

# MONTANA MUSIC NEWS

A publication of Montana State Music Teachers Association | Spring 2024



*TRUST*

DELIVERING PIANOS (SIGHT UNSEEN)  
TO YOUR STUDENTS IN MONTANA  
FOR OVER 10 YEARS.



STEINWAY & SONS

*Boston*  
PIANO

DESIGNED BY STEINWAY & SONS®

*Essex* PIANO

DESIGNED BY STEINWAY & SONS®

**KAWAI**

THE FUTURE OF THE PIANO



SCHUMANN

**KAWAI**  
Digital

We offer the best pianos in  
every style and budget.

Grands from 5' - 9'  
in various finishes  
and styles



Furniture and studio  
style uprights



Best digital pianos  
in touch and sound



STEINWAY  
PIANO GALLERY

[WWW.STEINWAYSPOKANE.COM](http://WWW.STEINWAYSPOKANE.COM)

509-327-4266

THE BEST VALUE IN ALL BUDGETS.





## MSMTA OFFICERS 2022-2024

### President

Ginny Reese  
(425) 248-7112  
ginnyreese10@gmail.com

### President-Elect

Margery Whatley, NCTM  
(205) 234-1355  
mcduffm@gmail.com

### Immediate Past President

Laura Detrick  
(406) 750-7402  
laurainmt@hotmail.com

### Secretary

Cassandra Bak  
(406) 240-5505  
bak.pianogirl@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Carla Bell  
(406) 788-7181  
cjpiano@gmail.com

### Membership Secretary

Kimberly Peachy, NCTM  
(804) 852-7191  
peachykeys38@gmail.com

## MTNA OFFICERS 2022-2024

### President

Karen Thickstun, NCTM  
kthickst@butler.edu

### Northwest Division Director

Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM  
mary.k.owen@att.net

### Northwest Division Director-Elect

Steven Hesla, NCTM  
heslask@mso.umt.edu

### Northwest Certification Director

Stephen Thomas, NCTM  
thomasst@byui.edu

## 2024 MSMTA STATE CONFERENCE

October 31-November 2, 2024  
University of Montana School of Music  
Missoula, Montana

## CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES 2022-2024

<u>College Faculty</u> .....	Ken Christensen, NCTM, Julie Gosswiller
<u>Communications</u> .....	To be appointed
Job Descriptions Booklet .....	To be appointed
Marketing .....	To be appointed
Publications Editor .....	Jessica Olson
Publications Advertising .....	Laura Detrick
Social Media .....	Dr. Jordan Neiman
Summer Camps .....	Laura Detrick
Website .....	Carla Bell
<u>Conference</u> .....	Ginny Reese
<u>Continuing Education</u> .....	To be appointed
Certification .....	Heidi Alteneder, NCTM
Commissioned Composer .....	To be appointed
IMTF .....	Stephanie Stevens, NCTM
Mentoring/Internships .....	To be appointed
Library .....	To be appointed
<u>Fall Festival</u> .....	Margaret McGillvray, NCTM, Therese Bertrand, NCTM
Festival Certificates .....	Stephanie Stevens, NCTM
<u>Finance</u> .....	Carla Bell
Financial Review .....	Sharon Marble
Grants .....	Daniel Kohnstamm, NCTM
Portfolio Monitor .....	To be appointed
<u>Historian</u> .....	To be appointed
<u>Legislative</u> .....	Sharon Marble
<u>Membership</u> .....	Dr. Margery Whatley, NCTM
Membership Secretary .....	Kimberly Peachy, NCTM
Local Associations ...	Dr. Margery Whatley, NCTM
<u>MSMTA Scholarships</u> .....	Judy O'Dell
Cinda Tomkins .....	Marcy Holston
June Werner/Legacy Fund .....	Judy O'Dell
<u>MTNA Competitions</u> ...	Dorothy Peterson, NCTM
Performance .....	Dorothy Peterson, NCTM
Composition .....	To be appointed
<u>MTNA Foundation</u> ...	Sharon Weaver-Knowles, NCTM
<u>Nominating</u> .....	Laura Detrick
<u>PPAC</u> .....	Laura Detrick

*\* MSMTA Officers, Committee Chairs (underlined),  
and Local Association Presidents serve as the MSMTA  
Board of Directors.*

## LOCAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

### Billings

Lynn Bassett, (406) 672-3757  
piano88ster@gmail.com

### Butte-Anaconda

Tricia Cox, (406) 491-4209  
eastridgepiano@gmail.com

### Great Falls

Kimberly Peachy, NCTM  
(804) 852-7191  
peachykeys38@gmail.com

### Kalispell Area

Dr. Jordan Neiman  
(406) 249-8169  
jordan.neiman@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

## MONTANA MUSIC NEWS

MMN is published biannually by  
the Montana State Music  
Teachers Association, affiliated  
with Music Teachers National  
Association.

Publications Editor: Jessica Olson  
Send submissions to:  
pianohearder@gmail.com  
Deadlines: January 15 and July 15

## ADVERTISER INDEX

Bozeman Symphony .....	34
Eckroth Music .....	6
Glacier Symphony .....	14
Hansen Music .....	4
Heppler Piano .....	32
Intermountain Opera .....	28
International Music Camp .....	32
Last Chance Music Camp .....	27
MMEA .....	14
Montana Piano .....	35
MSU Billings .....	12
MSU Bozeman .....	20
Peterson Precision Pianos .....	14
Red Lodge Music Festival .....	17
Steinway Piano Gallery .....	2
Success N Fundraising .....	25
Teriyaki Madness .....	32
UM Masters Program .....	21
UM School of Music .....	24
University of Jamestown .....	26
University of Mary .....	34

**WWW.MSMTA.COM**



## IN THIS ISSUE

MSMTA Committees .....	3
Message from the President .....	5
2023 State Conference in Review	
Session Reviews .....	7-9
Conference Highlights .....	10-11
Fall Festival Results .....	13
MTNA State Competition Results .....	15
2024 State Conference	
Presenters and Adjudicators .....	16-17
Around the State .....	18-19
Association News .....	21
University News .....	22
Montana Music Camps .....	23
Northwest Division News .....	25
2023-2024 Foundation Fellow .....	27
June Werner Scholarship .....	29
Cinda Tomkins Scholarship .....	30-31
Annual Meeting Minutes .....	33

*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](mailto:ginnyreese10@gmail.com) and Publications Editor Jessica Olson at [pianohearder@gmail.com](mailto:pianohearder@gmail.com) in advance of MMN's July 15 newsletter deadline.*

*Videos of past conference presentations, along with past issues of MMN are available online at [www.msmta.com](http://www.msmta.com).*

MSMTA thanks Office Depot and Staples for making our printed publications possible!



**Hansen Music is the first choice in gear, advice and service.**

Been to the New Location? The larger showroom includes even more guitars, folk instruments, drums, keyboards, band and orchestra, P.A. systems, sheet music, school rentals, accessories, and lessons.

