



THE IOWA MUSIC TEACHER

**IMTA State
Conference &
MTNA National
Conference
Highlights**

LXXXVI no. 1
Summer 2023

Music

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THE EDITOR'S DESK

In this issue, you will find information about upcoming MTNA competitions, as well as photos from both the State IMTA Conference and the National MTNA Conference. Both were so informative and offered a much needed boost after the winter months and the beginnings of summer.

You will get a glimpse of the “old and the new” members moving into new positions. Please change your contacts list and go to iamta.org/leadership to ensure you are contacting the correct people when you reach out to the IMTA board members.

Please remember, our next magazine is due September 1, 2023. I know it is a busy time of year, so I would very much appreciate receiving your articles the last week of August. There are so many details in the fall issue and we want that information, as well as our directory, as soon as possible. Thank you for taking the time to write your articles in word, pdf. or send in the body of an email. Enclose any photos or graphics you find will enhance our magazine. If you are new to the board, please send your preferred photo that will appear next to your article in each issue.

I don't often take the time to thank Robin Doty, our graphics designer. She is so patient and works humbly in the background. Without her, our magazine would be a jumbled mess of articles. She keeps me on task and does such an amazing job. Thank you, Robin, from everyone in IMTA!

In closing, I am excited to introduce our new advertising editor, Ellie Grace Lashier. She is a young professional who has just joined IMTA and is looking forward to a great future in piano teaching. She is currently an Iowa State student who has been teaching at Tuneful Journey and Lott Piano Studio. She



Ellie Grace Lashier

can't wait to meet all of you, so please welcome her and offer your kindness and assistance as she begins as an IMTA volunteer.

Here's to a long, relaxing summer!



IMTA Information Editor

Cyndie Caruth, NCTM
imtamagazine@gmail.com

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Membership

IMTA/MTNA membership year:

July 1 through June 30.

MTNA National
membership dues: \$97.00

Active Iowa IMTA dues: \$40.00

All active dues: join by September 1
to enter competitions.

New members: join by October 1
to enter competitions.

In order to be eligible to adjudicate
for IMTA events, you must have paid
upcoming dues before July 1.

MTNA Senior
70 years or older: \$72.75

Iowa Senior dues 65 or older: \$20.00

MTNA Collegiate
membership dues: \$19.00

Iowa Collegiate Student
member dues \$10.00

Collegiate Membership is open to
all college music students who are
also members of an affiliated state
association and a collegiate chapter if
available. Collegiate membership runs
October 1 through September 30.

A six-month/trial membership is
offered to individuals meeting active
membership criteria who have never
been MTNA members. The six-month/
trial membership runs from January 1
through June 30.

Contact Us

Contact a local association president at:
iamta.org/local-associations.php
and experience valuable meetings and
networking opportunities.

Please contact MTNA at
(888) 512-5278 or (513) 421-1420
for further member information.

Official Publication of the
Iowa Music Teachers Association
Affiliated with The Music
Teachers National Association

Advertising contact:
imtaadvertising@gmail.com
Submit articles and photos to:
imtainformation@gmail.com

IMTA Statement of Philosophy

The Iowa Music Teachers Association, reflecting the tradition of Music Teachers National Association, is dedicated to a practical role of artistic service in our society. Through activities involving students, merchants and patrons as well as music teachers, the Iowa Music Teachers Association promotes professional standards in music and fulfills its dedication to cultural leadership. To explore the Iowa Music Teachers Association online, visit www.iamta.org.

IMTA Statement of Function

The function of *The Iowa Music Teacher* is to reflect the philosophy of the Iowa Music Teachers Association; to serve as a vehicle of communication for its members to their state officers, expressing their attitudes and needs; to inform the subscribers and membership of events and ideas; to report musical activity in the state; and to stimulate and encourage active interest participation, and support for the Iowa Music Teachers Association as it maintains its role of leadership in the state of Iowa.

IMTA Magazine

As a non-profit organization, Iowa Music Teachers Association quarterly magazine subscriptions are mailed automatically to members. Non-member subscriptions are \$10.00 per issue. One sample copy furnished to prospective members without charge upon request. *The Iowa Music Teachers* is not a registered copyright publication. Members have permission to reprint anything contained herein unless there is a specific notice of copyright appended to the article or portion of an article. For further information about the magazine, contact the editor at imtamagazine@gmail.com.

MTNA Founding and Purpose

In 1876, Theodore Presser and 62 of his colleagues founded Music Teachers National Association with the purpose of advancing the value of music study and music making to society while supporting the careers and professionalism of music teachers. Today with more than 20,000 members, MTNA is a vibrant and powerful professional alliance with members reaping the rewards of collaboration, continuity and connection throughout the lifetime of their music teaching careers. MTNA/IMTA Active Membership is available to any individual professionally engaged in a music activity who is also a member of an affiliated state association. Active members enjoy all benefits of membership and are entitled to participate in all MTNA activities, vote and hold office.

APPRECIATION & THANKS

AS NEW BOARD BEGINS DUTIES

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the recent IMTA State Conference hosted by Cedar Rapids MTA at Coe College. We heard from a number of engaging clinicians including Christopher Goldston, Dr. Julie Knerr-Hague, Allison Chenoweth, Dr. Daniel Shapiro, Dr. Jason Sifford and Michelle Sisler. Dr. Suzanne Torkelson's presentation of new piano compositions was informative and as always, illustrated with her invaluable pedagogical insights. We were inspired by the performances of our State Audition winners and by the beautifully narrative recital performed by Dr. Daniel Shapiro. Masterclasses were presented by Christopher Goldston and Daniel Shapiro.

We were able to honor our award winners at the banquet on Monday evening. Our Nationally Certified Teacher of the Year is Dr. Marian Lee. The Distinguished Service Award was given to Cate Bryan and the Foundation Fellow is Dr. Alan Huckleberry. Congratulations to each of these deserving, hard-working members of Iowa State Music Association.

We said thank you to Board Members who finished their service in the following positions:
Dr. Janci Bronson, President
Dr. Sharon Jensen, President Elect
Allison Chenoweth, Membership
Carroll Caruth, Treasurer
Sharon Jensen, Local Associations

I would like to thank these members for their time, energy, and for their willingness to promote the well-being of our organization. Special recognition goes to Dr. Janci Bronson who has led us with grace, expertise and an irenic spirit. With the demands of a busy young family and a university teaching position, she has juggled these many activities with aplomb. You have earned a well-deserved rest, Janci!

