring another BMTA commissioned work. BMTA teachers were the first to hear the delightful suite, *Bandana Sketches*, performed by composer Dr. Lynn L. Petersen of Carroll College, piano, and Kara Johnson, a senior and Philharmonic Concert Master at Senior High, violin. The suite is a set of five character pieces that were inspired by scenes from the landscape and rural life of Montana.

In October we met with Brad Constantine, General Manager of Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, to learn about outreach opportunities. He highlighted the symphony's season and gave us a tour of the facility. Brad also extended an offer for our members to utilize the great space they have with a 7'1" Bösendorfer piano (limit of 15 people for now). Sharon Marble took her adult students there in December and enjoyed an evening of music sharing. What an amazing resource!

On November 6, nine teachers and 60 students participated in our annual Fall Marathon at Rimrock Mall. Alma Wiesner organized the event and Char Waddingham and Lynn Bassett were hosts on the day of the event. To the delight of students and teachers, Greg Depner provided a lovely Yamaha polished walnut grand piano. What a great opportunity and how exhilarating to be able to utilize public spaces again!

In December Greg Depner graciously opened his home and business at Montana Pianos to BMTA members where nine of us shared an evening of music and friendship. Greg was informative about his beautiful Yamaha and Bösendorfer pianos and the manufacturing process. Each member performed one or more holiday pieces, including a vocal number and a couple of duets. A highlight was a piece Char Waddingham dedicated to our friend and colleague, Rebecca Hedegaard, who was struggling with cancer. On January 15, Rebecca was released from her pain and suffering in this life. Rebecca was young and had a young family. We have been trying to help with some of the meals, and members rallied to help find teachers for all of her students who planned to continue. She pushed through her struggles with her cancer treatments to publish our newsletter as long as she could. She will be greatly missed.

On December 11 the BMTA held its annual Holiday Marathon at Rimrock Mall. We had 11 teachers and 121 students participate for a total of eight hours of playing time! Greg Depner of Montana Piano provided a lovely grand piano for this event, which added so much depth to the students' performances. The event was hosted by Brad Knutson and Sarra Nienaber. The venue was amazing and innumerable people strolled by or stopped to listen to the joyful sounds of Christmas music. We have some wonderful events planned for the next few months, including a masterclass by Jackie Weitz, Sonatina Festival, Duets and Donuts, and Spring Festival. Hopefully the COVID-19 virus will be minimized again soon. We would love to continue these live events.

Everyone has been so eager to participate after the drought!

- Alma Wiesner, President, and Lynn Bassett

## GREAT FALLS MTA

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Happy New Year to everyone across the great state of Montana! Great Falls Music Teachers Association had a very busy summer and fall season working with MSMTA President Laura Detrick on details surrounding the Montana State Music Teachers Conference in October. Thanks to excellent planning and a lot of hard work by GFMTA and MSMTA members, we think the conference was a big success. From the MSMTA Conference choir rehearsals on Sunday evenings (director Ellen Forslund), to the Great Falls College Community Choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings (director Cindy Stevens) to our final dress rehearsal and the wonderful concert under the direction of Joseph Martin, it was just plain fun to be making music again after a pandemic enforced silence that seemed to drag on forever!

Joseph Martin and Martha Hilley were both a joy to host and their sessions were truly a delight. Due to the untiring work of Carla Bell most of the conference was available virtually which we all appreciated. The Banquet at Meadowlark Country Club was relaxing and delicious, and we enjoyed listening to the moving music of the Gospel Choir. GFMTA was happy to host such a delightful event – and happy that we have a few years to rest up before our next one!

In December we enjoyed a potluck breakfast meeting followed by a concert of Christmas music presented by our members – both in person and online. We are busy now with planning our Spring Festival which will be presented at the end of April. We hope

everyone stays well and that music continues to keep us all going.

- Kimberly Peachy, NCTM, GFMTA President

## KALISPELL AREA MTA

---

Greetings from the snowy Flathead Valley! I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and warm. Kalispell Area Music Teachers have been moving forward with fantastic new projects and updates.

We have had a fun and interesting focus on the brain and music this year in our monthly programs. Diane Volkman presented a program about the brain and how students learn. We are reading *This is Your Brain on Music* by Daniel J. Levitin for our February meeting. It is fascinating information with endless possibilities for discussion.

Michelle VanAllen and her husband have taken on our website to make it more up-to-date and user friendly. They have installed a PayPal button to make fundraising options easier and more available. By taking “control” of our website, we are able to add photos and other attachments for our membership and community. Many thanks to Maryruth Fallon for taking on the extra treasurer’s task of getting our bank account attached to the PayPal account. KAMTA members have also been reaching out to past donors and sponsors inviting them to participate in our fundraising efforts this year.