406-245-4544 • [hansenmusic.net](http://hansenmusic.net)  
521 24th St West • Billings, MT 59102



## A TIME FOR RENEWAL

GINNY REESE, MSMTA PRESIDENT

Hello, Music Teaching Friends and Colleagues! Despite the fact that this newsletter will be delivered to us closer to spring, as I write this, Montana has had some pretty severe winter weather. I hope all of you are warm and safe and either delighting in some snow sports and recreation or at least enjoying the winter views from your home.



There are so many people to whom I am grateful for their work, guidance and support during our 2023 MSMTA Conference in Kalispell. Good people stepped up when they saw a need and filled it. I am so thankful. The conference itself was quite a challenge. However, it was so meaningful to spend time with good friends we don't see often enough and share in some quality learning and music making. Participating in our Fall Festival and MTNA Competitions was a special time for teachers, parents and students. There was much to gain in the wisdom from our adjudicators Dr. Del Parkinson and Jenanne Solberg. I was especially encouraged by the younger teachers who came to our conference and participated in sessions and social time. We are a lovely and welcoming group.

From talking with Northwest leadership over the last couple weeks, our organizational chapters are struggling. Association involvement is low. If you are a chapter president struggling to maintain regular meetings or find program presenters, please have a conversation with your chapter leadership team and see if someone else can either help out or take on some presidential duties. Sometimes we are so concerned about "Robert's Rules" or stepping on another person's toes, we don't speak up. Leadership/board members duties can be modified so our chapters can exist to support and encourage current and potential new members. On the flip side, if you notice someone in your chapter leadership struggling to keep up, offer to help. We can take a page from our most recent collaborative musical ideas and create team-based leadership opportunities that will help spread out the responsibilities.

I am very excited by the plans being initiated for the 2024 MSMTA Conference. We will be in Missoula at the University of Montana. We have the wonderful Deborah Rambo Sinn presenting programs for us to encourage beauty and expression in our music and teaching. She will also be our Master Class adjudicator. Dr. Colleen Hunter from Gonzaga University will be our piano adjudicator for the Fall Festival and the MTNA Competition. We also have the distinct privilege of hosting MTNA President Peter Mack. Please watch your email for updated news regarding our 2024 conference and save the dates of October 31-November 2 to join us in Missoula! I am looking forward to spending quality time with music teaching friends.

*Ginny Reese*



TO ALL MONTANA MUSICIANS  
**PLAY ON!**



**Eckroth  
Music**  
Employee Owned

**BILLINGS**

922 Grand Avenue  
406.252.2604

**BOZEMAN**

621 W. Mendenhall St.  
406.587.8007

[www.eckroth.com](http://www.eckroth.com)

## 2023 CONFERENCE SESSIONS: Creative Collaborations

### Strengthening Your Studio Through Intentional Practices at Group Sessions, Dr. Jensina Oliver

---

Jensina talked about her personal studio experiences, and posed the question “do you ever feel like you’re saying the same thing to students over and over again, lesson after lesson” ... or do you want to say it once to a group? Instead of four weeks of lessons, she does three weeks of longer lesson times, leaving herself with a “light” week, and then changing that fourth week to various group sessions. At the fourth lesson, everyone shares something, whether or not their piece is complete. They do a five-minute worksheet on one topic, have kids’ discussion time, play a game, and maybe an ensemble on different instruments. She encouraged teachers to post inspirational quotes around their studios such as, “If you really look closely, most overnight successes took a long time,” by Steve Jobs. Her personal inspirational quotes include “Work hard, have fun!” and “Go, Team Piano!” She also encourages teachers to pose positive mantras to students, such as “I love this piece because ...,” “This piece helps me express emotions that I can’t describe in words,” “I like playing this piece because it’s fun to play staccato notes,” etc. Get the students to speak about their pieces. She suggested nine topics for group sessions (i.e. dynamics, chords, composer spotlight, conducting) and provided a sample lesson plan for a 45-minute class. Finally, she talked about the benefit of having a Performance “Feel Good Plan” (a concept used in counseling to deal with anxiety, disappointments, sadness) ... giving your student an easy way to remember how to lift themselves up - breathing, walks, texting someone, enjoying a favorite icy drink. If you name it, you can tame it. New word “nervited” = nervous + excited. Feeling nervous is normal -

so what are you going to do about it? The Feel Good Plan requires them to list seven steps to prepare for performance, starting two weeks before the event, during, and after. Jensina’s talk spoke to all of us in a very useful way and she concluded by saying performing makes performing easier. Provide lots of opportunities for your students, and encourage them to perform for others (returning a signed sheet of listeners).

- Sharon Marble, Billings

### Student/Teacher Collaboration on Interpreting Keyboard Music Artistry, Dr. Kay Zavislak

---

Dr. Kay Zavislak gave an engaging presentation on the concept of “topics” in Classical era music. These include common dance types and their characteristics such as Minuet, Landler, and Siciliano, as well as styles such as French Overture, Empfindsamkeit, and Sturm und Drang. There was a listening quiz, and several musical examples for analysis. For further reading she suggests *Classic Music: Expression, Form and Style* by Leonard Ratner.

- Dr. Jordan Neiman, Kalispell

### Writing Better Practice Instructions, Cristine Boles Kornish

---

A Kalispell native, Cristine Boles Kornish studied with Michelle Van Allen starting at the age of three, and studied with Diane Volkman, NCTM, her senior year of high school. She graduated from the University of Montana with a double major in music and math, where she studied piano with Chris Hahn. Cristine is currently studying with Western Governors University for a Master of Science in Learning Experience Design and Educational

Technology, specializing in the adult learner.

Christine presented a session about how we can write better practice instructions for our students to be successful at their instrument. A practice challenge is a “clearly defined and objective test that the piece needs to be able to pass at some stage before the next lesson” (Johnston, 2007, p. 26).

In a medical study, individuals who participated in goal-based practice showed significantly greater improvement than those who practiced using traditional methods (Willis et al., 2012).

Cristine listed the three parts of a practice challenge as:

- Instructions - What am I expected to do?
- Rules - How well am I supposed to do it?
- Test - How will I know that I succeeded?

A PDF handout for this session can be accessed at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tB3fUgxs92CV-h60QsJLbaO21uqJ1hy/view?usp=sharing>

A learning module that was used as a sample from the members of the KAMTA chapter can be accessed at:

[www.Kamta.thinkific.com](http://www.Kamta.thinkific.com)

Cristine’s presentation was very interesting and certainly gave us the inspiration to rethink how we write practice instructions for our students.

- Diane Volkman, NCTM, Kalispell

## Care and Maintenance of Studio Pianos and Selecting Quality Pianos, Aaron Heppler, Heppler Piano

---

Aaron Heppler from Heppler Pianos in Manhattan, Montana, talked with us during two different sessions about pianos and how best to care for them. He stressed the importance of regular tunings and maintenance whether one has a very high quality grand piano or a lovely studio upright. Aaron also gave demonstrations on how to take the piano apart (only a little) to fetch things that drop behind the fallboard. In our post-pandemic world, many people felt it

necessary to use disinfectants or hand sanitizers on the piano keys. Aaron said those types of cleaners are much too harsh on the keys and will cause them to break down.