The following members are assuming new positions on the IMTA Board:
Sharon Jensen, President

Allison Chenoweth, President Elect
Melinda Westphalen, Membership
Abbie Brewer, Secretary
Cate Bryan, Treasurer
Mary Beth Shaffer, Local Associations
Archivist/ Historian, Timothy LaFleur
Advertising, Ellie Grace Lashier

At the Business Meeting Lunch on Tuesday Janci passed her presidential gavel to me. I appreciate the confidence you have placed in me to serve as your next president. I follow a long list of presidents who have served in many other capacities in IMTA and have contributed in countless ways to the strength of this organization. I look forward to serving you in this capacity.

Let's thank Abbie Brewer, Allison Chenoweth and Melinda Westphalen for their wonderful planning and hosting of the Cedar Rapids Conference. Attendance at the conference brings so many benefits, not the least of which is our ability to reconnect with friends and colleagues. Janci announced that the IMTA Conference in 2024 will be hosted by Des Moines Music Teachers Association. Plan to be there!

- Dr. Sharon Jensen



Dr. Sharon Jensen receives presidential gavel from out-going IMTA President Dr. Janci Bronson



Dr. Sharon Jensen
imtapresident@gmail.com
sharonkjensenpiano@gmail.com

NEW REPERTOIRE UPDATES FOR 2023-2024

Thank you to those of you who suggested new music for our presentation at the 2023 Coe College IMTA conference. The presentation was a little different this year; there was no handout but there were examples shown on an overhead. We were pleasantly surprised there were so many possibilities we could add to this year's repertoire list.

You may notice the new feature online to help draw attention to under-represented composers marked in italics. You will be able to find these compositions to quickly share with your students as you desire. We realize the under-represented composers list is somewhat subjective. Should you discover additional composers already on the list that should be italicized, please alert us so it might appear on the 2025 listing. Thank you to Dr. Perry Mears for his helpful suggestions in this area.

Please be aware that the update is available on the website beginning July 15. In the past, we have found inconsistencies between hard copies and handouts from conference, causing much confusion. As a committee, we wish to make it easier for you to find accurate information. That said, old or new hard copies will no longer be distributed or allowed for cross-checking

purposes. We hope you take advantage of the online list as it is now the only accurate and final list. New entries are marked 2023. Remember, you may start entering your student's repertoire as soon as you wish and alter any time up to the registration deadline date. Early entering of information online will help to avoid many of the errors that have been made in the past.

Should you find an obvious, egregious error, please alert us and it will be corrected in the update the following year. With this July 15, 2023 update, all of your personal information concerning student repertoire will also be erased, so please take the time to print a copy of your student performances from your personal dashboard page if you wish to track pieces you use regularly.

Again, we welcome your new music suggestions at all levels. This assists us in finding new gems that we as a committee may have not known about, or overlooked. Have a great "new music" summer!

Committee: Melissa Philips, Levels A and B; Roberta Quist, Levels C and D; Cyndie Caruth, Levels E and F



IMTA Repertoire Chair

Dr. Suzanne Torkelson
imtarepertoire@gmail.com

REMINDER: JULY 1 DUES DEADLINE



IMTA Membership Chair

Allison Chenoweth
imtamembers@gmail.com

Here is your friendly reminder to pay your dues! This is important for several reasons: first, your paid dues give you access to the IMTA website for registration for festival and auditions, the complete repertoire syllabus, and many other documents.

Second, if you are on the state judge's list, **your dues MUST be paid by July 1 in order to be considered to judge for both festival and auditions!** This state rule will be hard-lined

this year, so please make the effort to have your dues paid by this date.

As of July 1, Dr. Melinda Westphalen will be taking over as the state Membership and Mentorship chair. I know that Melinda will be a fantastic leader for our state. Please welcome her into this important role!



PLAN YOUR YEAR!

Adjudicator Dues Payment Deadline

July 1, 2023

Dues payment deadline to be listed as an official IMTA adjudicator in 2023-24.

Fall Magazine Deadline

Sept. 1, 2023 (or earlier!)

Fall magazine deadline. Please email board member articles, new members bios, local association news, senior recitals and announcements to imtamagazine@gmail.com.

Renewing Memberships Due

Sept. 1, 2023

All renewing memberships due. Late payments will be ineligible to enter students in IMTA events.

MTNA Summit in Cincinnati for IMTA President and MTNA Officers

Sept. 8-9, 2023

Registration Deadline for MTNA Competitions

Sept. 13th, 2023, 2:00 P.M. CT/3:00 P.M. ET

Registration deadline for Junior, Senior, Young Artist and Composition Competitions.

West Central Division Local Association Zoom Seminar

September 29

IMTA Fall Board Meeting

October 21, 2023

Dubuque

Iowa MTNA Junior, Senior and Young Artist Competitions

November 4-5, 2023

Iowa MTNA Junior, Senior and Young Artist Competitions will be held at Iowa State University.

IMTA State Pre-College Auditions

March 9, 2024

Iowa State University

MTNA National Conference

March 16-24, 2024

MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Plan ahead to attend!

IMTA State Conference

June 3-4-5, 2024

Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa

Join us for what is already shaping up to be an amazing experience for teachers, young professionals and students!

Reminder: All festival and auditions dates will be firmed up and listed in the Fall magazine as well as online at iamta.org.

New members: Contact your local auditions or festival chair listed at iamta.org if you have questions. All student registrations appear on your personal dashboard page online and are automatically submitted after the published deadline date (approximately 1 month in advance of performance).

Please review all rules and regulations when you login to your dashboard page at iamta.org as there are yearly updates.

Apologies to Cate Bryan of Waukee whose name did not appear in the Spring IMT as a recipient of a 2022 Steinway Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to Cate!

