

MONTANA MUSIC NEWS

A publication of Montana State Music Teachers Association | Spring 2023



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- *2023 MSMTA State Conference*
- *2022 MSMTA Conference Highlights*
- *Festival and Competition Results*
- *Origin Stories*

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Committee Chair Reports for the 2021-2022 fiscal year can be found online at: <https://tinyurl.com/3x8e4ub5>

Committee chairs are asked to submit reports to President Ginny Reese at ginnyreese10@gmail.com in advance of the association's annual meeting during the MSMTA State Conference.

If you have photos, local news, articles, or member accomplishments you would like to feature in Montana Music News, please contact President Ginny Reese at ginnyreese10@gmail.com and Publications Editor Jessica Olson at pianoheader@gmail.com in advance of MMN's July 15 or January 15 newsletter deadline.

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ORIGIN STORIES

GINNY REESE, PRESIDENT

As I considered what to write for my first state president article, I thought introducing myself would be appropriate. I've only lived in Montana for 6 years, but the kindness and warmth from the other music teachers makes me feel like I've been here much longer; for that I am so grateful. We are a large state with a small population, and it quickly became obvious to me how important it is for us to stay connected.



As I look back on what brought me to music and teaching, I realize it was a process of many steps and decisions, chance and destiny. The Origin Story has been around since time immemorial, from ancient myths to modern movies. Though we may not be considered superheroes in the modern media sense, we are all amazing for being who we are and giving so much of ourselves and our passions to our students.

My first musical memory was a little music box, that I still have, that plays Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers." My mother was my first teacher. She played piano, sang and danced. My childhood days were filled with music, dancing around the house and singing in the car to the fantastic radio hits of those days. She loved Motown, funk, Chopin and

Rachmaninoff. I was raised on a beautiful combination of Stevie Wonder and classical piano. My dad was an elementary school teacher, so our home was one of constant learning and academics.

I begged for piano lessons on the old spinet piano we had for years. I finally got my wish at age nine, and that was it. I was hooked. However, I thought I would take lessons for a few weeks and then be able to play the complicated Chopin Etudes my cousin could play. Ha! I was quite wrong. But I was still hooked. I learned quickly and fell in love with Bach, Debussy, Scarlatti and Chopin.

As I moved into adulthood, I changed my mind many times about the course of my life and career. I tried social work, worked at crisis centers and shelters and tutored at elementary schools. Music never left, and I continued taking music classes and lessons. I became serious about teaching 26 years ago. I immediately joined my local MTA because "that's what you do," and I wanted opportunities for my students. I was happily surprised to find kind support, continuing education and one of my very best friends. The love for music and learning passed to my son, who is an amazing pianist and elementary music teacher. As I see my grandchildren loving music and art, I see the "origin story" that began with my mother continue to move through our family.

What is your Origin Story? I would love to hear how you came to love music, your instrument and teaching. Feel free to send me your stories and perhaps we can print them in a future newsletter.

Love and peace to you,

Ginny Reese

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

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



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

Ms. Oliver has been praised by critics as “highly talented,” with a “steely-fingered” technique and a flair for “panache and drama.” (*SL Trib.*) “Byington’s command of dynamic phrasing infused each note with elegant intensity in

slower passages; in virtuosic sections, she played with assuredness and authority.” Ms. Oliver’s first CD, *JENSINA OLIVER performs Chopin, Liszt, Brahms, and Rachmaninoff* is available on CDBaby.com.

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

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

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

Northwest region. In addition, she is newly appointed as a co-artistic partner for the Bellingham House Concerts Series.

Many of Dr. Zavislak's university and pre-college students have received top prizes and honors in a number of international and regional piano festivals and competitions, such as Nomea International Piano Competition in Italy, the Memorial "Sanja Pavlovic" International Competition in Serbia, Stage4Kids Festival in Germany, MTNA Northwest Regional Competition, MTNA Washington State Competition, MTNA Idaho State Competition, Seattle Russian Chamber Music Competition, Spokane Piano Competition, Music Fest Northwest in Spokane, WA, and Sonata-Sonatina Festival in Ellensburg WA. Some of Dr. Zavislak's former students have been accepted with a full tuition waiver to Bachelor and Master programs nationally. Besides teaching, Dr. Zavislak is in high

demand for adjudicating, judging, and giving lectures and workshops locally, regionally, and nationally.

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

Registration for the 2023 MSMTA Conference will open in August 2023. Visit msmta.com for updated conference information as well as an archive of recorded conference sessions.

Creative COLLABORATIONS!

2023 MSMTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 2-4, 2023

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GUEST PRESENTERS

JENSINA OLIVER AND
KAY ZAVISLAK
AS DUO CASCADIA

MORE INFORMATION
TO COME!



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information.

Every two years, Montana music students compete for the opportunity to perform a solo debut with one of Montana's Symphony Orchestras and win cash prizes. The 2023 Young Artists Competition is open to musicians ages 13 through undergraduate to perform a work for solo instrument with orchestral accompaniment.

Start Rehearsing, Win Cash Prizes!

Junior Division—\$450 Prize

(Ages 13 through 15)

Senior Division—\$650 Prize

(Ages 16 through high school graduate)

College Division—\$1,000 Prize

(Post high school through age 22)

Mark Your Calendar

Application Deadline: Online application
submitted no later than December 1st, 2022

Competition Finals ONLINE Saturday,
January 7th, 2023

FALL FESTIVAL RESULTS

SINGLE PIECE PIANO

Elementary Division

1st place: Cheyenne Wang, *student of Dorothy Beck Peterson, NCTM*

2nd place: Nick Pytel, *student of Ginny Reese*



Left to right: Cheyenne Wang, Nick Pytel

SHORT PROGRAM PIANO

Elementary Division

1st place: Zipei Anna Liu, *student of Dorothy Beck Peterson, NCTM*

2nd place: Beau Becker, *student of Karen Huffman*



Left to right: Zipei Anna Liu, Beau Becker

Junior Division

1st place: Felixe Becker, *student of Karen Huffman*

2nd place: Sosaia Tupou, *student of Margaret McGillvray*

3rd place: Elizabeth Walker, *student of Lynn Bassett*



Left to right: Elizabeth Walker, Sosaia Tupou, and Felixe Becker

(There were no entries in the Short Program Piano Junior Division.)