We are planning our Spring Festival for the first weekend of March. Dr. Jordan Neiman has moved back to Kalispell and agreed to be our adjudicator this year. He was our remote adjudicator last year and we are looking forward to him working with our students in person. Jordan is also organizing a KAMTA Scholarship Alumni Concert for March 6th. This is one of our

fundraisers for our scholarship programs.

KAMTA is enjoying our partnership with Flathead Valley Community College and looking forward to their new performance space to be completed soon. There are many faculty and student concerts coming up that we can share with our students. Nicole Sanford at FVCC and KAMTA's Diane Volkman are working together on ideas for getting students involved in internship-type programs. We would also like to connect with the Glacier Symphony on more student involvement.

I encourage everyone to register for the MTNA conference. We have just been informed it is going to be remote this year. This can feel disappointing for folks who wanted to attend in person; however, registering still gives you access to wonderful programs and presentations. Please support MTNA's efforts to provide relevant and quality information for all of us to continue to be the best teachers for our students.

- Ginny Reese, KAMTA President

## MISSOULA MTA

---

The Missoula Music Teachers Association is gearing up for their annual Spring Festival and the Sonatina Festival. The Spring Festival takes place on March 11th and 12th, with the Honors Recital taking place on March 13th. The adjudicators this year will be Professor Steven Hesla and Dr. Margery Whatley, piano, and Dr. Adam Collins for strings. What a star-studded panel! The Sonatina Festival will take place on April 30th. Both events will take place in the new facilities at the University of Montana School of Music. Meetings, either in-person or virtual, have still been slow to resume as of yet, however we are all actively preparing our students and keeping them highly engaged in

the wonderful act of making music. What a joy and privilege!

- Christopher Hahn, NCTM, President

## SOUTHWEST MONTANA MTA

---

Greetings to our colleagues from around the state! Like many small associations, SMMTA has been greatly impacted by the pandemic. We are looking forward to resuming our regular student recitals in March, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to engage with the music department at MSU, which opens many educational doors for local teachers and our students. We are also grateful that so many MSMTA and MTNA events have been made available virtually, as this has allowed us to stay connected to our fellow teachers during challenging times. Thank you to the leadership of both the state and national associations for helping us stay connected, and we are excited to resume our usual slate of programs!

- Jessica Olson, Secretary/Treasurer

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

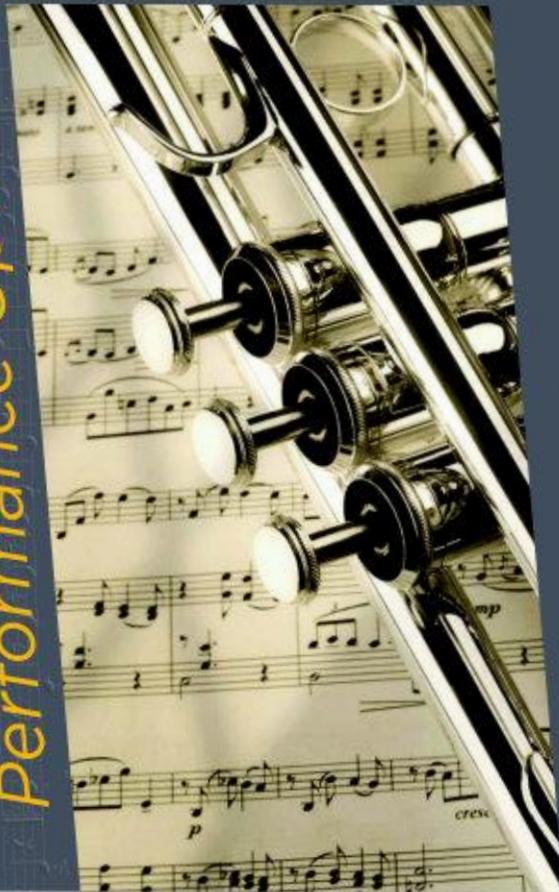
MSMTA wants to share member activities and achievements, local news and photos from your local events on social media and in upcoming newsletters! Please email your news and photos (including date and caption information) to Jessica Olson, editor, at [pianoheader@gmail.com](mailto:pianoheader@gmail.com).

Remember to visit MSMTA online at [msmta.com](http://msmta.com) for information on national certification, competition and fall festival information, scholarship opportunities, our archive of recorded conference sessions available to members and more!