IOWA STATE MUSIC



PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Bachelor of Music Degree in:
Keyboard Performance
Keyboard Education
Bachelor of Arts in Music
Minor in Music
Possible lessons for non-major

FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Mei-Hsuan Huang (Piano Performance)
Dr. Janci Bronson (Piano Pedagogy)
Dr. Tin-Shi Tam (Carillon)
Dr. Miriam Zach (Organ and Harpsichord)

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talent scholarships

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Music and Theatre

music.iastate.edu

The Department of Music and Theatre congratulates Dr. Janci Bronson as she begins her term as President of the Iowa Music Teachers Association.



**MEI-HSUAN
HUANG**

piano performance



**JANCI
BRONSON**

piano pedagogy



**MIRIAM
ZACH**

harpsichord,
organ



**TIN-SHI
TAM**

carillon

2023 CONFERENCE IMTA/WEST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



IMTA members Melinda Westphalen, and Ted Reuter with scholarship winners Sarah Eichstedt and Angelina Chen

IMTA/West scholarship auditions were held at the 2023 IMTA Conference at Coe College.

\$2000 was awarded to pianist Angelina Chen, student of Larisa Kanevski and \$1200 was awarded to pianist Sarah Eichstedt, student of Cyndie Caruth. Dr. Ted Reuter chaired the

event and Dr. Melinda Westphalen served as the adjudicator. Congratulations to these wonderful students. The scholarship is awarded yearly to seniors who plan to major or minor in music at any university.



Dr. Ted Reuter
imtascholarship@gmail.com

laMTA.org : [HTTPS://IAMTA.ORG](https://IAMTA.ORG)

What a great IMTA State conference to have missed! Being the fashionista that I am, I dressed for the first day of the conference before loading my luggage. The result was a foot bone fracture from twisting it in a beautiful, summery wedge heel shoe with fancy leather straps on the front and no straps on the back. Thinking the "twist" was no more than a sprain, I trekked on up to the conference. Unfortunately, there was far too much limping and pain to endure. Since I'd have insisted my kids get such limping and pain checked out at the hospital, I took my own advice and went. The St. Luke's staff were as kind as could be. The doctor provided me a boot and crutches and told me to go see a specialist the next day. So, instead of a fabulous picnic with colleagues, piano performances, and workshops, it was back to Oskaloosa for me. I am recuperating nicely so far. AND ... I can still teach piano!

Summer 2023

There have been a number of updates to the website since the conference. Please do continue sending news and update requests. If you notice an error, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at imtawebmaster@gmail.com.

The 2022-23 season is now wrapped up and we're moving on to 2023-24. As we start moving forward into the new season, here are a few IMTA website tips and notes:

- If you have moved, gotten a new phone number, or changed your email address, you will want to verify that the information is correct for both your MTNA and IMTA accounts. Contact Melissa Curtice (mcurtice@mtna.org) and your IMTA Membership (imtamembers@gmail.com) and Website Chairs (imtawebmaster@gmail.com) to verify or change your contact information. Web-based options to change

Continued on page 35



Angela Binns
imtainformation@gmail.com

2023-2024 FESTIVAL CALENDAR

The State Conference was a great time to catch up with many teachers, as always!

Below is the most complete list I have for the 2023-2024 Festival Calendar. The webmaster, Angela Binns, has also posted this on the website. I will update information there as the last few dates and chairs are determined, as well as adding deadlines.

This year we had 11 centers, 247 students, and 49 teachers involved in IMTA Festivals. All these numbers are up from the last couple of years, which is encouraging to see.

Festival rates will not change for 2023-2024, and will remain as follows: \$20/20-minutes, \$30/30 minutes, \$45/45 minutes and \$60/60 minutes. The judging and mileage rates also will remain the same at \$35/hour and \$0.50/mile, respectively.

Two minor rule updates were made. The first is about teachers using their own login during registration. The reason being that the website automatically enters the teacher's name who is logged in, regardless of the teacher's name and MTNA number entered. Two minor issues came up this year, and I hope to avoid confusion in the future. If you are interested in finding the Festival Rules, they can be found at iamta.org/festivals.php.

The second rule is in regards to ISMLP; using music that is public domain: **Students will be allowed to use public domain scores for IMTA events but must provide evidence that their use represents fair use as required by copyright law. Any use of music not printed by the publisher must include the required documentation such as printed receipt, permission page (for digital copies authorized for use) or the link page verifying that the music is in US public domain (for IMSLP or other free public domain scores). Verification information should be paper clipped to the printing so that it can be removed by the judge's assistant once verification has been completed.**

Lastly, we added three new names to the IMTA Adjudicator's List this year: Allison Chenoweth, Xiao Hu and Vahktang Kodanashvili. Seven more teachers are in varying stages of completing their probationary judging requirements. Please consider them as you schedule your festivals for 2023-2024. The most updated list is always available on the website, iamta.org/members/forms-resources.php, under 2023-2024 Probationary Judges List.

If you have any questions about Festivals or how to become a judge, please reach out to me at imtafestivals@gmail.com.



Rachel McCoy
imtafestivals@gmail.com

Center	Next year's date	Next year's chair	Email
Cedar Falls	TBD	TBD	
Cedar Rapids	12/2/23	Allison Chenoweth	achenoweth@westmusic.com
Des Moines/Suburbs	12/2/23	Irina Kaplan	imtadmsfestival@gmail.com
Dubuque	11/11/23?	Leslie Appleby	leslieappleby@gmail.com
Dyersville	12/2/23	Rachel McCoy	rachel.d.mccoy@gmail.com
Forest City	1/13/24	Melissa Phillips	melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu
Iowa City/ Coralville	11/11/23	Nancy Cree	nancy@nancycree.com
Lytton	12/2/23	Deb Ausborn	debausborn@gmail.com
Mason City	TBD in August	Lissa Pohlman	lissa.pohlman@gmail.com
Quad Cities	TBD	Charlie Schmidt	charles.schmidt@augustana.edu
Webster City	TBD	Joan Hopkins	kjhopkins67@gmail.com

2023-2024 Probationary Judges List

Melissa Phillips (1)
3389 Sage Dr
Forest City, IA 50436
507-360-6477
melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu

Luke Tyler (1)
1030 Melrose Ter
Dubuque, IA 52001
765-265-5462
drlatylr@gmail.com

Abbie Brewer (1)
221 Brentwood Dr NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-329-1598
abrewer@coe.edu

Kelsey Legore (1)
4044 Vine Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
515-783-4102
kelseylegoremusic@gmail.com

Cate Bryan (1)
130 SE Trillium Dr
Waukee, IA 50263
630-450-4891
cate.bryan@gmail.com

Mavis Chen
1332 Collins St
Webster City, IA 50595
515-236-0076
mavischen21@yahoo.com.tw

Sarah Reeves
1021 NW Applewood St
Ankeny, IA 50023
641-203-6659
sarahgv46@gmail.com

Updated 6/9/23

Names are printed with the number of festivals completed in parenthesis beside name. Any names without a number are new probationary judges and are listed in the order their application was received.