Senior Division

1st place: Anna Rodriguez, *student of Sherlon Orth*

2nd place: Ritu Bajwa, *student of Kenneth Christensen, NCTM*

3rd place: Kamara Walker, *student of Lynn Bassett*



Left to right: Anna Rodriguez, Ritu Bajwa, and Kamara Walker



Senior Division

1st place: Nichole Walker, *Student of Lynn Bassett*

Adjudicator: Dr. William Chapman Nyaho
Fall Festival Chair: Carole Hatley



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STATE MTNA COMPETITION RESULTS

Junior Composition

Felixe Becker,
Montana Representative
Student of Karen Huffman



Junior Piano

Felixe Becker,
Montana Representative
Student of Karen Huffman



Young Artist Brass

Winner: Jake Kittleson, tuba
Student of Jeannie Little
Alternate: Sydney Eastwood,
trumpet
Student of Sarah Stoneback
Honorable Mention:
Luke Heupel, trumpet
Student of Sarah Stoneback

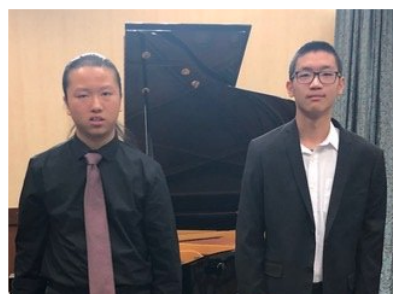
Junior String

Winner: Bonnie
Groenenboom, violin
*Student of Margaret
Baldrige*
Alternate: Addison
Crist, viola
Student of Jennifer Smith



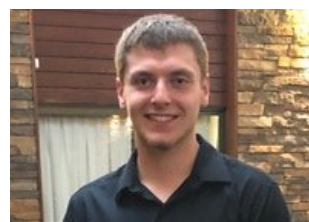
Young Artist Woodwind

Winner: Antonio Jarvey,
saxophone
Student of Johan Eriksson
Alternate: Hayden
Pritchard, clarinet
Student of Gregory Young



Senior Piano

Winner: Yuan Du
*Student of Christopher
Hahn, NCTM*
Alternate: Zichong
Chen
Student of Wai Mizutani

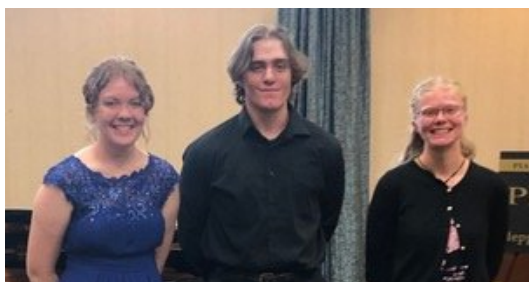


Young Artist Piano

Tanner Jordan, Montana
Representative
Student of Scott Holden

Young Artist String

Winner: Catherine Treis, violin
Student of Margaret Baldrige
Alternate: Marian Kale
Student of Margaret Baldrige
Honorable Mention: Noah Certalic
Student of Angella Ahn



Montana was well represented by a slate of eight competitors in the Northwest Division MTNA Competitions. Tanner Jordan is the winner of the Young Artist Piano Performance Competition, Jake Kittleson is the winner of the Young Artist Brass Performance Competition and Antonio Jarvey is the alternate in the Young Artist Woodwind Performance Competition. Congratulations to all!

- Dorothy Peterson, NCTM, MTNA Competitions Chair

Adjudicators:

Dr. William Chapman Nyaho, piano
Mary Papoulis, strings; Madeleine Folkerts, brass;
Susan Makeever, woodwinds; Ryne Siesky, composition

2022 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



MSMTA members from around Montana and beyond gathered at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman from October 27-29, 2022, for the 95th Annual State Conference, titled “The Treasure Within.” Many thanks to Laura Detrick and the entire conference committee for organizing this enriching and informative event!

Left: Keynote Presenter Dennis Alexander (Albuquerque, NM) and 2022 MSMTA Teacher of the Year Margaret McGillvray, NCTM (Billings)



Center Right: Billings MTA members (left to right) Sharon Marble; Charlene Waddingham; Sherlon Orth, NCTM; Anna Rodriguez; Margaret McGillvray, NCTM; Lynn Bassett, Therese Bertrand, NCTM; Stephanie Stevens, NCTM

Center Left: Treasurer Carla Bell (Great Falls). Carla works tirelessly for MSMTA and always ensures our conference technology runs smoothly!

Right: MSMTA President Laura Detrick; Keynote Presenter Dennis Alexander; past MTNA President Ken Christensen, NCTM (Bozeman); piano adjudicator and presenter Dr. William Chapman Nyaho (Seattle, WA)





Left: Members of the Kalispell Area MTA attend the 2022 Awards Banquet. (Left to right) Dr. Jordan Neiman; MSMTA President-Elect Ginny Reese; Diane Völkman, NCTM; Marcy Holston; and Maryruth Fallon

Right: Local association presidents and representatives after the 2022 Awards Banquet. (Left to right) Landon Kleeman (UM Collegiate Chapter President); MSMTA President-Elect Ginny Reese (Kalispell); Dr. Jordan Neiman (Kalispell Area MTA); Kimberly Peachy, NCTM (Great Falls MTA); Diane Dwyer (Southwest Montana MTA); President Laura Detrick (Great Falls); Tricia Cox (Butte-Anaconda MTA); Lynn Bassett (Billings MTA); and Christopher Hahn, NCTM (Missoula MTA)



Below: The UM Collegiate Chapter presented a session titled "From Student to Studio" focused on innovative private teaching methods.