# Department of MUSIC

## Performance Option

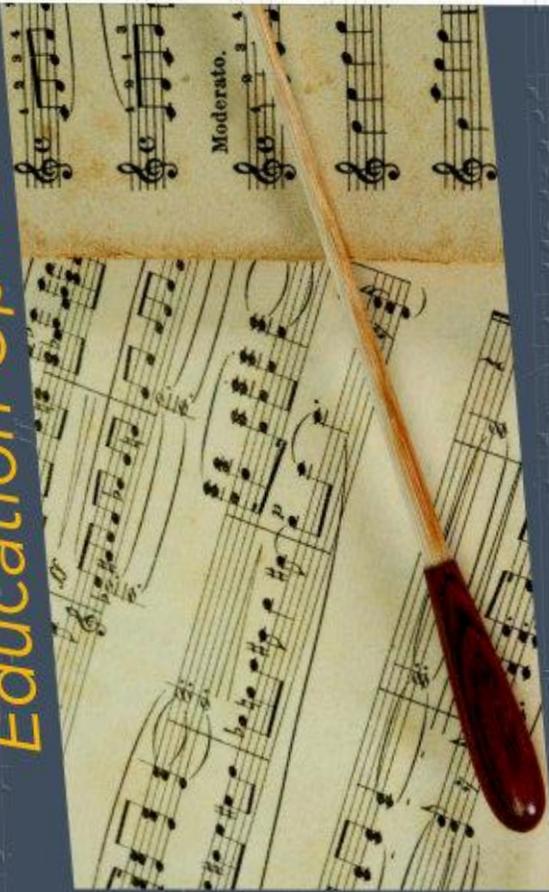


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# University News

## UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

### SCHOOL OF MUSIC

---

The students and faculty at the University of Montana School of Music are settling into their new spaces after a major renovation project this past summer and fall wrapped up in late November. The first phase of renovations completely gutted and rebuilt the main rehearsal room in the basement and the choral room upstairs, as well as one hallway of practice rooms. The spaces are truly transformed and ready for the 21st century! This summer, one and maybe two more hallways of practice rooms will be renovated, and a new elevator will be installed to replace the current one from 1955! The Keyboard Division continues to thrive with an abundance of excellent students from all across our great state, and several from out-of-state as well, including California, Alaska, Ohio, Texas, and Indiana. Our annual School of Music Concerto/Aria Competition took place recently and featured five piano students among the students competing in this event (Cassandra Bak, Sylvia Wood, Mark Kreider, Isabelle Pearson and Andrew Kagerer). For the first time, there were two pianists named as winners: Sylvia Wood and the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3, first movement, and Mark Kreider and the Scriabin Piano Concerto in F# minor, third movement. Congratulations to these fabulous performers! Many pianists will give recitals this spring, and we are all looking forward to taking a road trip to present Pianissimo! at the Spokane Steinway Piano Gallery in April. Finally, the ever-popular UM Piano Camp will take place

on the UM campus from June 12-18. Check the website for more information and to apply!

Christopher Hahn is so happy to be back doing some of the more typical activities that are the features of the spring semester. In March, he will spend four days adjudicating for the Eastside Music Teachers Association in Seattle (Bellevue and Kirkland), and a full week as one of the distinguished judges for the Seattle Young Artist Music Festival. He will also adjudicate the Rivers Edge Music Festival in Great Falls and the District Festival in April, and has been active doing advanced level examinations for the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto this year. He is loving teaching the piano pedagogy course to nine engaged young pianists this year, several of whom are working as teachers at PLAY Piano Academy in Missoula! Chris continues to serve as the Keyboard Division Chair and also as the Missoula Music Teacher Association President, and plays in the Missoula Symphony Orchestra.

Margery Whatley is thrilled to be back in Missoula and teaching at the University of Montana where she is enjoying her wonderful piano students. She is looking forward to a busy spring semester with performing, teaching, and adjudicating. In February, she will be the clinician for the Minnesota State University, Mankato 2022 Piano Festival, giving master classes, adjudicating, and performing a solo recital. In March, she will serve as one of the adjudicators for the HMTA and MMTA 2022 Spring Festivals. On April 11, she will give her solo piano faculty recital at the University of Montana and on April 23, she will perform the Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Butte Symphony. She is excited for the UM

Piano Camp in June! Over the summer, she will be working on the Mendelssohn Double Concerto for Violin and Piano, which she will perform with her brother Robert McDuffie with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra for the opening concert of the 2022-2023 season in September!

## MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

### SCHOOL OF MUSIC

---

The piano area at Montana State University is thriving! We have several exciting events that will take place this semester.

Our students will have an opportunity to participate in a master class in February with pianist Clipper Erickson from Pennsylvania. Performances of solo repertoire for this class will also be heard in our third annual PianoForte concert which will take place April 29th in the Reynolds Recital Hall. This performance will consist of piano solos and ensembles performed by all of our applied students. This is a fundraising performance where proceeds will go to the "Magic 88" scholarship fund in the Montana State University Foundation. Speaking of which — the "Magic88" scholarship fund has reached its endowment of \$25,000 this year. The Montana State University School of Music will now be able to give in perpetuity an annual \$2,000 scholarship to any applied piano student. This fundraising goal was achieved in three years! Congratulations to Kenneth and Julie as well as all of our donors who made this vision successful!