Any paid IMTA member can apply to be a Probationary Judge. Use the "Probationary Judging Application" form from the iamta.org website. <https://iamta.org/members/forms-resources.php>

After a probationary adjudicator has judged three festivals with positive reviews, they will automatically be placed on the IMTA Judges List.

Each Festival Chair should fill out the "Official Probationary IMTA Judging Evaluation Form" for any probationary judge they hire and submit it to the state festival chair at imtafestivals@gmail.com.

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2023 State Conference is in the Books!

It was great seeing so many of you at Coe College this June. We hope that you have some new ideas to take back to your studios to use in the upcoming school year. From Chris Goldston's presentation on his new website featuring his and his mother, Margaret Goldston's music (www.chrisgoldston.com), to Michelle Sisler's overview of games to use with your students (www.keystoimagination.com), Daniel Shapiro's impressive guest artist recital (danielshapiropianist.com), and Julie Knerr Hague's work on lost repertoire gems (www.pianosafari.com), there was something for everyone! A huge thank you also to all the performers who participated in the All-Stars Concert—wow! There is so much talent in our state and we are glad you were able to share just a little of that with us.

Big thanks also to Rieman Music for their sponsorship of the Monday evening recital reception and donation of gift cards for door prizes, and to West Music for sponsoring the Sunday evening All-Stars reception and the IMTA-West Scholarship.

Also, a huge shout-out to Carter Nolan from Coe College for all his work with technology for presentations and sound. He made our lives much easier!

If you're wondering about the new additions to the IMTA Syllabus, check back at iamta.org after July 15th for a full listing of the music by level. I'm sure we are all looking forward to some fresh, new pieces for our students.

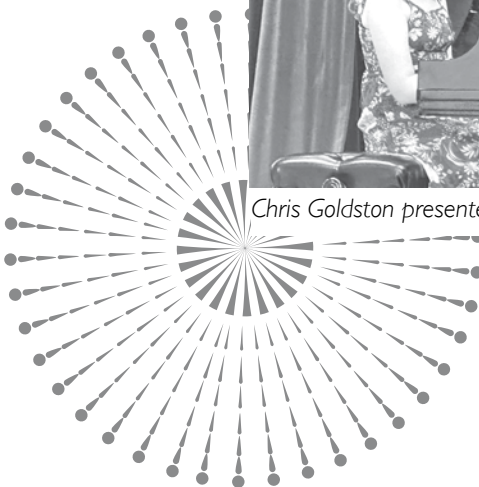
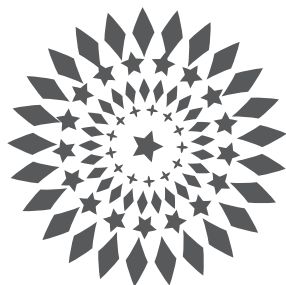
We hope to see even more of you next year when our conference travels to Drake University in Des Moines.

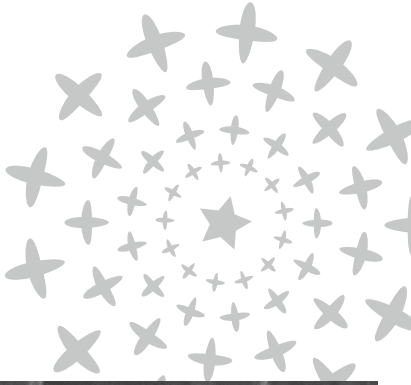


*DONE! Allison Chenoweth and Melinda Westphalen, conference chairs
(not pictured, Abbie Brewer)*

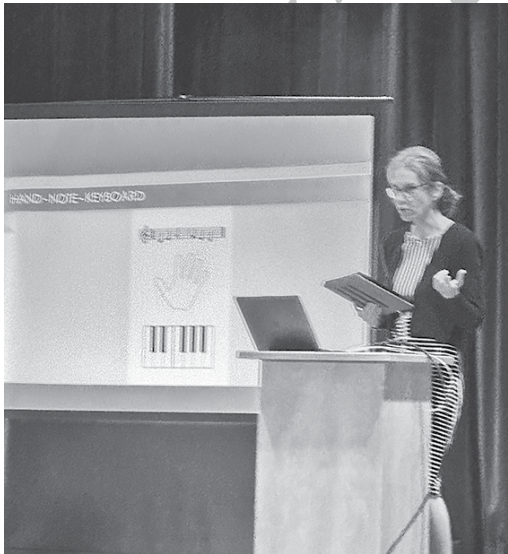


Chris Goldston presented a Master Class





Conference Artist Daniel Shapiro with Master Class students



Julie Knerr-Hague presentation



Daniel Shapiro, conference artist



Part of the 2024 conference crew!

Announcement!

The 2024 IMTA State Conference will be held at Drake University on June 2-3-4, 2024.

This photo of the Des Moines Music Teachers crew is here to let you know that behind all of our seriousness, there are some entertaining moments which we hope to bring to you next year. Stay tuned for additional details from our IMTA conference committee!

Dr. Marion Lee, NCTM named the 2023 IMTA Certified Teacher of the Year



*Dr. Marion Lee, NCTM
2023 IMTA Certified Teacher
of the Year*

Marian Lee made her New York City debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall as winner of the Artists International Award and has appeared as soloist and with orchestra internationally in Austria, Belgium, Italy, France, Norway, Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Poland, Brazil, Byelorussia, Estonia, Hong Kong, and Thailand, as well as in Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Seattle's Benaroya Hall, Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall and Rachmaninoff Hall, and the Hermitage Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia. In liaison with the U.S. State Department, Lee also received numerous grants in support of performances of American contemporary music abroad and is a former Fulbright and International Research and Exchange (IREX) scholar.