String quartet from Montana State University School of Music performs for the 2022 Awards Banquet

Right: Longtime friend of MSMTA John Pennington of Morgenroth Music in Missoula received a special honor for his dedicated service to Montana teachers and MSMTA members during the 2022 Awards Banquet. (Left to right) Heidi Martin; Margery Whatley, NCTM; Molly Morrison, NCTM; Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM; Dorothy Petersen, NCTM; John Pennington; Christopher Hahn, NCTM (all of Missoula); Ken Christensen, NCTM (Bozeman); Steven Hesla, NCTM (Missoula); and Keynote Presenter Dennis Alexander (Albuquerque, NM).





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2022 CONFERENCE SESSIONS: The Treasure Within

Why Didn't I Think of That? Dennis Alexander

Dennis opened the session by encouraging ANY student or teacher to write to him through his website (dennisalexander.com) and he WILL respond to every question. In fact, he said he feels like Ann Landers when responding! He created this highly-informative and practical session as a result of questions he has received over the years.

Dennis shared 18 questions, supported by his excellent handout "Listing of Source Materials for Piano Teachers."



Keynote Presenter Dennis Alexander

Some examples:
How do we play/teach Baroque and Classical musical ornaments? Where can I hear recordings of your pieces (website); What are your favorite technique books? Have you let a student go because a parent is annoying? Is it wise to

play new pieces for beginners before they go home to practice? I teach the same old recital pieces, do you have new recommendations? Is there a good book on pedaling? How do I get my students to listen and use descriptive words to critique? What books can guide students in composition? What do I do with unprepared teen students? He provided concise answers to each question.

Dennis also shared his "go to app" - Any Tunes Pro+ (Iphones) or Music Speed Changer. He

closed with an anonymous quote: Music speaks what cannot be expressed. Soothes the mind and gives it rest, heals the heart and makes it whole, flows from heaven to the soul. Fully refreshed and regenerated,

- Sharon Marble, Billings

Practical, Purposeful, and Plentiful: The Music of Dennis Alexander

Dennis Alexander presented a showcase of his compositions. He explained that Alfred would no longer be publishing his works, but Kjos and Hal Leonard have approached him for new repertoire. There is a link on his website listing his compositions.

Toccatas

There is a list of toccatas on his website that has teaching tips for each of them. He shared *Blue Blues Toccata* - built on the 12 bar blues - fun to play as the right hand crosses over to the lower black keys. *Toccata Español* has a fast tempo, and students must not begin too fast or will find themselves in trouble in the fast section!

Nocturnes

There are videos of each Nocturne on his website. These are more accessible to students who are not quite ready for Chopin. The left hand is not spread out so far with a closer position. Always playing 'like' things a little differently is something to keep in mind when teaching the Nocturnes.

He also shared his Mini Overtures, Magic Overtures, and Magnificent Overtures as well as the Premier Express Series and Christmas Improvisations.

I certainly came away with many new ideas for teaching repertoire.

- Diane Volkman, NCTM, Kalispell
(continued on page 17)

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Expanding Repertoire Choices: Music of Africa and the African Diaspora Dr. William Chapman Nyaho

Dr. Nyaho grew up “straddling two different music cultures,” western classical music and indigenous West African music. When he moved to Louisiana, Dr. Nyaho started exploring African music. He came to realize there was very little “access” to African music in written form and no authoritative list on which one could begin researching.

In 2021 he presented a proposal for MTNA to have some printed music of African composers. Oxford University Press then took on the task of publishing an anthology of printed music entitled *Expanding Repertoire Choices; Piano Music of Africa and African Diaspora*.

Composers from the 1800’s to now and from the Caribbean, Cuba, Jamaica, Egypt, USA, Congo, Nigeria, Haiti, UK, Sudan, and South Africa have all been brought forth in these five books. Not only is the music presented in musical notation so that the world of music could share and perform these pieces but the art work for the covers is inspired by the textiles and jewelry native to African countries. These books would be a wonderful reference for any studio.

- *Cynthia Kaelberer, Cody, Wyoming*

Independent Music Teachers’ Forum Dr. Greg Young and Stephanie Stevens, NCTM

The Independent Music Teachers Forum session focused most of the attention to the topic of improvisation. Dr. Young from Montana State University opened the discussion with a short talk on the importance and struggles of incorporating improvisation into the studio.

He played a recording of an improvised performance titled, "Heart Strings; Playing

From The Soul." Dr. Young emphasized that the cellist initially expressed, as many of us do, apprehension about improvising, yet after a few weeks, improvised her part on this recording. Dr. Young then described the "four legs of the footstool" for music teaching: Improvisation, Sight Reading, Playing from Memory, and Playing by Ear. He connected each of these "legs" with the visual, aural, and kinesthetic aspects of music learning. The implication was that improvisation is an equally foundational aspect of musicianship as reading music, despite the fact that we often neglect improvisation in our own practice and teaching. He suggested students start by improvising on one note, then add a note, and emphasized the importance of "hearing it in your head first" while improvising.



Dr. Greg Young presents during the IMTF

The discussion shifted to a video presentation of a recent trip by MSU students and faculty to Spain. It was a collaborative project between the cello choir at MSU, and students from the music technology program. This highlighted the benefits of studying abroad, and Dr. Young encouraged our students to take future opportunities to study abroad.

Stephanie Stevens continued the discussion on improvising, addressing the topic from different angles. It was mentioned that improvisation could help a student move through mistakes and memory slips during a performance. It can be a great way to keep a
(continued on page 19)

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student engaged, and can also be an tool for learning a new piece. She also brought up the differences in learning styles and personalities that can make a student more comfortable with improvisation. For example, a student who is very good at following directions and prefers organized instructions might find improvisation more challenging than a student who is more creative, outgoing, and imaginative.