There was also a discussion of how to assist our piano families in choosing quality instruments and how to care for them. We all agreed it can be a real struggle to convince piano families that a quality instrument will not only sound better, it will increase the interest in the student continuing in lessons, practicing and playing for pleasure. He suggested to remind piano parents that if the piano doesn’t make a good sound, neither will the student.

One of the best parts of the session was learning about the resource for piano teachers at the Piano Technicians Guild website. There are explanations for students about how a piano is built, how it works, as well as games and group activities. Students can learn about the piano, get ideas for art projects and performance ideas. I highly recommend it!

<https://my.ptg.org/teacher-resources/home>

- Ginny Reese, Kalispell

## Malpractice: Symptoms, Diagnoses, Prescriptions, UM Keyboard Society

---

The title, “Malpractice” - does not describe teachers’ practices, but the musical practicing of students! Five different diagnoses were discussed, each in the same format, making it easy to have a frame of reference as each was presented with relevance for all musical disciplines.

Student **overreliance on the score** tends to distract them from focus on preparing artistry. Symptoms included highly marked scores, for which any prescriptions like providing exercises that require ear use or asking interpretive questions may be a solution.

The exact opposite was next addressed: **underreliance on the score**. Students who experience this tend to get an idea of what they thought the score dictated, and move forward



without sensing their error. Solutions such as guiding analysis and playing sections or “voice” parts would be prescribed for this case.

With the problem of **lacking technique**, we might find inattention to dynamics, articulation, and fingering along with muscle memory setting these in place. Exaggeration of such directions and finding ways to play the music differently, such as half-tempo may bring greater expression.

When students demonstrate hesitations, changing pulse, and rushing, they may be struggling with understanding of **rhythm**. For these symptoms, the use of a metronome, or patting of beat and rhythm in each hand would be useful.

For the **inability to translate musicality in performance**, analysis, imagery, focus on mood, and singing/conducting the score may be responsive assignments we might give when we see loss of direction/sense of position in the piece, lack of introspective listening or granular focus on details.

I have certainly seen each of these in my students and even in myself. I am delighted to have had the opportunity to review this session and solidify more for myself and our readers the perception of these tendencies and solutions for them!

- *Laura Detrick, Great Falls*

## Independent Music Teachers Forum, Amelia Thornton Sears

---

The Independent Music Teachers Forum was led by Amelia Thornton Sears, who recently completed a Master of Arts in Music Psychology in Education, Performance and Well-being from University of Sheffield, UK. The talking points of the session were based on her dissertation, focusing and exploring private music teacher identity formation, values, and entrepreneurialism. Amelia invited everyone to arrange their chairs in a circle before the meeting. With this seating format, we all felt included and encouraged to contribute to the discussion. It was interesting to find out our

different or similar backgrounds: what led us to music, to teaching, and to how we define our own unique niche. We shared our thoughts on our roles as teachers, why we teach, and what we feel is important to offer our students. We discussed/defined entrepreneurship and talked about music as a business. We learned that some within the group have had/have additional jobs and careers outside of teaching and how these other roles have influenced their work as teachers. I asked Amelia for her feedback on the session, and she responded: “I wanted it to feel a bit like a focus group, like an extension of my research. I was surprised and happy to hear that there were some folks there who came from informal learning backgrounds who went on to have professional teaching careers. Also interesting was hearing about the variety of careers and non-musical jobs some of the people had. It just goes to show how everyone’s path with music is unique and that we can learn a lot from one another when we create discussion groups like this. Many of the emergent themes of identity that I discovered in my study were also present in this forum, which felt validating.” A fabulous forum! Thank you, Amelia!

- *Dr. Margery Whatley, NCTM, Missoula*

## Trailblazers that Changed the History of Classical Music, Dr. Del Parkinson

---

Our final session was so inspirational, leaving us on a musical high. We never expected another concert! Dr. Parkinson’s premise was that four composers changed music forever - Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, and Gershwin (although he also addressed Liszt). He posted Ralph Waldo Emerson’s quote, “Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” Certainly these four composers did that. Dr. Parkinson provided very interesting sideline stories about each of the four, their works, and their place in history. Some stories we hadn’t heard  
(Continued on page 22)

## CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS COME TO KALISPELL



MSMTA members from around Montana gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kalispell from November 2-4, 2023, for the 96th Annual State Conference, titled “Creative Collaborations.” Many thanks to President Ginny Reese and the entire conference committee for organizing this enriching event!

*Left: Dr. Kay Zavislak, Christopher Hahn, NCTM (Missoula), Dr. Jensina Oliver, MSMTA President Ginny Reese (Kalispell), and Dr. Del Parkinson. Below: Suzanne Rohrbach, Dr. Jordan Neiman, Diane Volkman, NCTM, Ginny Reese (Kalispell Area MTA)*



*Above: Sharon Marble (Billings), 2023-2024 MTNA Foundation Fellow*

*Right: Dr. Kay Zavislak, Dr. Jensina Oliver, and Dr. Jordan Neiman (Kalispell)*







*Left: 2023 MSMTA Teacher of the Year Julie Gossweiler (Bozeman)*

*Below: MSMTA Treasurer and tech guru Carla Bell (Great Falls)*

*Center: Aaron Heppler of Heppler Piano led two sessions at the conference about the care and maintenance of studio pianos and tips for selecting quality pianos.*

*Bottom Left: Cristine Boles Kornish led a session titled "Writing Better Practice Instructions."*

*Bottom Right: Keynote presenter and guest artist Dr. Kay Zavislak works with a student during the piano master class.*







montana state university

**BILLINGS**

**MUSIC**



## **Being a music student at MSUB means...**

- Participating in small class sizes with faculty from diverse performance careers.
- Experiencing an innovative approach to learning skills relevant to today's evolving music culture.
- Joining Billings' vibrant music and arts community.

**Offering degrees in:**

**Commercial Music • Music Performance • Music Education**

**For more information contact us at**

**[msubillings.edu/class/music](https://msubillings.edu/class/music) • [music@msubillings.edu](mailto:music@msubillings.edu) • 406-657-2350**

## 2023 FALL FESTIVAL RESULTS

### SINGLE PIECE PIANO

#### Elementary Division

1st place: Haddon Benson, *student of Therese Bertrand, NCTM* (left)  
Honorable Mention: Clara Kaltschmidt, *student of Ginny Reese* (right)



Left to right: Haddon Benson, Clara Kaltschmidt, Del Parkinson

#### Junior Division

1st Place: Nick Pytel, *student of Ginny Reese*



Left to right: Nick Pytel, Del Parkinson

#### Senior Division

1st Place: Reece Brotherton, *student of Dr. Jordan Neiman* (left)  
Honorable Mention: Julia Hagemeier, *student of Maryruth Fallon* (right)



Left to right: Reece Brotherton, Julia Hagemeier, Del Parkinson

### SHORT PROGRAM PIANO

#### Elementary Division

1st Place: Ada Stephens, *student of Ginny Reese* (right)  
Honorable Mention: Clara Kaltschmidt, *student of Ginny Reese* (left)



Left to right: Clara Kaltschmidt, Ada Stephens, Del Parkinson

#### Junior Division

1st Place: Nick Pytel, *student of Ginny Reese* (right)  
Honorable Mention: Taj Bastick, *student of Ginny Reese* (left)



Left to right: Taj Bastick, Del Parkinson, Nick Pytel

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

Adjudicator: Del Parkinson

Fall Festival Chairs: Margaret McGillvray, NCTM, and Therese Bertrand, NCTM





## FREE Children's Tickets!

Glacier Symphony was recently awarded the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund Grant, which will allow us to provide FREE tickets to children ages 18 and under throughout the duration of this grant. Whether you are a family or student group, please take advantage of this amazing offer! Please call or visit our box office for more information. Visit our website at [www.glaciersymphony.org](http://www.glaciersymphony.org) to learn more about how to participate and support our Youth Music Experience program.