Marian Lee has given numerous world and U.S. premieres by contemporary composers from Russia, France, the Baltic republics and the United States. Notable professional activities include violin and piano duos with Philadelphia Orchestra concertmaster David Kim, Milwaukee Symphony concertmaster Frank Almond, and Naha Greenholz, concertmaster of Madison and Quad City Symphony Orchestras. She has also held master classes in Hong Kong, Delaware, Louisiana, Alabama, Illinois and Iowa.

Marian Lee made her initial concert debut in high school performing with Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and Flint Symphony Orchestra in Michigan. She entered The Juilliard School as a scholarship student receiving a Bachelor of Music under the guidance of Gyorgy Sandor. She went on to receive a Master of Music degree in piano performance with Seymour Lipkin and was



President Janci Bronson and Laura Crumblehorn presenting Certified Teacher of the Year award at IMTA Conference

subsequently awarded the coveted Fulbright Grant to study with Naum Shtarkman at the Moscow Conservatory in what was then the Soviet Union. During her three-year stay, Dr. Lee witnessed the fall of the Soviet Union and toured extensively within the former USSR. Upon her return to the United States, Dr. Lee completed her doctoral degree at the Peabody Conservatory of Music at The Johns Hopkins University with Boris Slutsky.

Dr. Lee previously taught at the University of Iowa and the University of Delaware before moving to Davenport, Iowa where she is currently an associate professor in piano and serves as head of the keyboard area at St. Ambrose University. An active teacher and frequent adjudicator, Dr. Lee is a proud member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), National Federation of Music Teachers (FMFTA), the Iowa Music Teachers Association (IMTA), Quad City Music Teachers Association (QCMTA), and was past president of the Delaware Music Teachers Association (DSMTA).

Congratulations to our friend and colleague, Dr. Marion Lee as the Iowa Music Teacher 2023 Certified Teacher of the Year.

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Bachelor of Science in Music Management



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and a dedication to **ethical leadership** and **civic responsibility**.

2024 FOUNDATION FELLOW: DR. ALAN HUCKLEBERRY

It is hard to believe another school year has come and gone. Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the 2023 IMTA State Conference got to start our summers off with a wonderfully inspiring weekend exploring repertoire, hearing great performances and discussing pedagogy. A highlight of the time for me was the banquet, where I had the privilege to announce Dr. Alan Huckleberry as this year's IMTA Foundation Fellow.

Dr. Huckleberry has been a leader and pioneer in the field of piano performance and pedagogy for many years. He is passionate about promoting new music alongside the classics. As a soloist, collaborative artist, and teacher he showcases the works of contemporary and under-represented composers. His ability to communicate standard repertoire technique as well as his passion to explore other styles make him a wonderful teacher.

He is a highly sought-after speaker and guest artist. In addition to his leadership of the piano pedagogy program at the university of Iowa, he liberally lends his expertise and passion to IMTA and MTNA through adjudication and insightful presentations. His work collaborating on the University of Iowa piano pedagogy YouTube channel benefits teachers here and around the world.

In recognition of his significant contributions to IMTA over the years, we want to send Dr. Huckleberry to the 2024 MTNA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. We have begun the fundraising on his behalf, but we want to continue strong. If you would like to send a tax deductible donation on his behalf, please make checks out to IMTA and write Foundation Fellow in the memo line. You can mail your checks to Cate Bryan, our new IMTA treasurer at 130 SE Trillium Dr, Waukee, IA 50263.



Honoree Dr. Alan Huckleberry with IMTA State Foundation Chair, Sarah Reeves.



IMTA State Foundation Chair

Sarah Reeves
imtafoundation@gmail.com

AUDITIONS UPDATES COMING FOR 2023-2024



State Conference Honor's Recital

to help avoid any further confusion: "Adjudicators are required to verbally instruct students on keyboard proficiency requirements before each student plays." Adjudicators will be provided the proper language to request the keyboard proficiency requirements with their Instructions to Judges pages

Hello Everyone!
First, I would like to thank everyone who has entrusted me these past two years with the role of State Auditions Chair. It has truly been an honor serving you all in this capacity, and I appreciate each and every person who went out of their way to support me in this endeavor!

As I transition this role over to the very capable and brilliant Dr. Andrea Johnson on July 1, I wanted to provide updates and decisions made during the State Conference:

The 2024 auditions date has been scheduled for March 9, 2024 at Iowa State University.

For those attending State Auditions next year, please note that prior to attending, Iowa State's risk management department will be requesting your name and address to complete a background check. More information will be forthcoming on this as the State Auditions date approaches.

Reminder that if you plan or want to adjudicate this coming 2023-2024 season, you **MUST** renew your membership by July 1, 2023.

Time limits for Levels D, E, and F will remain at 15, 18, and 25 minutes, respectively.

The Executive Board voted (Under the Keyboard Proficiency Section of our Rules and Regulations) to include this paragraph

The Executive Board voted (Under the Eligibility Section of our Rules and Regulations) to include this paragraph: "Teachers must register students under their own log-in on the IMTA website."

Auditions entrance fees will increase from \$25 to \$30 per entrant, to help offset tuning and building reservation costs.

Again, it has been my pleasure serving you and your students, and I look forward to continuing to serve under the capacity of State Treasurer!



IMTA Auditions Chair

Cate Bryan, NCTM
imtaauditionschair@gmail.com



Prior to the Honors recital at State Conference



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NEWLY-COMMISSIONED WORK TO PREMIER IN 2024

Those of you who attended our recent conference in Cedar Rapids may have noticed a conspicuous absence from the Iowa All-Stars concert: the premiere of our newly-commissioned work. The commissioning committee (Dr. Carl Schimmel, Heather Gillis, and I) has worked throughout the 22-23 school year to commission a new piece for solo piano from composer Aaron Israel Levin. He delivered the piano piece, *Grape*, as promised, but, due to some unfortunate circumstances, it was not possible to premiere the piece as originally scheduled. The IMTA Executive Board has decided to delay the premiere until the 2024, where the work will be premiered at the IMTA summer conference Drake University. You will doubtless hear more information about this throughout next school year.