The session ended with brainstorming ideas about one particular student who struggles with reading music. The student could not seem to translate the notes in the score to the fingers and keyboard. There were no particular “solutions” offered, but several ideas were tossed around including incorporating rote learning, the presence of a reading issue or perception issue, and other strategies and tips from the other teachers present.

- Dr. Jordan Neiman, Kalispell



Attendees were treated to a virtual tour of Michelle Van Allen’s creative teaching studio during the UM Keyboard Society’s Collegiate Chapter Presentation

Advanced Piano Master Class Michael Sheppard

Michael Sheppard, guest pianist with the Bozeman Symphony, presented an advanced masterclass. Dylan Bautista, student at University of Montana, played the Brahms Capriccio in G minor from *Fantasies*, Op. 116.

Sheppard shared that if the student is convinced by their interpretation, he too is

convinced. He related many nuggets of wisdom from his former teacher at the Peabody Conservatory, Leon Fleisher. One that stood out was, “Put your emotions in the drawer and play the music.” Sheppard suggested that advanced students study the score before listening to recordings.

He worked primarily with Dylan on the rhythmic structure of the piece and the tempo relationship between the different sections. The teaching resulted in another interpretation that was equally compelling as the first rendition; one that highlighted what was already in the score.

- Julie Gossweiler, Bozeman



Left to right: Dr. William Chapman Nyaho (Seattle, WA); Laura Detrick (Great Falls); Jessica Olson (Bozeman); Tammy Park, Carla Bell (Great Falls)



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BILLINGS MTA

A big hello from Billings! We thoroughly enjoyed mingling with you at our conference in Bozeman. A “Hearty Thanks” to all conference planners and presenters!

Here are a few of the things we’ve been “up to.” Our Fall Kickoff was cancelled for lack of participation, I think mostly because we scheduled it too early in the year. Students and teachers hadn’t had a chance to get to know each other, and teachers didn’t know how to place their students. I think we would also benefit from a more precise description of each station offered. There are things to be learned from flops, too.

In October, Janell McKenney gave a marvelous demonstration at the Billings Public Library Community Room, and even recorded a Zoom presentation about using technology in our studios. She is always helping us move forward.

We had great participation in our marathons at St. John’s Chapel Court. In November we had eight teachers and about 65 students participate, chaired by Alma Wiesner. In December we had ten teachers and 129 students participate, co-chaired by Sarra Nienaber and Beverly Richards. We received scholarship contributions at both events. What a great turnout! Lots of fun for teachers, students, and residents.

On a very cold night in December, a few of us gathered to enjoy hor d’oeuvres and play holiday music. There were a few issues that prevented more people from coming, but the spirit was festive and relaxing.

Our January meeting was so motivating! One of our new members, Beverly Richards, MThL, presented a PowerPoint at the Billings Public

Library Community Room entitled, “The WOW Factor! Music Collaboration for 2023 and Beyond.” Her “take away”? Stay curious, keep growing! She is a great example of that.

We have some great meetings and experiences remaining this year, including a masterclass with Jackie Weitz, Duets and Donuts, Sonatina Festival, and Spring Festival. We would not be able to carry out so many amazing events without the participation of so many members. Everyone has something to share and we benefit from every member.

-Lynn Bassett, President, Billings MTA President

GREAT FALLS MTA

GFMTA got off to a great start in September with a potluck breakfast meeting. Our meetings each month were spent making plans for participation in the Fall Conference in October, the Christmas Stroll in December, and our Spring Festival coming up in March. Several of our members did attend the Conference in Bozeman and very much enjoyed hearing from Dennis Alexander as well as the other presenters.

Unfortunately our plans to present a student recital at the Christmas Stroll the first weekend of December did not work out this year, but we are hoping to start planning earlier so that it can happen in December 2023. We did enjoy yet another delicious potluck breakfast at our December meeting followed by performances of Christmas music by our members. Plans are well underway for our Spring Music Festival and Honors Recital mid-March, and for our Select Student Recital in May.

- Kim Peachy, NCTM, Great Falls MTA President

KALISPELL AREA MTA

Happy greetings from Kalispell. It was wonderful for me to meet the teachers of MSMTA at the conference last year in Bozeman. Montana music teaching is in great hands!

New KAMTA activities have kept a lot of us busy through these winter months. We have introduced two new student recitals to the Flathead Valley. These recitals include students of KAMTA and non-KAMTA members, an opportunity that has been appreciated by local teachers with smaller studios. We hope these will inspire other local teachers to get involved.

The first recital was titled *Collaborate!* featuring four-hand piano duos. This happened in November 2022. We had several teacher/student duos as well as students who played with each other. We were thrilled to see a packed house with students from six different teachers.

In February, we had our second combined recital titled *Pops and Popcorn*. Students prepared tunes from movies, pop songs, and video games. We had 60+ students participate and had to break the day into two recitals. We probably could have even done three recitals! In future years, our plan is to continue this recital, changing the theme from pops to baroque, classical, romantic, etc.

KAMTA has grown! We welcome a new member, Debby Gardner, who is the choir accompanist at Glacier High School. We are also grateful to Dan Kohnstamm of Whitefish, our new MSMTA grant writer.

Currently, we are working on our Spring Festival in March. Dr. Margery Whatley will adjudicate. Additionally, we are working with FVCC to host Jody Graves for a workshop and performance with the Sapphire Trio. Progress continues to be made on the 2023 MSMTA Conference, thanks to the hard work of Ginny Reese.

Wishing you all a great spring semester,

Dr. Jordan Neiman, KAMTA president

MISSOULA MTA

The Missoula Music Teachers Association had a lovely gathering of UM students and MMTA teachers at the home of Karen and Gary Woodgerd in November to visit and enjoy each other's company. This was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, and lots of laughs were shared by all. We are all looking forward to a busy spring semester with our Spring Festival taking place on March 11-13 for piano and strings, and our Sonatina Festival taking place in April. We will also welcome back the in-person Royal Conservatory of Music examinations in May for the first time since the pandemic.