**GLACIER SYMPHONY**  
ORCHESTRA and CHORALE  
John Zoltek • Music Director and Conductor

**Online Tickets:** [glaciersymphony.org](http://glaciersymphony.org) or

[wachholzcollegecenter.org](http://wachholzcollegecenter.org)

**Phone:** 406-407-7000

**Box Office:** 1031 S. Main Street in Kalispell

**Performance Home:** Wachholz College Center



# Peterson Precision Pianos

Call, Text, or Email to  
Schedule a Piano Tuning  
Today

**(406) 616-2596**

[peteronprecisionpianos@gmail.com](mailto:peteronprecisionpianos@gmail.com)

Servicing Butte,  
Southwest Montana,  
and Beyond



Teaching Music  
doesn't have to  
be done alone.

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

#### INFORMATION

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

#### CONNECTION

Collaborative communication with 600+ Montana music teachers

#### NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

For more information, visit our website:

[WWW.MTMUSICED.COM](http://WWW.MTMUSICED.COM)

Montana Music Educators Association



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



Music Education • Orchestrating Success



## 2023 STATE MTNA COMPETITION RESULTS

### Junior Composition

Winner: Charles Castro, *student of Mike Evock*  
Honorable Mention: Kaeden Dunn, *student of Jodell Winter*



*Bonnie Groenenboom*

### Junior String

Winner: Bonnie Groenenboom, violin, *student of Margaret Baldrige*  
Alternate: Elliot Cleary, violin, *student of Margaret Baldrige*

### Senior String

Representative: Charles Snellman, cello, *student of Adam Collins*



*Charles Snellman*

### Young Artist String

Winner: Jayla Mitchell, cello, *student of Adam Collins*  
Alternate: Catherine Treis, violin, *student of Margaret Baldrige*  
Honorable Mention: Owen Cleary, violin, *student of Margaret Baldrige*



*Jayla Mitchell*



*Yuan Du*

### Senior Piano

Representative: Yuan Du, *student of Christopher Hahn*

### Young Artist Piano

Winner: D'Andre Conant, *student of Eunwha Park*  
Alternate: Sylvia Wood, *student of Christopher Hahn*



*D'Andre Conant*

The Montana MTNA Performance Competitions were held at the MSMTA Conference in Kalispell at the Hilton Garden Inn on Thursday, November 1, 2023. Adjudicators were Del Parkinson, piano; Jenanne Solberg, strings; and Linda Antas, composition. There were nine entries in the performance competitions, six strings and three piano, along with two entries in the composition competition.

Congratulations to Jayla Mitchell, student of Adam Collins, for being named alternate in the Northwest Division Young Artist Strings competition!

- Dorothy Peterson, NCTM, MTNA Competitions Chair

## 2024 CONFERENCE PRESENTERS AND ADJUDICATORS

---

Deborah Rambo Sinn's diverse career has taken her around the world. She has given concerts and masterclasses on four continents and has taught students from more than 14 different countries. She lived in Hamburg, Germany, for five years where she played concerts and musicals and operated two music studios for coaching and private instruction.



Dr. Sinn holds a doctorate from Indiana University, where she studied with Menahem Pressler (Beaux Arts Trio). Before moving to Germany, she served on the music faculty of Angelo State University in Texas and taught one semester at Universität Lüneburg (Germany) as an exchange professor.

Most recently, Dr. Sinn taught piano and theory courses at Gonzaga University in Spokane. She has spoken at the MTNA national conference on three occasions, at numerous state conferences, and at the National Keyboard Pedagogy Conference (NCKP).

She is the author of *Playing Beyond the Notes: A Pianist's Guide to Musical Interpretation*, published by Oxford University Press in 2013. Her latest book, *Pocket Piano Proficiency: the quickest and most effective way to understand and learn the skills you need* presents teaching piano skills in an innovative new way.

Dr. Sinn lives in Post Falls, Idaho and works with teachers from around the United States online and continues teaching and participating as a music director for community and professional productions. She is always working on new projects behind the scenes that she's sure you'll love.

[www.DeborahRamboSinn.com](http://www.DeborahRamboSinn.com)

---

Irish pianist Peter Mack is in great demand as a performer, clinician, convention artist, adjudicator, and teacher. Celebrated for his moving playing, and his easy rapport with audiences, he has performed throughout the United States and Europe, as well as in Australia, India, and the former Soviet Union. He is the winner of the New Orleans, Young Keyboard Artists, and Pacific International Piano Competitions. His prize in the Sherman-Clay competition included a Steinway grand piano. Naturally, he is a Steinway artist!

Peter Mack is well known for his extensive repertoire, having performed twenty-six concertos with orchestras. A choral scholar at



Trinity College Dublin, and a fellow of Trinity College London, he has a doctorate in piano performance from the University of Washington. His principal teachers were Frank Heneghan, and Bela Siki. Past engagements

include performances in two of the most acoustically perfect performance spaces in Europe; the Salle Cortot of the Ecole Normale in Paris, and the Haydnssaal of the Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria.

Recently, Dr. Mack received the extraordinary honor of being asked to deliver both the Advanced Piano Masterclass at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) annual convention, and the Masterclass for MTNA Winners at the biennial National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP) in Illinois. His students are frequent winners of local, national, and international competitions. He is the proud teacher of twenty-one MTNA national finalists, and three MTNA national first place winners. In the most recent MTNA election for national officers, he was voted president-elect. His term as president of the organization will run from 2023-2025.

area musicians and in the local schools. She plays with the Panhandle Symphony Orchestra and has played with the Coeur d'Alene Symphony, as well as the Opus Series for the Coeur d'Alene Chamber Music Society. For several years as entertainment coordinator for the summer festival, Art on the Green, she directed the festival's weekend of music events and helped promote its winter lecture series and home concerts.

Dr. Hunter holds degrees from the University of Missouri – Kansas City, and Seattle Pacific University. Teachers include Richard Cass (UMKC), Marcile Mack (SPU), Bela Nagy (Boston University and Sion, Switzerland), and Margaret Saunders Ott (Spokane, WA). She is married to Dr. Sam Hunter and they have two adult children.



Dr. Colleen Hunter, DMA, NCTM, teaches applied and class piano at Gonzaga University, and private students in Spokane. She also maintains a private piano studio in her home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, teaching a wide range of ages and

levels from children to adults.