This will be my last update as Chair of Composer Commissioning. I have accepted a faculty position in collaborative piano at Missouri State University. I am thrilled for this opportunity, but I will miss all of my teaching colleagues here in Iowa. Thank you to Dr. Janci Bronson for the opportunity to serve in leadership roles within IMTA over the last two years. If you are interested in taking over as Chair of Composer Commissioning for the 23-24 school year, please reach out to our new president, Dr. Sharon Jensen. If you would like more information about what the role entails, I would be happy to chat with you. If you like to keep in touch with me, feel free to email me at perry.mears@gmail.com



Dr. Perry Mears
imtacommissioning@gmail.com

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of hands playing a violin. The focus is on the fingers and the instrument, with a blurred background.

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IMTA MEMBERS ATTEND MTNA CONFERENCE IN RENO



Cyndie Caruth and Mary Beth Shaffer with 2023 Iowa Foundation Fellow, Jason Sifford



Twenty-seven West Central Division Dinner attendees



Dynamic duo Dennis Alexander and Kevin Olson at the Exhibit hall



Cyndie with former student Jacob Wang



*The 2024 MTNA Conference
will be held in Atlanta, GA
March 16-20*

Members of IMTA who attended the March 25-29, 2023 National MTNA Conference in Reno, Nevada included President Janci Bronson, Treasurer Carroll Caruth, Magazine Editor Cyndie Caruth, Iowa Foundation Fellow Jason Sifford, West Central Division Director, Mary Beth Shaffer and University of Iowa Collegiate Chapter chair, Alan Huckleberry. In addition to honoring Jason Sifford as Foundation Fellow and Cyndie Caruth as a 50-year IMTA/MTNA member, 27 members from West Central Division attended a wonderful dinner at Anthony's Chophouse.

The conference featured a stunning recital by artist Drew Peterson, who graciously stepped in for Yefim Bronfman with only one day's notice! He did not disappoint, and neither did the fiery performance by the Cann Sisters Piano Duo or the Formosan Violin-Piano Duo. Lara Downes, a pianist who has been called "an explorer whose imagination is fired by bringing notice to the underrepresented and forgotten," presented the conference keynote address. This year MTNA featured more master classes and teaching demonstrations than ever before, including an

Advanced Piano Master Class by Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow; an Intermediate Piano Master Class by Dennis Alexander; and an Elementary Piano Master Class by Melody Bober, in addition to an Elementary Teaching Demonstration led by Lisa Bastien and Lori Bastien. Other highlights included the Conference Gala, the Awards Brunch, and the Accelerated Learning Track and "One For All" sessions. In addition, there were industry showcases and the MTNA Exhibit Hall, where companies shared their latest products and innovations. An MTNA Conference is never complete without the National Competitions Finals and Winners Concerts. All of this was kicked-off with Pedagogy Saturday, which featured a record number of six tracks: Artistry; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Inclusive Teaching; Recreational Music Making; Wellness and Young Professionals.

If you've never attended a national conference, you owe it to yourself, your profession and to your students with the promise you will be hooked! We hope to see you next year for the MTNA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on March 16-20, 2024.

Peter Mack: *The Antique Whisperer*

A delightful day with a vibrant friend

I imagined this experience must equate to watching Peter teach. He carefully examined each item as if it were a musical score, judiciously dissecting everything for a most effective outcome.

While attending the MTNA summit during my time as IMTA president in 2017, I was fortunate to be seated at the dinner by none other than the colorful Peter Mack. He was connected with so many members and enjoyed every conversation with the many people at the table. He was asked to speak, and it was no surprise that everyone stopped to listen. He couldn't have been more charming. Many of us as IMTA members had the chance to meet him at last year's IMTA conference in Cedar Falls. Those of you who were there know that he quickly lights up the room and you find yourself clinging to every word and every idea.

When asked if he would be featured in our Spotlight article, he quickly said he would love to oblige. Not surprisingly, Peter is a very busy man. He is now the MTNA president, yet he continues to take time to reach out to people when they ask.

Following the national MTNA conference in Reno I had a little downtime before returning home. Fortunately, being in the right place at the right time, Peter asked if I would wish to go antiquing with him. Since I know almost nothing about antiques, as intimidating it might seem, I was more than eager to watch him "at work".

We took a short drive to Carson City and he found the perfect place. We spent well over an hour and a half digging through glass cases, winding around shelves of a special back room and searching through countless postcards, which he ultimately loves



to send to his students on special occasions.

I didn't know if my curiosity was going to help or be an annoyance, so I fearlessly asked, "what's that?", pointing to an obvious percussion device. He replied "well, that looks like castanets from Spain, possibly from the 60's." I was fascinated as he picked through the many items in the same case. We went to a few more antique stores, ate a delightful lunch, but none proved more productive than the first stop at the family-owned antique store. We concluded the day with a quick 10-minute jaunt through a local museum and called it a day after discovering a hot springs area alongside the road.

A few weeks later I received a lovely package with a note, "I believe these belong to you". They were none other than the castanets that we had looked at together. How special they are! I can't wait to teach William Gillock's "Castanets"!

Peter is a very hardworking, busy, yet generous man. He offered a little tidbit for those of us in Iowa as follows. His article is brief, yet profound; perfectly describing his vibrant personality. Thank you for sharing as always, Mr. President.

~ Cyndie Caruth



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

with Peter Mack

Tell tales that bring music to life!

Steinway Artist and Irish artist Peter Mack is celebrated for his moving playing and easy rapport with audiences. He has performed throughout the United States and Europe, as well as in Australia, India, and the former Soviet Union. Well known for his extensive repertoire, Mack has performed twenty-six different concertos with orchestras. Past engagements include performances at the Salle Cortot in Paris and Haydnssaal of the Esterhazy Palace in Austria. He is in great demand as a clinician and teacher and has delivered advanced master classes at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) annual convention and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP). His students are frequent winners of local, national, and international competitions, including twenty-one MTNA national finalists and three MTNA national first place winners. Mack earned his doctorate in piano performance at the University of Washington. His principal teachers were Frank Heneghan and Bela Siki. He is the winner of the New Orleans, Young Keyboard Artists, and Pacific International piano competitions. He is a choral scholar at Trinity College Dublin and a fellow of Trinity College London.