The Missoula association has had a few significant deaths in 2022, including Bill Knowles, loving husband of Sharon Weaver-Knowles, and former UM faculty and husband of Katherine Skinner, Lucien Hut. These were important, larger than life figures in the Missoula community with far-reaching reputations beyond our fair city. They will be dearly missed.

We are starting to regain our footing and our steam for the future of music in Missoula! Exciting times ahead!

- Christopher Hahn, NCTM, Missoula MTA President

SOUTHWEST MONTANA MTA

Greetings to our colleagues around the state! SMMTA would like to extend its appreciation to all involved in making our fall conference in Bozeman such a success! The planning committee, led by Laura Detrick and Diane Dwyer, included many of our local teachers, and we are so grateful to all those here in

Bozeman and around the state who made the event so enjoyable.

While we have been on a bit of a hiatus with local events and meetings since the pandemic, our members remain dedicated to serving students and the arts community in the Gallatin Valley. At the conference, several local members discussed organizing a group trip to the symphony with our students in May, and I hope that this will come to fruition! It was a real pleasure gathering and learning together.

MSMTA is currently without a local president, and our busy lives have made it difficult to organize meetings, recitals, and festivals. I have noticed in my own studio that this time of upheaval has changed the priorities of both teachers and students. This is both a challenge and an exciting opportunity for growth. I'm hopeful that this post-Covid era will bring new and creative ways to invigorate our events that are both beneficial to and manageable for our members. We are grateful for the inspiration of fellow associations as you share what works for you and your students, what reinvigorates their learning, and how exciting and creative events might be organized efficiently and effectively.

On a very happy note, we are thrilled to learn that our dear friend and colleague, Julie Gosswiller, has been selected as MSMTA's Teacher of the Year for 2023! Julie has been foundational to our association with her vast knowledge and gentle leadership for many years. Her expertise as a teacher and performer are clear, and we are so grateful for the many informative meetings and inspirational events she has organized over the years. She is encouraging, inspiring, and an extremely gifted teacher and musician. Congratulations, Julie!

I am looking forward to reconnecting with many of you at the MTNA National Conference in Reno, where I know I will receive renewal and inspiration! See you there!

- Jessica Olson, Secretary/Treasurer, Southwest Montana MTA

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, Publications Editor, at pianoheader@gmail.com.

JODY GRAVES TO PRESENT IN KALISPELL

Jody Graves will present a workshop on April 29, 2023, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Swank Recital Hall at Flathead Valley Community College titled, "Beyond the Right Notes." In describing the workshop, Graves says, "The printed page is only the "window" into the score ... a blueprint of the composers' aural intentions. Our work as teachers and performers is to get "behind the score" and bring the music to life by inspiring curiosity and discovery. With the



advent of synthetic recordings, and the recent limitations on live performances, the aural acuity of our students has significantly diminished.

Printed fingerings, dynamics and tempos are guidelines, but not always an exact "directive". Much of what we do to unravel the score and move into stylistic and artistic delivery demands integration of the "right notes" and the right sound/shape/inflection/ balance etc. We have to guide students to navigate the musical language in this way ... and it can happen from the very beginning at any age and any stage!"

MSMTA members are invited to attend. Please contact KAMTA President Dr. Jordan Neiman at jordan.neiman@gmail.com for more information.

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MEMBER MILESTONES

2022 Membership Recognitions

KIMBERLY PEACHY, NCTM, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

MSMTA congratulates our Member Milestone Achievements for 2022. Attaining ten years of membership are David Klassy, Brad Knutson and Alma Wiesner. Fifteen-year certificates are awarded to Sue Bowman, Ruth Plesner NCTM, Kevin Rindlisbacher, and Deborah Schuerr. Arle Lohof and Karen McLean have attained 20 Years of Membership. Therese Bertrand, NCTM, and Kathleen Hansen, NCTM, celebrate 25 years, while Kenneth Christensen, NCTM, and Ruth Clawson have achieved 30 Years of Membership. Judy O'Dell and Dorothy Peterson, NCTM, have attained 40 years of membership while 45-year certificates are awarded to Gay Garard-Brewer, NCTM, and Diane Volkman, NCTM. Our highest certificate award this year goes to Steve Hesla, NCTM, who has achieved 50 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.



Members accept membership awards during the 2022 MSMTA Awards Banquet. Left to right: Therese Bertrand, NCTM; Dorothy Petersen, NCTM; Diane Volkman, NCTM; Kenneth Christensen, NCTM; and Steven Hesla, NCTM.

2022 FINANCIAL REVIEW

The MSMTA By Laws direct that the Treasurer's records and financial statements be reviewed in even-numbered years. The review for the two fiscal years 7/1/20-6/30/21 and 7/1/21-6/30/22, was completed on October 13, 2022, by Sharon Marble and Margaret McGillvray, Billings, Montana, at the request of President Laura Detrick. We found the records and reports neatly organized, making it easy to cross-check with monthly bank statements, quarterly portfolio statements and receipts. A few questions were posed for Carla to explain. It appears that the change to Quickbooks On-Line was a good choice, and is a better program to reflect the income/expenses and workings of our association in a clearer fashion than before. Our compliments to Carla Bell for the accuracy of her bookkeeping, retention of receipts, detailed reports, and quick explanations to questions. She truly does an amazing job as our MSMTA Treasurer.

- Sharon Marble and Margaret McGillvray, NCTM, (Billings), Reviewers

JOB DESCRIPTION HANDBOOK

MSMTA will be updating the state chair job description booklet in 2023. Sarra Nienaber of Billings has volunteered to take on this important task. Please submit job descriptions for your position no later than June 1, 2023, via email to snienaberpiano@gmail.com. Thank you, Sarra, for organizing this important document!