Julie and Kenneth will be busy this spring collaborating with many of our colleagues here at the School of Music in faculty recitals. Also we will be hitting the adjudicating scene March through May. We look forward to seeing our

piano teacher friends and colleagues at these events.

## FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### SCHOOL OF MUSIC

---

Hello from Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC)!

Amy Beth Chisholm (Voice, World Music, Musical Theatre, Music Fundamentals, Enjoyment of Music) had the privilege and opportunity to perform as the soprano soloist for the Glacier Symphony's annual presentation of Handel's Messiah. Concerts were held in Kalispell, Bigfork, and Whitefish the first weekend of December 2021.

The Sapphire Trio (Maxine Ramey-FVCC clarinet instructor, Margaret Baldrige-Violin UM and Jody Graves-Piano EWU) have been invited to present a performance video in March at the "100 Concerts to Celebrate 100 Years" as part of the centennial celebration of the Eastman School of Music. Baldrige and Graves are ESM alumni.

Marshall Jones's (Composition, Music Theory, Piano, Keyboarding, French Horn) composition *Safe, Dark, Motionless, Airless* was performed by the Glacier Chorale November 2021, conducted by Micah Hunter (Voice, Glacier Chorale).

FVCC is currently in the process of building the new College Center, which will include music classrooms, practice rooms, a 1,000-seat performance hall, a mini recital hall, and more. This beautiful building is set to be completed by summer of 2022.

FVCC offers a great start to students of all ages and abilities who are interested in all aspects of music. The instructors are fantastic and provide a one-on-one teaching experience for students. I encourage all who are interested to check us out online at [www.fvcc.edu](http://www.fvcc.edu) or contact me, Nicole S. Sanford, at (406) 756-4813.

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# Member Achievements

## MEMBER MILESTONES

---

MSMTA congratulates our member milestone achievements for 2021! Attaining five years of membership were Stephanie Stevens, NCTM, and Diana Pacini. Ten year certificates were awarded to Rebecca Hedegaard and Heidi Alteneder. Suzanne Rohrbach attained 20 years while Doreen Laing celebrated 35 years and Albert Brewer achieved 40 years of membership. Certificates celebrating 45 years were awarded to Marcy Holston and Leann Vralsted. Our highest certificate went to Carol Strizich who achieved 55 years of membership in MSMTA. Congratulations to all of you, and thank you for your dedication to and support of music, students and the arts.

- Kimberly Peachy, NCTM, Membership Secretary

## CERTIFICATION NEWS

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MSMTA congratulates Stephanie Stevens, NCTM, on achieving her national certification through MTNA in 2021! Stephanie is a member



of the Billings Music Teachers Association.

If you would like more information and guidance on national certification, you may contact MSMTA Certification Chair Heidi Alteneder, NCTM, at (406) 381-7262, or visit [www.certification.mtna.org](http://www.certification.mtna.org).

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## BMTA COMMISSIONED WORK PREMIERED

On September 11, 2021, *Bandana Sketches*, BMTA's commissioned work for 2020-2023, Dr. Lynn Petersen's composition for piano with optional violin parts, was debuted at the King of Glory Lutheran Church to an appreciative audience of students and teachers. The piano score was performed by the composer, a professor of music at Carroll College who has an extensive and impressive thirty-five year background in composition, performance, and teaching. The violin was performed by Kara Johnson, a former student of Sharon Marble, a senior, and the Philharmonic Concert Master at Billings Senior High School. The suite consists of five character pieces which were inspired by scenes from the landscape and rural life of Montana: *The First Crocus*, *Runaway Calf*, *The Mighty Wind*, *Rising Creek*,

and *Early Morning Roundup*. In order to make the work accessible for a variety of student levels, Dr. Petersen arranged the five basic themes into three separate sets of five pieces each at Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced levels, plus background comments and performance notes.

We thank Dr. Petersen and Kara for the beautiful premiere, and we especially want to thank Dr. Petersen for this incredible body of work and for all the time and energy she put into making her music both enjoyable and accessible to our members and students. *Bandana Sketches* is available for purchase (digital download) from Sheet Music Plus: <https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/search?Ntt=bandana+sketches>.

- Kate Hansen, NCTM, and Sharon Marble

(2021 Conference in Review, continued from page 10)

## CONFERENCE GALA CONCERT

MSMTA Community Choir, Conducted by  
Keynote Presenter Joseph Martin

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A highlight of the 2021 MSMTA Fall Conference was the Friday evening choral concert directed by composer Joseph Martin. The choir was made up of singers from the Great Falls area and from across the state in collaboration with the Great Falls College Community Choir. They rehearsed for many weeks in preparation. The concert was performed at the Mansfield Theater in Great Falls under the direction of Mr. Martin, with accompanist Kimberly Peachy, NCTM.