"Mack is one of those lucky ones, born with a completely balanced set of talents. He has perfect piano hands, his technique is all but infallible, he has boundless temperament, style and taste, and above all, he communicates directly. In all capacities he is indefatigable."
-Los Angeles Times

A few months ago, I was asked how I felt about incorporating music history in lessons. My immediate reaction was "I really should do more of that..."

However, if instead of using the words "teaching history" we use the words "tell gossipy stories about the composers", then I teach history at almost every lesson. Often, simply understanding the circumstances surrounding the composition provides the key to interpreting the piece.

I recently had a student learning Debussy's "*Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum*" from "*Children's Corner*." This piece paints a picture of Debussy's daughter, practicing her uninspired Clementi technical exercises at the piano. (Chouchou, his daughter, was never the most dedicated student.) Half-way through the piece, she starts to daydream. The music gets slower and slower, eventually almost coming to a stop. But then she remembers that she still must finish her exercises. We hear her practicing faster and faster until she has the correct number done. With the last chord of the piece, she triumphantly slams down the lid of the piano, and runs outside to play, free at last.

Debussy complained to his daughter's piano teacher: "For two years now Chouchou has made no noticeable progress... she should be in the hands of someone stricter... Your future does not lie wholly within the confines of the teaching profession, at least for your sake I hope not."¹

Try to imagine the frustration of the father, the daughter, and the teacher, all trapped in an unproductive musical nightmare. We have all been there in some capacity. Even if telling interesting gossipy stories might not be what pedants think of as teaching music history, it certainly makes the piece more accessible to everyone. Teaching bare facts (e.g. "Debussy was born in 1862 and died in 1918") does nothing but bore the student. Tell tales instead, and bring the music to life!

¹As quoted in *Debussy Letters: Selected and edited by François Lesure and Roger Nichols Pub. Faber and Faber, London 1987.*

SUMMER TREASURER'S REPORT



IMTA Treasurer

Carroll D. Caruth
imtafinance@gmail.com

Current Balance
Checking: \$26,121.77
Scholarship account: \$6,103.24
CD: Current rate: 3.942%
eligible to renew in September. \$39,229.14

Thank you to all of you who made it possible to pinch our pennies and continue with healthy balances. As a non-profit organization, it is recommended we have 2.5 times our annual budget reserved in liquid assets, so it is my hope we will continue to work toward that goal.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve IMTA.

Six years ago, being newly retired, I was searching for things to occupy my time. I have since found it fulfilling that I can waste an entire day, accomplish nothing, and still feel as if I am exceptionally busy! I don't know how I ever had time to hold an actual job!

Congratulations to Cate Bryan who will step in and do a great job as the next treasurer. Please offer her your support and gratitude.

Signing off,
Carroll D. Caruth
IMTA Treasurer, 2017-2023

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From the Past

William David Named Certified Teacher of the Year

Lucinda M. Lear, IMTA
Chairperson of Certification,
presented the 2001 Certified
Teacher of the Year
to William David at the
state convention banquet
in Decorah. This is her
testimonial.

It is with a heavy heart that I've decided to retire from teaching piano after 20 years. My family and I decided that it would be helpful to spend more time at our family business these days, so I had my final recital on Mother's Day this spring. I treasure all the friendships I have made through teaching over the years.

Tim Lafleur has graciously accepted the position of historian/archivist for IMTA. I am quite relieved that he is the one who is taking my place as I know he will do a great job!

*Best regards,
Judy Schleisman
IMTA Historian/Archivist*



William David and Lucinda Lear

I would like to begin tonight's presentation by reviewing for you the list of Certified Teacher of the Year Award recipients. Since the inception of the award in 1994 a distinguished list of member teachers have been acknowledged for their contributions as Certified Teachers of Music to IMTA:

1994 - Lois Nassen	1998 - Sue Hudson
1995 - Connie Danielsen	1999 - Diane Smith
1996 - Diane Lawson	2000 - Jeri Gail Ramsey
1997 - Chiu-Ling Lin	

This year's recipient, although sharing many great qualities as past year's award winners, has a distinguishing and unique difference. In an effort to maintain a presence of fairness and equality the 2001 Certified Teacher of the Year exhibits one quality that NO other recipient has possessed. He is male and in our profession that makes him a minority!

In his nomination as Iowa's Teacher of the Year, he is respectfully referred to as Dr. William David. But I, for one, am appreciative that he signs his e-mails as "Bill." Even in his distinguished position and profession as Professor of Piano at ISU, he allows himself to be approachable and personable to any who might have questions, not as a superior, but as an acquaintance and colleague.

Bill has been an energizing force in IMTA since serving as chair of the repertory committee in 1978. His contributions to the state have been in IMTA board positions of President, Vice President in charge of membership, convention committee person, and his greatest feat of all, that of taking over editorial and publishing responsibility of Iowa's top notch magazine, *The Iowa Music Teacher*. Besides these "official" capacities, Bill has been workshop clinician for state and local programs and has provided expert advice as adjudicator in various piano contests and competitions.

As a member of the Ames Piano Quartet, his performances at state conventions culminated with the premiere of an IMTA/MTNA commissioned work at the 1999 convention in Ames.

As a teacher, Bill has the ability to coach students of all ranges of talents and abilities from high school through college. He has had many students excel at state and national competitions, but his greatest influence has to be in the example he sets. Bill has set a standard of professionalism to both his students and colleagues by receiving his MTNA Professional Certificate as a college faculty member. Surely, this was not a pre-requisite to his being hired. I'm confident it was not a part of his doctoral training and course work. I'm positive it didn't help him to gain more students, nor make him more successful with his students. I can almost guarantee you, it did not garner for him a raise in salary.

So why make the effort, complete the paperwork and pay the fee to be an NCTM? Well, I trust that Bill could give an answer much better than I, and I would urge you to get his esteemed opinion. But, as a parent and a professional, Bill knows the power of example and nothing speaks with greater volume or is of greater value in life than being an example to follow and choosing to do the right thing. His reasons could have been as simple as these, or as profound as to escape reasoning. Whatever the reason, he has set a standard of professionalism and made a commitment to excellence that will resound for years to come. On behalf of IMTA, I congratulate, thank, and ask you to join with me in applauding Dr. William David for "raising the standard" to follow in our chosen profession of teaching music.