- Laura Detrick, Immediate Past President

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ORIGIN STORIES: How MTNA Touched my Life

STEVEN HESLA, NCTM, DIVISION DIRECTOR-ELECT

When I was a young farm boy, MTNA played a significant role in my life. Specifically, it helped define my goals and gave them focus. The annual “superior” or “gold medal” awards at local festivals were motivating, and I always



gave my all, but I wanted something more. After my freshman year in high school, my wonderful teacher suggested I enter the then-new MTNA Piano Competition for high school pianists. She helped me choose a challenging program,

and I immediately upped my two-hour daily practice schedule to four hours a day several months in advance of the competition. Little did I know that my career path had just been set!

A few months later, I was thrilled to be recognized as the “alternate” winner for the state of South Dakota. After being declared the alternate state winner again a year later, I set deeper goals, and finally in my senior year I won the SDMTA High School Piano Competition. My musical passions soared! Realizing that it had taken three years to become a state winner, I ramped up to six hours daily practice and won the West Central Division Competition several months later. That’s the gist of how I became an MTNA national finalist, a piano major at the Oberlin Conservatory with graduate studies at the University of Illinois, followed by six years of teaching and performing at Western Michigan University and 43 more wonderful years at the University of Montana.

Without those ambitious goals and the opportunities MTNA provided, I might still be

raising pigs! MTNA local, state, and national opportunities have enriched my life ever since, and in turn I have been privileged to share my lifelong musical passions with wonderful colleagues as well as countless talented and aspiring students, many of whom have developed musical careers of their own. MTNA, I have experienced, elevates the profession, and deepens all who become involved. Go MTNA!

If you would like to submit a short article about how MTNA has changed your life, please email your origin story to Ginny Reese at ginnyreese10@gmail.com and to Northwest Division Director-Elect Steve Hesla at steven.hesla@umontana.edu.



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2023 TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Julie Gosswiller

JESSICA OLSON, PUBLICATIONS EDITOR

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



Julie earned her master's degree in piano performance from the University of Colorado, where she studied with Angela Cheng, Robert Spillman, and Doris Lehnert. After being awarded an accompanying assistantship, she went on to serve as a student coach

accompanist at the Aspen Music Festival. After graduating, she served as pianist for Colorado Children's Chorale before moving to Bozeman with her family, where she currently serves as an Associate Teaching Professor at Montana State University, where she earned MSU Awards for Excellence in Teaching in 2012 and 2017.

A frequent collaborator, Julie often appears alongside fellow MSU faculty and other renowned musicians such as Adam Barnett Hart of the Escher String Quartet, the Ahn Trio, and Dallas Brass. Along with being featured twice on the the PBS Series *11th and Grant with Erik Funk*, she and soprano Elizabeth Croy were finalists and semifinalists in the Brahms International Competition, Savannah Music Festival, and have won several awards in the Cyber Sing Competition.

An accomplished and well-loved teacher, Julie's students have won the Montana State University Concerto Competition, and her private students have won state MTNA Competitions at the elementary, junior, and senior levels.

According to MSU professor Dr. Greg Young, Julie's students "rave about her caring nature

and ability to help them reach their full potential." This gift for teaching and mentorship lies at the heart of Julie's selection for this award.

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

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

Long-time MSMTA member and former Secretary Charlene Loge says, "I could write much more about how Julie Gosswiller helped me immensely over the years Ingrid and Britta DeGroot were preparing for MSMTA and MTNA competitions. In specially-arranged lessons, my students (and me) learned much about practice techniques, interpretations, musical line, technical aspects to achieve performance skills. She was kind, generous with her time, always positive. I've also benefited from her encouraging (and *(continued on page 31)*)

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

The Keyboard Division at the University of Montana School of Music is a thriving place! Our 22 piano majors and two organ performance majors are constantly busy and in demand. We have had an exciting year so far! Our annual Pianissimo! concerts were a rousing success with the Halloween theme providing an excellent opportunity for everyone to dress up and play some really great music! The UM pedagogy majors presented their topic, “The Transition from Student to Studio: Busyness to Business!” at the MSMTA State Conference, which is always a thrill. Even more thrilling was being selected to present at the 12th Annual MTNA Collegiate Chapter Symposium at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX! We travelled down with eight students total, and our session was featured as the opening plenary session of the symposium! It was a real hit, and the University of Montana students left a lasting impression on all during the three days with their professionalism, friendliness, and great personalities. What a thrill!



Members of the UM Keyboard Society with Janet Lopinski, RCM Director, MTNA CEO Gary Ingle, and TCU Faculty Anne Gipson

Coming up next is a featured performance on two grand pianos by faculty and students in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Montana State Capitol Building on February 7th at 7 p.m. for the state legislators. Our annual Keyboard Festival will take place April 28-30, and we will welcome back the fabulous Duo Turgeon as our guest teachers and performers. Please mark

your calendars for their concert on April 30 at 3:00 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall on campus. This one is not-to-be-missed! Additionally, many of our excellent students will be presenting junior and senior recitals this spring, so keep an eye out for those dates. And remember, Piano Camp is June 11-17, 2023!

Margery Whatley is enjoying her second year back in Missoula and teaching at the University of Montana. In September, she was thrilled to collaborate with her brother, violinist Robert McDuffie, performing the Mendelssohn Double Concerto for Violin and Piano with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra. This coming fall, they'll once again be performing the Mendelssohn in their hometown of Macon, Georgia, as well as in Huntsville, Alabama. She has had a blast participating in the UM School of Music's annual Fusion and Pianissimo concerts and is already excited for next year's performance opportunities. Meanwhile, she is looking forward to serving as president-elect of MSMTA, giving a program and adjudicating for KAMTA, heading to Reno for the MTNA National Conference in March, and getting geared up for UM Piano Camp in June!