Nationally and state certified with MTNA, Dr. Hunter is active at the state and local level in Washington and Idaho, currently serving as President for Washington State Music Teachers Association. She is past president of both the Spokane Music Teachers and the North Idaho Music Teachers Associations. As a Visiting Artist with WSMTA, she enjoys working with the Musical Artistry Program (MAP) and adjudicating and judging many music events in the northwest.

Dr. Hunter collaborates professionally with





## BILLINGS MTA

---

Here are a few highlights since our last newsletter. In October we met at MSUB for a “Sonatina Cookie Class” by Stephanie Stevens. Let me just say, if you’ve never taken Stephanie’s Sonatina Cookie Class, you’ve missed out! In November members shared various ideas for practicing, and member Anna Rodriguez presented a fantastic Junior Recital at MSUB. In December BMTA members gathered for a holiday luncheon at Jake’s Downtown. This was an event we held annually for many years and then it was not held for a few years. Every year at our May Business Meeting we ask for evaluation forms concerning events and meetings throughout the year. Last May one of the most frequent comments was that members missed this event. So, we brought it back in December 2023. We had an excellent turnout, including new members and members who hadn’t attended in a while. Each person told a little about themselves. We enjoyed visiting and a lovely luncheon with no-stress prep or cleanup.

In January we were delighted with a member recital potpourri at one of our member’s homes. It was festively decorated and so fun! We enjoyed a wide variety of music from the Bee Gees to Chopin’s “Waltz in B minor.” We even had a trumpet piano duet.

A big congratulations to Elizabeth Prindle and Elizabeth Bradshaw, students of Therese Bertrand, who have been invited to perform at the RCM Northwest Celebrations of Excellence recital in Seattle in February. Prindle and Bradshaw were also listed as State Award Winners, along with Candy Li, a student of Stephanie Stevens.

As reported briefly in the last newsletter, we’re still looking forward to our 100th Year

Anniversary Kickoff event in April (100 days into the year). We chose that day because we don’t know the official date of the founding meeting for BMTA. I can’t wait to see what wonderful things we discover at that event! Undoubtedly our new president will report on that in our next newsletter.

In closing, I would like to mention that I enjoyed Peter Mack’s article, “The Value of Music Teachers,” in the recent December/January copy of AMT. I’ll just share a couple of sentences. He said, “I have nothing but admiration for people who, at a high point in their professional lives, are still willing to become a student again, and acknowledge that they have a great deal to learn. They do this even though for many years they have been the ones telling people what to do.” I love learning from each of you and look forward to each time we meet!

*-Lynn Bassett, President, Billings MTA President*

## GREAT FALLS MTA

---

Happy New Year to everyone across the great state of Montana! GFMTA started the year with business meetings in September and October discussing our upcoming events. We had hoped to add some kind of student performance opportunity to our schedule in December at the Christmas Stroll in downtown Great Falls but were unable to find a suitable venue. We will likely continue our search for a performing space for the 2024 event.

Several of our members attended the Fall Conference in Kalispell and enjoyed the opportunity to greet friends from around the state. One of the conference highlights for me was hearing two different performances of Rhapsody in Blue – a solo piano version and

piano duet version – just a day apart! What fun that was!

In December we enjoyed our annual potluck breakfast meeting followed by a concert of Christmas music presented by our members. We are busy now with planning our Spring Festival which will be presented in mid-April. We hope everyone stays well and that music continues to keep us all going.

- *Kim Peachy, NCTM, Great Falls MTA President*

## KALISPELL AREA MTA

---

KAMTA had another successful Collaborate! recital last November. We had two recitals of duets. Students played with their teachers, their parents and grandparents, and each other. We also had a violinist perform, which was a first for us in a while. We continue to hope this annual event will attract teachers of instruments other than the piano, though it has created opportunities for piano students to perform who wouldn't otherwise have had the opportunity. Our other annual recital event, a themed recital, focuses on Romantic music this year and will take place February 10.

At our meetings, we have enjoyed having Eunwha Park and Cristine Kornish joining us. At our last month's meeting, we performed for each other and played Christmas duets. We had a great presentation at our November meeting by Amy Immerman, a teacher from Cincinnati. She presented on the business side of being an independent music teacher, which she will also present at this year's national conference.

While we loved meeting at the Glacier Symphony office on Main street, they have relocated causing us to move our meeting location. So, we are meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, a long-time ally of KAMTA, and we are grateful for their hospitality.

We look forward to having Ken Christensen

as our adjudicator for Spring Festival. Students will be chosen to perform in an Honors Recital, and we will invite scholarship alums to perform on that as well.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year,

- *Dr. Jordan Neiman, KAMTA president*

## SOUTHWEST MONTANA MTA

---

Greetings to our colleagues around the state! SMMTA is happy to welcome Beatrice Anderson to our ranks this year! Beatrice is a wonderful colleague, and we are so pleased to have her and her students among us!

This spring several exciting events are in the works for SMMTA. Jessica Olson, Deborah Schuerr, and Julie Gossweiler are coordinating a composing competition at the local level to be judged by David Charles of MSU Bozeman. Students will be composing pieces based on the theme "A Day at the Museum." We hope that this event will inspire students and result in additional participation in the MTNA State Composition Competition in the fall. Diane Dwyer is working to coordinate a group trip to the Bozeman Symphony, and Heppler Piano has offered to host our students for a workshop tour in early March.

In May, we plan to hold our traditional collaborative recital at Reynolds Recital Hall at MSU Bozeman. We are so grateful for the opportunities MSU provides - from recital opportunities, to master classes, to the expertise so readily and generously shared by its faculty.

While we have not returned to regular meetings yet, we continue to find ways to adapt and evolve. We look forward to a fun and creative semester of teaching and learning! I hope to see many of you at the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta in March!

- *Jessica Olson, Secretary/Treasurer, Southwest Montana MTA*



# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## DEGREE OPTIONS

- BME-Music Education
- BA-Music Technology
- BA-Music
- MM-Music Education
- Minor-Music



[www.montana.edu/music](http://www.montana.edu/music)



Bozeman, Montana  
406.994.3562





## WELCOME TO MSMTA!

---

Welcome to new members joining our ranks in 2023: Beatrice Anderson, Anne Bashor, Jessica Catron, Jessica Condon, Kyle Fuxa, Debby Gardner, Beth Ann Graybeal, Matthew Knight, Cristine Kornish, Kirsten Olszowka, Eunhwa Park, Lisa Turley, Abby Van Loewen, and Kimberley Woodhouse. We look forward to getting to know you!

- *Kimberly Peachy, NCTM, Membership Secretary*

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

---

It's always exciting to find out who will be next in the succession of MSMTA officers leading the way - especially since that person will get to present the conference of MSMTA's 100th Birthday!