The music, written by the conductor himself, was moving, transcendent, and enjoyed by the audience. My daughter, Janelle, sang soprano with the choir. She was impressed with the whole experience and how well rehearsal directors Ellen Forslund of GFPS and Cynthia Stevens of GFC MSU prepared them. The concert also included two stunning piano performances by Mr. Martin of his own pieces. I believe that a collaborative choral concert was a

first for our Montana State Music Teachers conferences. Kudos to President Laura Detrick for this brilliant idea and for her ability to motivate and ensure that the concert became a reality. Many of those participating and those in attendance had a brand new awareness of MSMTA's excellence. Thank you to all who made it possible.

- Linda Holden, Valier

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

New Year's greeting from the Nominating committee. Linda Holden, Adam Collins, Marcy Holston and I are working on a slate of officers to be voted on at our next business meeting. We are seeking to fill the offices of Secretary and President-elect. If you have an interest in one of these offices or know someone you'd like to nominate, please contact one of us.

- Margaret McGillvray, Immediate Past President,  
[memcgillvray@gmail.com](mailto:memcgillvray@gmail.com)

## INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the MSMTA Internship Committee took place on Tuesday, January 11, on Zoom. Dorothy Peterson, Margaret McGillvray and Diane Volkman discussed what might be involved in coordinating an internship program with college administration and potential areas within MSMTA where an intern would learn valuable teaching and organizational skills. There is much more to discuss and explore. Anyone interested in serving on this committee please contact Dorothy Peterson, [dbeckp@gmail.com](mailto:dbeckp@gmail.com).



<https://lastchancemusic.org>

## Helena Summer Music!

### Lesson Camps (June and August)

- Beginner musicians learn an instrument or learn choral skills
- Experienced musicians can learn a new musical skill

### Full Camp (June)

- Experienced musicians receive small group instruction
- Students rehearse and perform in a variety of ensembles



# MTNA Foundation Fellow

We did it! Congratulations and thank you! Our Montana state pledge of \$1,500 has been more than met with contributions to the MTNA Foundation in honor of our dear colleague, Sharon Weaver-Knowles, to fund her status as Montana's MTNA Foundation Fellow for the 2020-2022 biennium.



Several of our MSMTA Chapters and a host of individuals contributed to this endeavor, and, impressively, many who attended our state conference in Great Falls gave generously during the conference by writing their supportive checks between sessions, proving

that it often takes only a moment to do wonderful things.

Sharon is thrilled with this honor, which commends her life of enriching and guiding countless piano and vocal students through music. Further, her positive and tireless contributions to all her colleagues through MTNA are an inspiration to all of us!

Congratulations, Sharon, and thank you again to all who made contributions to the foundation to help seal the deal. These collective gifts enable the foundation to award teacher enrichment and local association grants, provide financial assistance for state conferences, and provide significant support for the MTNA competitions, festivals, and other opportunities for students. Our support for Sharon simultaneously supports all the beneficial programs of the foundation - a win-win!

With the upcoming MTNA National Conference now happening only virtually, we will find clever ways to gather with Sharon to applaud and celebrate her once-in-a-lifetime honor.

Thank you!  
- Steven Hesla, NCTM

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## 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: Stephanie Stevens, NCTM, at [stephanie@stephaniestudiobillings.com](mailto:stephanie@stephaniestudiobillings.com). The fee of \$1.00 per certificate should be sent to the state treasurer, Carla Bell, at 2700 1st Ave No, Great Falls, MT 59401.

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# June Werner 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 2022.

## 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, 2022.

---

## 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, 2022**

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

Judy O'Dell  
9205 Sunnyfield Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89134  
judyodell4@gmail.com

# Cinda Tompkins 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 toward a degree in music, who intends to teach piano. The degree should be in piano pedagogy or music education which includes 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, 2022.
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

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

If you are interested in serving on a Development Committee focused on planning and implementing resources and materials for the advancement of MSMTA's mission, please contact Laura Detrick at [laurainmt@gmail.com](mailto:laurainmt@gmail.com).

## AGO OPPORTUNITY

Young organists under the age of 30 may join the American Guild of Organists for free this year! For more information, visit: [www.agohq.org/free-membership/](http://www.agohq.org/free-membership/).



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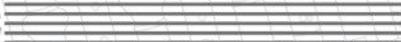
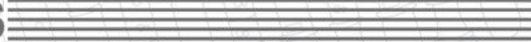
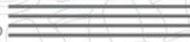
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# In Memoriam

REBECCA HEDEGAARD, 40, passed away after a two-year battle with breast cancer, on Saturday morning, January 15, 2022, at home, surrounded by family.

Rebecca Ann Helvik was born on April 15, 1981, in Missoula, to Karl and Christine (Solie) Helvik. She was the second of three children. Her early years were spent primarily on their small family farm in Helena, forming many fond memories.