Christopher Hahn continues to stay active with his various teaching and performing duties at the University of Montana and at Play Piano Academy. The days are busy, and the joys are innumerable! This past fall, he was the featured teacher for the Spokane Music Teachers Association Pedagogy Day where he presented three different workshop topics for an enthusiastic group of 75 teachers and students. In addition to being the Chair of the Keyboard Division at UM and its seemingly endless amount of administrative and organizational duties, he serves as the choir director at University Congregational Church, plays with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra, and continues to plan events for the Missoula Music Teachers Association, including the Spring

Festival and the Sonatina Festival. This spring he will adjudicate in Seattle for the WSMTA, and for the District and State Music Festivals. He hopes to see lots of his fellow Montanans at National in Reno in March and welcomes students to the UM Piano Camp this summer! He and his wife, Valerie, are excited to be preparing for the expansion of Play Piano Academy this summer!

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Greetings from the School of Music at Montana State University! Our faculty and staff hope you are having a wonderful teaching year and look forward to a productive and musical spring semester working with educators across Montana!

We welcomed several new faculty members to Howard Hall this academic year. Dr. Wonki Lee serves as our new professor of saxophone, and Dr. Jennifer Shafer-England has come on board as our new music theorist. We are thrilled to have them both here at MSU!

The MSU Piano Club has been resurrected after an absence due to the pandemic. This organization continues to provide service to the community of Bozeman and Montana State University. Their first project last fall was providing the gift of new hammers and shanks for the Steinway Model B in the Student Union Building. With this improvement to this instrument, our students and faculty will be able to enjoy performing solo and chamber music in this beautiful space again. MSU's recent Giving Day yielded even more progress toward the full restoration of this historic piano, and we would like to express our gratitude to all those who gave so generously.

Professors Ken Christensen and Julie Gosswiller continue to perform actively in collaborative concerts with fellow faculty. A full calendar of all our MSU concerts and events is available on the School of Music's website at

www.montana.edu/music/events with frequent streaming access available for those who live outside the area.

The Gallatin Trumpet Ensemble, under the direction of trumpet faculty Sarah Stoneback, were invited to appear at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Minneapolis in May. Congratulations to Sarah and her dedicated students!

Finally we would like to congratulate MSU senior Jake Kittleson, student of low brass faculty Jeannie Little, for being selected as the winner of the Young Artist Brass section of the Northwest Division Competition. Jake will perform at the MTNA National Competition as a national finalist in Reno, Nevada, in March, 2023!

Go Cats!

(Teacher of the Year, continued from page 29) entertaining!) adjudication of high school piano students both at spring festivals in Butte and at district high school music festivals. She has made me a much better teacher. I am truly indebted to her."

One needs only to observe the musicality, passion, and dedication of her students to see a truly gifted teacher at work. One of my earliest memories of Julie comes from a spring festival in the early 2010's organized by SMMTA. One of Julie's private students, a little girl of about seven, walked confidently to the piano and played a simple song full of cross-hand arpeggios with mature technique and artistry rarely seen in a student so young. When she finished, the adjudicator commented, "I can tell that you love this piece." The little girl nodded enthusiastically and replied, "I love the piano!"

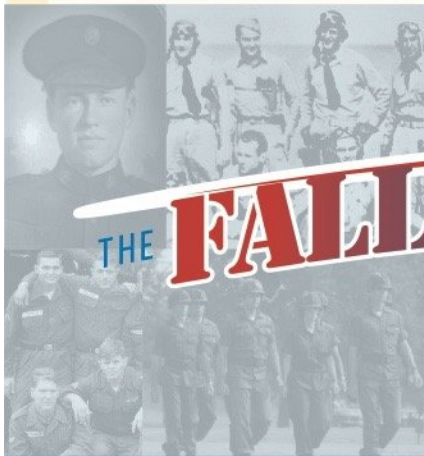
Competence, artistry, and passion - these are the gifts of great teachers to their students, and these are the gifts that Julie Gosswiller imparts to her students (and to her fellow teachers) every day. How lucky we are!
- Jessica Olson, Bozeman



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2023 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 2023.

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, 2023.

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, 2023

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

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

2023 CINDA TOMPKINS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



This scholarship honors Cinda Tompkins, a 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 a sophomore 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.

- The student may be enrolled in an in-state or out-of-state program to qualify.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 April 15, 2023.
2. A recipient will be selected by May 1, 2023, 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 15, 2023. 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 \$500.00.

Marcy Holston
MSMTA Scholarship Chairman
104 Northern Lights Blvd
Kalispell, MT 59901
holstonmarcy@gmail.com

APPLICATION FORM

MSMTA Cinda Tompkins Piano Pedagogy Scholarship

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Name of Student _____

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Studying in the Department of Music at _____

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Current Teacher _____

(If applicable)

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Address to mail Scholarship _____

An article and photo of the winner will be submitted to the MSMTA Fall Newsletter. Please submit a digital picture if possible for the article to the email below.

Return to:

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Camp Name	Dates	Location	Non-resident /resident cost	Scholarship?	Age	Phone	Web Info
Flathead Lake High School Camp	July 9-15	Rollins, MT	\$480	Y	H	(406) 212-3939	www.flatheadlakemusiccamp.org
Flathead Lake Middle School Camp	June 18-24	Rollins, MT	\$480	Y	M	(406) 212-3939	www.flatheadlakemusiccamp.org
Red Lodge Music Festival	June 3-11	Red Lodge, MT	\$470/\$599	Y	7th-H	(406) 256-5210	www.rlmf.org
UM Piano Camp	June 11-17	Missoula, MT	See website	N	8th+	(406) 243-6880	http://www.umt.edu/music
UM Jazz Camp	July 23-38	Missoula, MT	See website	Y	7th+	(406) 243-6880	http://www.umt.edu/music
UM Band & Choir Camps	June 18-24	Missoula, MT	See website	Y	7th+	(406) 243-6880	http://www.umt.edu/music
UM / MSA String Camp	June 18-23	Missoula, MT	See website	Y	1st+	(406) 243-6880	http://www.umt.edu/music
Amp Camp	See website	Billings, MT	See website	Y	MHA	(406) 670-9046	http://www.ampcampbillings.com
Camp Festival Amadeus	Jul 8-13	Whitefish, MT	425+	Y	MH	(406) 862-8074	www.northvalleymusicschool.org
North Valley Music School Camps	See website	Whitefish, MT	See website	Y	E-A	(406) 862-8074	www.northvalleymusicschool.org
Montana Fiddle Camp	Jun 4-9 & 11-16	Monarch, MT	See website		All	(406) 320-1150	www.montanafiddlecamp.org
Baroque Performance Workshop	Aug 18-20	Bozeman, MT	\$200	Inquire	9th+	(406) 599-3397	bozemansymphony.org/workshops
International Music Camp Several one week programs	Several dates. See website	Int'l Peace Garden, ND	\$600	Y	5th+	(701) 838-8472	www.internationalmusiccamp.com
Yellowstone Summer Music Camp	June 18-23	Powell, WY	\$410/\$610	Y	6th-H	307-754-6427	nwc.edu/sites/music/camps/index.html
Flathead Lutheran Bible - STAR Camp (singing, theater, art, & rhythm)	June 25-30	Lakeside, MT	\$650	Y	3rd-H	(406) 752-6602	www.flbc.net
Last Chance Lesson Camps - Beginners	Aug 7-11	Helena, MT	\$125	Y	5th-H	(406) 430-0009	https://lastchancemusic.org
Last Chance Music Camp - Experienced	June 11-17	Helena, MT	\$300	Y	5th-H	(406) 430-0009	https://lastchancemusic.org
Nova Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids Camp & Musical Theater Intensives	July 24-28 See website	Billings, MT	\$300	Y	2nd-H	(406) 591-9535	www.NOVAbillings.org
Bozeman Summer String Jam	Aug 7-11	Bozeman, MT	\$160	Y	7+	(406) 599-5478	http://stringjam.blogspot.com/

✓ Students of teachers who are members of Montana State Music Teachers Association are eligible for MSMTA scholarships. Scholarship funds are paid directly to any approved music camp.

✓ Many camps allow later registration at higher prices and/or offer "early-bird" rates for earlier.

✓ See camp websites for deadlines, some of which are very early.

✓ Most camps require registration to be complete before applying for their scholarships.

✓ Where there are two prices, one refers to "commuter" students and the other refers to on-site lodging students.

✓ Some camps have differing registration options, with varying fees.

✓ Age abbreviations: P = Preschool E = Elementary, M = Middle School, H = High School, A = Adults.

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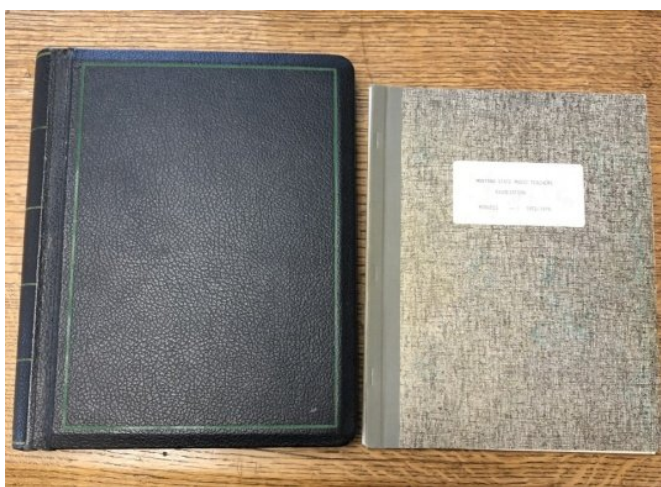
THE MSMTA RIPPLE EFFECT: A History of Excellence in Service

LAURA DETRICK, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

From time immemorial, individual professionals and specialists have banded together increase self-supporting — yea, even better — refining collaborations. Whether called guilds, organizations, or associations, their function empowers each individual by harnessing collective knowledge, opening opportunities for its members and beneficiaries.

In fact, every living organism and material is made up of many parts, the detail of which cannot be fathomed. Every time someone feels they've found the most basic building block, components are eventually discovered. So it is with an association like Music Teachers National Association and its affiliates. With this in mind, music teachers, especially those who teach independently, found it expedient to join forces with their peers. In my time in Bozeman I had the opportunity to get a view into the inception of the MSMTA.

I had just enough time to catch some of the pages from these archives. They are available at tinyurl.com/SampleMSMTAarchives. The



point of all of this is that the great things we're doing now are fitting to the aspirations of those who began this organization in 1927. Not only is this far bigger than any individual, it's also bigger than our contemporary time.

MTNA is a high-performance vehicle for musical endeavors! Are you aware of the many features of this conveyance for our purposes? This is only just a very quick overview:

- Insurances (studio, health, vehicle, event)
- Legal and business resources
- National certification
- Grants and scholarships (some of which are thousands of dollars)
- Student competitions and festivals
- Teacher and community collaborations and networking at the local, state, and national levels
- Composer commissioning
- Awards and research dissemination opportunities to acknowledge investments into the profession
- Consumer discounts

In the past and just as much now — from large-scale accomplishments such as Christopher Hahn, NCTM, and Landon Kleeman leading their UM Collegiate Chapter to Texas for the MTNA Collegiate Chapters Symposium and Montana students qualifying for national MTNA Competitions (two of them plus an alternate! Check page 11!), to the personal touch when one MSMTA teacher played music for a member of a choir she accompanies just weeks before he died — the rippling of MTNA's effects is endless!

May we more often than ever enjoy the enrichment we receive and radiate through so fine an organization and be aware of how important it is to let others know about it, from music teachers who could also benefit to potential sponsors (*we are doing what they want to see done!*), to students carrying in the future.

For a full list of benefits available to MTNA members, visit mtna.org and select the "Business Resources" tab.



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 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

Montana Music Educators Association



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



Music Education - Orchestrating Success

2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Saturday, October 29, 2022
GranTree Inn, Bozeman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Charlene Loge, Secretary

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