Now is the time to nominate members to continue these essential roles for the Fall 2024-Fall 2026 term:

- **President-Elect (to be President 2026-2028)**
- **Secretary**
- **Membership Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

Please contact any of this year's Nominating Committee members by June 15, 2024, to make nominations:

Laura Detrick, Chair: [laurainmt@gmail.com](mailto:laurainmt@gmail.com)  
Dorothy Peterson: [dbeckp@gmail.com](mailto:dbeckp@gmail.com)  
Maryruth Fallon: [maryruth5623@gmail.com](mailto:maryruth5623@gmail.com)  
Tricia Cox: [eastridgepiano@gmail.com](mailto:eastridgepiano@gmail.com)

## SPRING FESTIVAL CERTIFICATES

---

When it's time to order your Spring Festival Certificates, please allow two weeks for processing and include town, festival

date, number of certificates needed, and number of honors seals needed (if any), along with your name and mailing address. 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 North, Great Falls, MT 59401.

## DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

---

Changes:

Brad Knutson: (406) 672-4127,  
[A3decade28@aol.com](mailto:A3decade28@aol.com)

Janell McKenney has relocated to Malta. No new information is available at this time.

Additions:

Beth Ann Graybeal: (502) 386-2757,  
[bgraybeal@gmail.com](mailto:bgraybeal@gmail.com)

Kirsten Olszowka: (801) 717-0424,  
[o-boemad@gmail.com](mailto:o-boemad@gmail.com)

Beatrice Anderson: (406) 579-1192,  
[andersonbeatrice@gmail.com](mailto:andersonbeatrice@gmail.com)



## UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

---

The semester is off and running at the University of Montana, and it is wonderful to be back with such committed and talented students! We have added a few new students to the piano rosters over the break, and we appear to have a healthy number of students auditioning for Fall 2024. We would love to welcome your students to be a part of the energy and excitement here! A few highlights this semester will be the American Piano Duo performing as part of the Celebrate Piano Series at UM. The Duo consists of Jeffrey Shumway and Del Parkinson, both incredible artists who were one half of the American Piano Quartet. They will be performing both of Rachmaninoff's two-piano suites. This is not to be missed!

The MTNA conference in Atlanta should be fun as always, and I will be performing with our flute professor, Joanna Berg, on March 26. The Pianissimo! crew will be heading to Spokane for a performance at the Steinway Gallery in April. I am staying busy with the Keyboard Division Coordinator position at UM while teaching a full load of university students, a large number of private middle and high school students, and a large studio of private students at PLAY Piano Academy! Phew! I am definitely in the "intense teaching stage" of my life, and loving it!

After a wonderful winter break with family back South, Margery Whatley is back in Montana and excited for the new year of teaching and performing. In February and March, she and her mother, Susan T. McDuffie, will present "Like Mother, Like Daughter: An Evening of Piano Favorites," performing solos, duets, and duos by Mozart, Chopin, Liszt, Gershwin, Piazzolla and more. They will be performing this program in Macon, Georgia, at Mercer University and in Missoula at the University of Montana. She'll be rooming with her mother, who was the 2016 Georgia Music Teachers Association Teacher of the Year and

the 2017 MTNA Teacher of the Year, in Atlanta this March at the MTNA National Conference - fun! Later in the spring, Margery is looking forward to giving her Liszt presentations in Spokane and Missoula - Lisztomania! The Colorful Life and the Influential Teaching of Franz Liszt for the Spokane Music Teachers Association and Lisztomania! The Colorful Life and Impact of Franz Liszt for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Montana (MOLLI). In addition, she will also conduct a masterclass in Spokane at the Steinway Gallery for the Spokane Music Teachers Association's spring meeting. As always, a fabulous start to summer will be teaching at the University of Montana Summer Piano Camp June 16-22! Would love to see you and your students there!

- Christopher Hahn, NCTM

---

*For more information about the University of Montana's Summer Music Camps visit [www.umt.edu/music](http://www.umt.edu/music). For a list of music camps in and around Montana, see the list on page 23. The June D. Werner Memorial Scholarship offers funding to help students offset the cost of summer camps. The application can be found on page 29.*

---

*(Conference in Review, continued from page 9)* previously - such as Chopin's famous portrait is really only half the picture. The full picture contains George Sand. However, somewhere in time, the portrait was cut in half and now Chopin's portrait is in the Louvre, while George Sand's is in Copenhagen! After discussing each composer, Dr. Parkinson performed the Moonlight Sonata, the "Heroic" Polonaise, Clair d' Lune, and Rhapsody in Blue. Kudos to Dr. Parkinson for his moving performance ... and thanks to him for adjudicating our students.