She was homeschooled through 12th grade, after which she attended the University of Montana, where she earned her degree in piano performance in 2002. After briefly living in Seattle, she moved to Billings in 2004.

Rebecca met her future husband, Jared Michael Hedegaard of Sidney, in 2009, and they were married on July 9, 2011. They made their home in Billings, where they raised their two boys, Ethan and Matthew.

Rebecca developed an immediate love for music and piano at an early age. She started teaching piano at 17 and continued giving lessons throughout her life. Rebecca also excelled working for the Small Business Development Center, being named to the prestigious "40 Under 40" in 2012.

Even as her health failed, Rebecca was an example of strong faith, inspiring those around her with the hope of Christ. Rebecca was a devoted mother, homeschooling her two boys. She always had a can-do attitude, showing spunk and determination with all challenges. Many would describe her fashion sense as impeccable and chic. She loved to travel, always relishing the chance to experience a new city or culture.

Rebecca leaves behind her husband of 10 years, Jared; two sons, Ethan and Matthew; parents, Karl and Christine Helvik of Laurel; two sisters, Rachel (Thaddeus) Lesnik of Laurel, and Erica (Reese) Holle of Missoula; grandfather, Maurice Solie of Wapiti, WY; seven nieces and nephews, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Rebecca was preceded in death by grandparents Elaine Solie, and Jacob and Jeanette Helvik; cousins Eric McElmury and Bret McElmury.

Funeral services were held at Faith Evangelical Church in Billings on Saturday, January 22, 2022, with internment at Yellowstone Valley Memorial Park following the service. Remembrances, pictures, and condolences may be shared with the family at [www.dahlfuneralchapel.com](http://www.dahlfuneralchapel.com). A Rebecca Hedegaard Memorial Scholarship account has been established at Stockman Bank.

LOUISE MITCHELL was born on September 2, 1932, in Kalispell. She grew up on her parent's wheat barley farm near Whitefish with her brother, Jimmy and sister, Rosemarie. She walked a mile and a half to a one room country school from first to eighth grade. She attended high school at Loyola Sacred Heart Academy in Missoula. She earned her associates degree in elementary education at the University of Great Falls and later returned graduating in 1978 with a BA in Education. She lovingly taught school children in St. Louis, Eureka, Big Stone Colony, and Great Falls.



She married Fergus Mitchell in 1954. They lived in Anaconda where all three of their children, Frank, John, and Margaret, were born. In 1967, they moved to Great Falls where she became an active member in the community. She taught piano, organ, guitar, and violin for over 50 years, sharing her love of music. She played organ and violin for St. Ann's Catholic Cathedral, as well as belonging to a local fiddling group.

Many of you may have seen Louise running on the river's edge trail where she trained daily. She ran her first full marathon at 58 and

her last one at 79, running the Ice Breaker every year until she was 86. She inspired many to take up running and to reach goals they thought they could never achieve. She loved sewing, knitting, and crocheting. Many babies were lucky to receive her trademark booties when they came into this world. She loved to garden and to turn her raspberries into delicious, award-winning jam and her rhubarb into heartwarming pies. She passed peacefully in her sleep after a long hard fight with ovarian cancer. She was 89.

Louise was preceded in death by her husband, Fergus Mitchell; parents, Rose Burkhardt and David Blaine Wishart; brother, James; and son, Frank Mitchell. She is survived by her son, John Mitchell, married to Carey Mitchell; daughter, Margaret Mitchell, married to Louis Ippolito; grandchildren, Tesla Mitchell, Delia Mitchell, and Evan Mitchell, great-grandchildren, Kaison, Jaxon, and Amelia.

Instead of flowers please make a donation in Louise's name to one of her favorite charities, Toby House, at: <https://tobyshousemt.org/donate/>

Condolences for the family may be shared online at [www.OConnorFuneralHome.com](http://www.OConnorFuneralHome.com).

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*Great Falls lost a treasure in early January. Generations of piano students and their families will remember Louise fondly as a teacher who encouraged students to explore music as a lifelong gift. Louise was known in Great Falls as a marathon runner as well. Towards the end of her life, having had both a heart attack and cancer, her running slowed down. But neighbors still saw her chugging down the street, cheerful as ever. - Jessica Crist, Great Falls*

Louise never lost patience with students, finding ways to help those who never could master the left hand on the piano. She loved to showcase her students' accomplishments at recitals but was as anxious as they were for a successful performance. She baked her famous ginger "snappers" for the post-performance receptions, and could those cookies snap in your mouth!

- Jane Weber, Great Falls

Louise was the first of many music-teaching mentors for me. Her consistent admonitions toward gaining confidence through artistry and preparation, along with her kindness, continue to shape my teaching. She believed in and contributed to the benefits of membership in MSMTA, which exhibited her commitment to excellent music education.

- Laura Detrick, MSMTA President

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A photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler, with bright sparks flying out. The background is dark with some bokeh light effects. The text is overlaid on the image.