- Sharon Marble, Billings





## Summer Music Camps In and Near Montana 2024

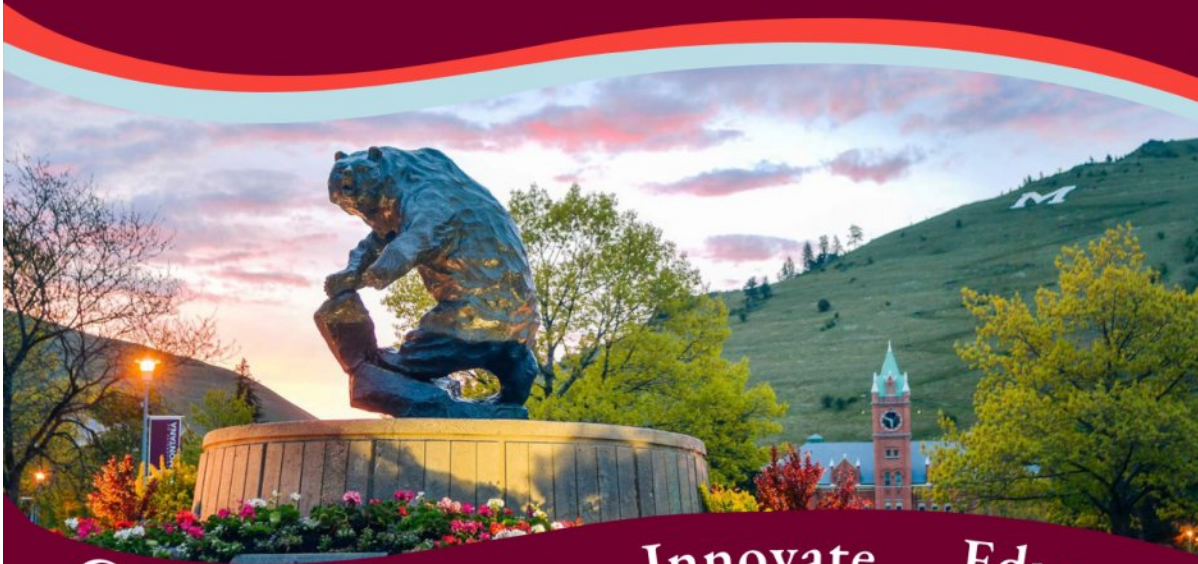


Camp Name	Dates	Location	Non-resident /resident cost	Scholarship?	Age	Phone	Web Info
Flathead Lake High School Camp	July 7-13	Rollins, MT	\$505	Y	H	(406) 212-3939	www.flatheadlakemusiccamp.org
Flathead Lake Middle School Camp	June 16-22	Rollins, MT	\$505	Y	M	(406) 212-3939	www.flatheadlakemusiccamp.org
Red Lodge Music Festival	June 1-9	Red Lodge, MT	\$520/\$649	Y	7th-H	(406) 256-5210	www.rlmf.org
UM Piano Camp	June 16-22	Missoula, MT	See website	N	8th+	(406) 243-6880	http://www.umd.edu/music
UM Jazz Camp	July 21-26	Missoula, MT	See website	Y	7th+	(406) 243-6880	http://www.umd.edu/music
UM Band, Jazz, Strings, Compo, World M	June 23-28	Missoula, MT	See website	Y	7th+	(406) 243-6880	http://www.umd.edu/music
UM / MSA String Camp	June 23-28	Missoula, MT	See website	Y	1st+	(406) 243-6880	http://www.umd.edu/music
Amp Camp	July 7-13	Billings, MT	See website	Y	MHA	(406) 670-9046	http://www.ampcampbillings.com
Camp Festival Amadeus	July 6-11	Whitefish, MT	425+	Y	M H	(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 2-7 & 9-14	Monarch, MT	See website	See website	All	(406) 320-1150	www.montanafiddlecamp.org
Baroque Performance Workshop	Aug 16-18	Bozeman, MT	\$250	Y	H+	(406) 599-3397	https://baroquemusicmontana.org/period-performance-workshop
International Music Camp Several one week programs	Several dates. See website	Int'l Peace Garden, ND	\$630	Y	5th+	(701) 838-8472	www.internationalmusiccamp.com
Yellowstone Summer Music Camp	June 16-21	Powell, WY	\$390/\$590	Y	6th-H	307-754-6427	northwestmusic.org/ yellowstone-summer-music-camp
Flathead Lutheran Bible - Choir Camp	June 23-28	Lakeside, MT	\$600	Y	3rd-H	(406) 752-6602	www.flbc.net
Last Chance Lesson Camps - Beginners	Aug 5-9	Helena, MT	\$125	Y	5th-H	(406) 430-0009	https://lastchancemusic.org
Last Chance Music Camp - Experienced	June 9-14	Helena, MT	\$350	Y	5th-H	(406) 430-0009	https://lastchancemusic.org
Nova Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids Camp & Musical Theater Intensives	Several dates. See website	Billings, MT	\$350	Y	2nd-H	(406) 591-9535	www.NOVAbillings.org
Bozeman Summer String Jam	Aug 5-9	Bozeman, MT	\$170	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.

Produced by the  
Great Falls  
Music Teachers  
Association  
**gfmta.org**  
and the  
Montana State  
Music Teachers  
Association  
**msmta.com**





Create

Express

Innovate

Educate



For program information and for a  
complete list of our concert, festival,  
& camp schedules, please visit:

[umt.edu/music](http://umt.edu/music)





## NORTHWEST DIVISION NEWS: Exciting Changes Underway at MTNA

MARY KAYE OWEN, NCTM



With the cold weather the Northwest has been experiencing this season, I'm looking forward to a little heat in Atlanta come March 17 through 20. (Of course Pedagogy Saturday is March

16th, if I want to add another day in the sunshine!) I hope you've saved this time on your calendar, and that you might even already have your airline tickets ordered. I look forward to seeing you there!

This will be the last conference I attend as Northwest Division Director. You will be in good hands with Steven Hesla of MONTANA(!)

taking on that role starting March 20 immediately after the conference Awards Brunch! The fifteen-member Board is made up of seven Division Directors, along with the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Vice President of Membership, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Director. It has been my pleasure to serve while the Board has been working to reach young professional music teachers - looking to the future of our organization, as well as seeking a new Executive Director after Gary Ingle announced his upcoming retirement in June 2024. He will be greatly missed. The plan is to introduce MTNA's new Executive Director at the MTNA conference in Atlanta. Steven will have a brand new Board to work with, and I wish them all well. I know exciting things are in store for MTNA! Stay tuned...

🎵 The Hills Are Alive With the Sound of Success 🎵



**A GREAT  
EXPERIENCE**

Start Your  
**PROFITABLE**  
Fundraiser Today



**PROVEN  
PRODUCTS**



**A SIMPLE  
PROGRAM**



**SUCCESS**  
N FUNDRAISING  
[www.successnfr.com](http://www.successnfr.com)



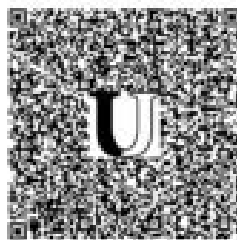
Visit Our Website to Learn More

montanabraid@successnfr.com | (406) 589-5384 | 6650 Camp Creek Road | Manhattan, MT



**YOUR STUDENTS HAVE A PASSION FOR PERFORMING.**  
We have scholarships to help them succeed.

**We believe the arts are for everyone.** Whether students want to major in the arts—like Music, Music Ed, or Theatre—or participate in one of our nine performing groups, they're eligible for **performing arts scholarships up to \$6,500**. Know a student who wants to continue performing in college? Have them fill out an interest form by scanning the QR code.



For more information visit [uj.edu/performing-arts](https://uj.edu/performing-arts) or contact Alicia at 701-659-3018 or [Alicia.Bollingberg@uj.edu](mailto:Alicia.Bollingberg@uj.edu)

*University of*  
**JAMESTOWN**



## 2023-2024 FOUNDATION FELLOW: Sharon Marble, Billings

SHARON WEAVER-KNOWLES, NCTM



Great news! Foundation Fellow, Sharon Marble of Billings MTA, has now been officially named after fundraising efforts exceeded the required total donations to the Foundation of \$1,500 in her name! Thank

you to all who participated in this effort and congratulations, Sharon!

What happens next? Sharon will be honored along with many others from across the country during the National Conference Gala in March in Atlanta. Her photo and bio will be shown throughout the evening and she will receive her award from our National President who will read her Biography while she walks up on stage.

It would be wonderful if we could have a "Montana" table of 10 to celebrate with her! Please be sure to read Sharon's most impressive bio in our Montana Music News Fall 2023 Issue (p. 26). She has given so much to our organization for the benefit of our students and teachers for so many years and we thank her sincerely for her dedication and hard work!

All of us members of MTNA now receive email messages from National letting us know throughout the year what grants and awards we might apply for and the deadlines for each. All awards and grant monies given come from the MTNA FOUNDATION. Details are on [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). Please do peruse this website for information!

Thank you again for your continued support of the MTNA "Fellow" program.

### Sharon Says:

*I wish to offer a huge, heartfelt thank you to all of the Montana chapters and colleagues who donated to the MTNA Foundation on my behalf, recognizing me as your 2024 MTNA Foundation Fellow. The goal of \$1,500 was not only met, but surpassed expectations. Dr. Gary Ingle, MTNA Executive Director & CEO, wrote to me saying this was "indicative of their [your] deep and abiding gratitude for your [my] life and work," but I see it as YOU all supporting this wonderful music organization of which we are all a part. We are all valuable teachers, impacting many, many students and bringing music into their lives, and I can say that MTNA, the State, and local association members have done so much to further my own education and career over 34 years. What a gift - I'm so grateful! Again, thank you all for your support!*

*Contributions to the MTNA Foundation Fund support MTNA's mission to advance the value of music study and music making to society through programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music, and support the professionalism of music teachers. Visit [mtnafoundation.org](http://mtnafoundation.org) for more information.*



Last Chance Music Camp is an Ironhorse Youth Music program.  
<https://ironhorsemusic.org>

### Helena Summer Music!

- Full Camp (June)
  - Experienced musicians receive small group instruction
  - Students rehearse and perform in a variety of ensembles
- Lesson Camps (August)
  - Beginner musicians learn an instrument or learn choral skills
  - Experienced musicians can learn a new musical skill

<https://lastchancemusic.org>





2023-2024

INTERMOUNTAIN OPERA BOZEMAN

ANNOUNCING OUR  
45<sup>TH</sup> SEASON!



MONTEVERDI'S

# THE CORONATION OF POPPEA

IN COLLABORATION WITH



SEPTEMBER 29 - 30  
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

# CAROUSEL

IN COLLABORATION WITH

haven

FEBRUARY 2 - 4 & 9 - 11  
THE ELLEN THEATRE

PUCCINI'S

# La Bohème

IN COLLABORATION WITH



HRDC  
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY

APRIL 25 - 28  
THE ELLEN THEATRE



SEASON TICKETS  
ON SALE NOW!

SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE STARTING AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2023  
(406) 587-2889 [www.IntermountainOpera.org](http://www.IntermountainOpera.org)



## 2024 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 2024.

### 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, 2024.

### 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, 2024

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

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

## 2024 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 18, 2024.
2. A recipient will be selected by May 1, 2024, 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, 2024. 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

---

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Studying in the Department of Music at \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program Pursuing \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Current Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

(If applicable)

Former MSMTA Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

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:

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



*Tuning, Repairs, Rebuilding,  
Moving, Evaluations*

## HEPPLER PIANO.com

*Second Generation Piano Service  
Manhattan, MT*



**PIANO  
TECHNICIANS  
GUILD.**

*Aaron Heppler, RPT  
Elizabeth Heppler, RPT*

**406-209-2063**

**hepplerpiano@msn.com**



## **NOW SELLING NEW and USED PIANOS**

Authorized dealer for New **KAWAI** grand and vertical pianos

Trade-ins and consignments accepted. Also offering  
PianoDisc player systems, Piano Life Saver humidity control systems.

**TERIYAKI  
MADNESS**

# HUGE BOWLS

**OF AWESOMENESS!**

1008 Shiloh Crossing Blvd #5, Billings, MT 59102 | (406) 409-3388  
1710 10th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405 | (406) 315-3388

*Inspiring*  
young artists since  
**1956**

REGISTER ONLINE *for*  
JUNE and JULY!

INTERNATIONAL  
MUSIC CAMP

[www.internationalmusiccamp.com](http://www.internationalmusiccamp.com)  
(701) 838-8472



## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

---

MSMTA Annual Meeting  
General Membership Meeting of the Association  
Saturday, November 4th, 2023

With eighteen members in attendance, President Ginny Reese called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

The minutes from the 2022 General Meeting in the booklet were read and approved by those in attendance.

Carla Bell began the meeting with the treasurer's report. She reviewed the previous year's net gain of \$2,967 (between July 2022 and June 2023). There was some concern raised about conferences and competitions not making enough money to break even, but it was discussed that this is fairly normal and is compensated with money from other events. Sponsorships do help offset the cost of Competitions. The projected Revenue to Expenses for the upcoming year is short of about \$5,000. Emphasis was later made during the Finance/Proposed Budget on getting more sponsorships and grants to help support some upcoming expenses. The report was approved by Steven Helsa's motion and second by Mary Kaye Owen.

Kim Peachy gave the membership report, sharing that we have five new members and three new collegiate members. Two members have reinstated their membership.

Carla Bell presented the proposed Budget and it was approved with all in favor.

### Old Business:

Sharon Marble addressed the topic of the possibility of combining the bylaws and the state constitution as other state associations have done this. After researching the process and the benefits and disadvantages of having one or two documents, Sharon recommended not changing anything about the structure of the documents as there is no big benefit to doing so and it is a lot of work.

Steven Helsa shared that \$730 was raised for the Sharon Foundation, and \$225 for the Joyce Anderson Endowment came from the raffle.

### New Business:

Discussion for the 2024 conference began with ideas for increasing registration and participation. The low attendance at the Kalispell conference sparked the idea of holding future conferences in more centralized locations so more people could make it. Concern was raised that it would limit the number of people attending as those from father towns are less likely to attend and it puts most of the work of putting on the conference on just a few people in those designated cities. We then discussed having a conference committee made up of people from across the state to help with the planning. Carla did raise the point that having the Fall conference moving from different towns helps to spark interest in students competing, leading them to be more willing to travel to the next conference to compete more. It was recommended to survey teachers and students about what kept them from attending the conference this year and how we can help them make it next year.

Fall Festival for next year: Concern was raised about not allowing students who have won to compete the next year as this limits experience to some students who are the only ones competing in their division. The issue is being handed to the competition committee for them to review the rules and decide the best course.

The 100th Annual Convention will be held in 2026, so the current President-Elect Margery Whatley, Laura Detrick, and Carla Bell will be on the planning committee for the big celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

- Cassandra Bak, Secretary

# ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE WITH AN MA IN MUSIC



Experience the vibrancy of the Master of Arts in Music program at the University of Mary. Tailored for busy educators, this program refines your teaching skills, hones performance expertise, and opens doors to a future of musical excellence.

Engage in flexible online courses, including independent study, and participate in collaborative two-week summer residencies.



UNIVERSITY  
of MARY

Online

Explore the possibilities!

Apply now at [online.umary.edu/MusicMA](https://online.umary.edu/MusicMA)

For more information, contact us at [music@umary.edu](mailto:music@umary.edu)



BOZEMAN SYMPHONY  
Norman Huynh, Music Director

2023/24 SEASON

## Summit New Musical Heights

### NORMAN CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 3

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 24-25, 2024

### BRAHMS SYMPHONY NO. 1 & A SCOTT LEE WORLD PREMIERE

Saturday & Sunday, March 23-24, 2024

### ELGAR'S ENIGMA VARIATIONS

Saturday & Sunday, April 13-14, 2024

### "O, FORTUNA!" ORFF'S CARMINA BURANA

Friday-Sunday, May 17-19, 2024

### AT THE MOVIES: THE MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS

Friday-Sunday, June 7-9, 2024

**Tickets available at [www.bozemansymphony.org](http://www.bozemansymphony.org)**

(406) 585-9774 | 402 East Main Street, Suite 202 | Bozeman, MT



# MONTANA PIANO

*Premium Quality Instruments*

**Montana's Only Bösendorfer Dealer**



- New and Used Pianos
- Institutional Sales
- Concert Rentals

**Bösendorfer**



---

**[www.montanapiano.com](http://www.montanapiano.com) // 4812 Rimrock Rd. Billings, MT 59106 // 406 500-1963**



## **Montana Music News**

Montana State Music Teachers Association  
c/o Ginny Reese  
37 Penney Lane  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912-9058