*It's your time to shine!*

MSMTA offers mentoring and support for members interested in pursuing MTNA national certification.  
For more information, contact Heidi Alteneider, NCTM, at [heidilbrower@gmail.com](mailto:heidilbrower@gmail.com)

# Summer Music Camps In and Near Montana 2022

Camp Name	Dates	Location	Non-resident / resident cost	Scholarship?	Age	Phone	Web Info
Flathead Lake High School Camp	July 10-16	Rollins, MT	\$480	Y	H	(406) 212-3939	<a href="http://www.flatheadlakemusiccamp.org">www.flatheadlakemusiccamp.org</a>
Flathead Lake Middle School Camp	July 18-24	Rollins, MT	\$480	Y	M	(406) 212-3939	<a href="http://www.flatheadlakemusiccamp.org">www.flatheadlakemusiccamp.org</a>
Red Lodge Music Festival	June 4-12	Red Lodge, MT	\$470/\$599	Y	7th-H	(406) 256-5210	<a href="http://www.rlmf.org">www.rlmf.org</a>
UM Piano Camp	June 12-18, 2022	Missoula, MT	\$350/\$675	N	8th+	(406) 243-6880	<a href="http://www.umt.edu/music">http://www.umt.edu/music</a>
UM Band/String Camps	June 18-23, 2022	Missoula, MT	\$230/\$460 (str.)	Y	8th+	(406) 243-6880	<a href="http://www.umt.edu/music">http://www.umt.edu/music</a>
UM Jazz Camp	June 24-30, 2022	Missoula, MT	See website	Y	8th+	(406) 243-6880	<a href="http://www.umt.edu/music">http://www.umt.edu/music</a>
Montana State University	See website	See website	See website	See website		(406) 994-3562	<a href="https://www.montana.edu/music/">https://www.montana.edu/music/</a>
Amp Camp	See website	Billings, MT	See website	Y	MHA	(406) 670-9046	<a href="http://www.ampcampbillings.com">http://www.ampcampbillings.com</a>
Camp Festival Amadeus	August 7-12, 2022	Whitefish, MT	425+	Y	M H	(406) 862-8074	<a href="http://www.northvalleymusicsschool.org">www.northvalleymusicsschool.org</a>
North Valley Music School Camps	See website	Whitefish, MT	See website	Y	E-A	(406) 862-8074	<a href="http://www.northvalleymusicsschool.org">www.northvalleymusicsschool.org</a>
Montana Fiddle Camp	June 5-10 & 12-17, 2022	Monarch, MT	\$450	?	All	(406) 320-1150	<a href="http://www.montanafiddlecamp.org">www.montanafiddlecamp.org</a>
Montana Suzuki Institute	July 17-22, 2022	Missoula, MT	\$380+	Y	PEMH	(406) 721-3194	<a href="http://www.mtsuzukistrings.org">www.mtsuzukistrings.org</a>
International Music Camp Several one week programs	Several dates. See website.	Int'l Peace Garden, ND	\$600+	Y	5th+	(701) 838-8472	<a href="http://www.internationalmusiccamp.com">www.internationalmusiccamp.com</a>
NW College Yellowstone Music Camp	June 19-24, 2022	Powell, WY	\$410/\$610	Y	NA	(307) 754-6425	<a href="http://nwc.edu/sites/music/camps/">nwc.edu/sites/music/camps/</a>
Flathead Lutheran Bible - STAR Camp (singing, theater, art, & rhythm)	June 26 - July 1, 2022	Lakeside, MT	\$600	Y	3rd-H	(406) 752-6602	<a href="http://www.flbc.net">www.flbc.net</a>
Last Chance Lesson Camps - Beginners	June 13-17, August 8-12, 2022	Helena, MT	\$125	Y	5th-H	(406) 430-0009	<a href="https://lastchancemusic.org">https://lastchancemusic.org</a>
Last Chance Music Camp - Experienced	June 19-25, 2022	Helena, MT	\$300	Y	5th-H	(406) 430-0009	<a href="https://lastchancemusic.org">https://lastchancemusic.org</a>
Nova Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids Camp & Musical Theater Intensives	Several dates. See website	Billings, MT Day camp only	See website	Y	2nd-H	(406) 591-9535	<a href="http://www.NOVAbillings.org">www.NOVAbillings.org</a>
Bozeman Summer String Jam	August 9-12, 2022	Bozeman, MT	\$160	Y	7+	(406) 599-5478	<a href="http://stringjam.blogspot.com/">http://stringjam.blogspot.com/</a>

\* Students of MSMTA members may apply for the June Werner Scholarship to help offset the cost of camp attendance. Information and application instructions may be found on page 29. While every attempt is made to make this chart as comprehensive as possible, dates and details are subject to change. Please consult each camp's website for the most up-to-date information.



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# General Meeting Minutes

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021

President Laura Detrick called the meeting to order at 9:10, with 15 members present in person, and 5 online.

The Minutes of the October 30, 2020, MSMTA Annual Meeting were printed on page 41 of the Fall Montana Music News. Margaret McGillvray moved to accept the Minutes as printed, Ruth Plesner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report (7/1/2020-6/30/2021) was printed on page 42 of the Fall Montana Music News. When a question about the absence of sponsor's and vendor's amounts for the 2020 Conference was asked, it was noted that there were no vendors/sponsors for the virtual Conference, and thus no amounts to report. Bank balance was \$37,355.78, but now a bit higher with recent Conference receipts, about \$45,000. Not shown in the report are the Cinda Tompkins Scholarship Funds \$3,500; June Warner Scholarship funds \$500; Legacy Fund \$440; and Travel Grants \$772 [nor the investment portfolio funds]. Sharon Marble moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed, subject to review; Steve Hesla seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Membership Report:** Kimberly Peachy, NCTM, was newly appointed to take over the office of Membership Secretary. MSMTA has 98 members, which includes 10 out-of-state and 5 student members. Count last year was 109. Committee Chair reports are on the Google drive. Members are encouraged to read them.

**Fall Festival:** Carole Hatley said the results from this weekend will go into the Spring 2022 Montana Music News. She decided not to resign as Chairman, but if she moves out of state, someone will need to step forward. This year apps/fees were mailed in. Committee Recommendation going forward – do all submissions online just like MTNA does, allowing no late entries. Second Recommendation - that the Fall Festival Coordinator work closely with the MTNA Competition Coordinator. Would also be nice to have an intern help on the Committee.

**Library:** Ruth Plesner brought MSMTA's physical library of VCRs, DVDs (past Conferences), 1 textbook. Members were encouraged to take what they'd like and whatever is left over, Stephanie Stevens plans to take to digitalize, and will check copyright law with MTNA's legal department.

**Past Commissioned Works:** Kate Hansen said Charlene Waddingham has an old manuscript from Brownie Snyder, commissioned by MSMTA. What happens to it, as well as past commissions? No members seemed to know where other MSMTA commissioned works are. Kate will reach out to MTNA to determine whereabouts of past MSMTA commissioned works if they had been submitted. Jessica Olson said composers retain rights to their commissioned works and copies should be returned to them; they should never be distributed by our association. Further discussion TABLED for next year.

**MTNA Foundation Fellow Report:** Steve Hesla reported that \$815 has been raised towards the \$1,500 goal to support Sharon Weaver-Knowles. February 2, 2022, is the deadline to submit donations to Carla Bell. Reach out to membership via email with updates and future opportunities.

**Education:** Ruth Plesner reported that Billings member Stephanie Stevens was newly certified this past year.

**Budget:** A printed proposed Budget for 7/1/2022-6/30/2023 was handed out which members of the Finance Committee (Sharon Marble, Margaret McGillvray) had formulated with Carla Bell's help. Margaret McGillvray moved to accept the 2022-2023 budget as presented, seconded by Lynn Bassett. Vote to approve – unanimous.

**Development:** The plan is to appoint a Chair and established a committee, to reach those who can benefit from all offerings of our Association. The Committee would follow a 4-step process: (1) research what sort of materials are needed to promote and develop MSMTA; (2) apply for MTNA's Development Grant to fund those resources; (3) make those materials/resourced; (4) use those materials in applying for more substantial collaborative assistance, such as the MAC Statewide Arts Service Organizations Public Value Partnerships. If you wish to volunteer, let Laura or Carla know. [Christopher Hahn indicated that he and Jessica Olson would ponder this.]

**Internship Program:** It is important to include collegiate students in what MSMTA does and has to offer to them, and an internship program could meet this need. Students' research can be disseminated and mentorship opportunities be made available. It would be a two-sided benefit – allowing them to serve in an organization that brings them opportunities, AND they can get credits. Dorothy Peterson volunteered to serve as Chair, but needs assistance. MSMTA is an OPI provider. Ruth Plesner will help get this set up permanently, but someone is needed to help with its future administration.

## OLD BUSINESS

MSMTA had a booth at the recent MMEA Conference, and Laura Detrick, Ginny Reese, and Carla Bell were there to connect. Very encouraging partnership opportunities.

**Dues:** The Executive Committee passed a Motion to raise dues \$2, from \$40 to \$42. Discussion. Christopher Hahn made a motion to amend that motion from a \$2 to \$5 increase. Margaret McGillvray seconded. VOTE on the Amended Motion: Unanimous.

TABLED TO NEXT YEAR: Marketing definition (Tammie Nelson) and Legacy/Memorial Fund.

Laura adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Marble Secretary pro tem (in Charlene Loge's absence)

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