50 YEARS OF LEARNING



It's difficult as the IMTA editor to write about myself. I recommend that bios are always written in third person, however; I am going to do this differently, so please bear with me.

This year I celebrated the unique experience of 50 years of teaching. It was thrilling to be honored by MTNA at their awards breakfast in Reno, Nevada, during the National Conference. It seemed a fitting passageway to becoming director of West Central Division in 2024.

In May, with the help of many, I coordinated a 50-year celebration recital with my students. Because my studio is large (or out of control?), we determined an awards brunch would be fitting. There was ample fellowship, fun and, of course, great food. The afternoon recital was long yet engaging. The performances were followed by a large reception and, again, great food, music by alumni and camaraderie.

Growing up in a studio, our sons Joel and Jennon may have never wanted to sit through another recital, yet they graciously attended. They later divulged that they were texting back and forth- saying, "Wow, that was amazing", "how did they memorize that?" or, "I can't believe such a young kid plays that well." For me, their reactions to the student performances were genuinely heart-warming. I was equally thrilled to visit with friends, family, fellow teachers, former parents, and alumni who flew home and traveled long distances, not to mention quite a few surprise guests. I reconnected, or I should say, found a new friend in my very first student, Anne (Stalker) Tyler. She and her husband surprised me by driving from Minneapolis to Ankeny for the weekend. After 40+ years of losing touch, I was astounded when she shared I had



MTNA recognizes Cyndie Caruth for 50 years as an MTNA member. Gary Ingle, MTNA CEO, Cyndie Caruth, NCTM, and Karen Thickstun, MTNA National President.

changed her path from a shy young lady to her now "you've got this" personality. Little did I know how I had influenced that very first student. I have spent years wondering how in the world she survived lessons as my guinea pig! She shared with her own family that I was the teacher who had the biggest impact on her life, and she instilled those positive qualities in her children.

Anne is a business professional and a part-time writer. She personally created and framed a touching poem that hangs in my studio to be treasured forever. She asked that I read it from time to time, and hoped from her words, my students would also gain understanding of what music will mean to them in the future as they become adults. Inevitably, tears came from the power of her words.

The intensity of this last year has been nothing short of challenging. My students and their parents are the wonderful people who keep me energized. I am fortunate that so many of them are serious about their music studies. I believe that all of them hold a deep love for music.

The path to 50 has never been an easy one, nor should it be. Like you, I have experienced moments of inadequacy, hopelessness, and loss. Many of us wonder if we are following the correct path. We fret over students, policies, parents, competitions, recitals and worry about not getting enough personal time with friends and family.

The Iowa Music Teacher

One constant that has fueled my studio is the relationships with my colleagues. I'm convinced I could not have endured without IMTA and MTNA. I was fortunate that my high school teacher, Connie Danielson, pushed me, as she rarely left any stone unturned. She insisted I join IMTA when I acquired my first student. I soon had many students. Later, I was fortunate to study with Dr. William David, who continues to inspire me and offer steady, kind advice. I can't thank him enough for hanging in there with me. There were many times I was not a stellar student!

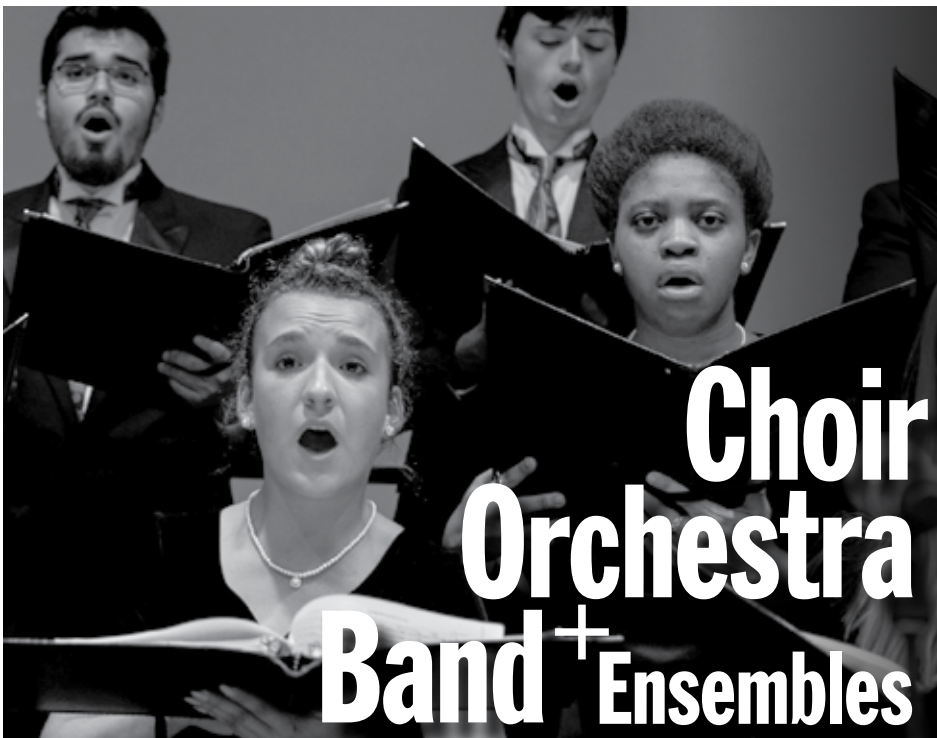
With encouragement from them both, I was nationally certified in my early 20s. The MTNA requirements were a minimum of 30 years of age to apply for national certification. Connie Danielson served on the national certification board and in true Connie fashion, eliminated the age limitation. To date, I consider my college years and certification my 'superpower'.

To close, I could go on about accomplishments, the offices I've served, and the experiences I've had; but I prefer to offer advice to my colleagues—**you are in the right place**. There will always be someone in this organization pushing you ahead or lending a hand. Mistakes will be followed by growth; fears will bring comfort; moments of shortcomings will turn into discovery. I have learned to appreciate the days I still feel like a beginning teacher.

I cannot thank all of you enough for your presence in my journey. Some of you have been here from the very beginning (Lois Nassen, Zoe Abrahamson, Bill David). I can say without a doubt, I have learned from everyone as I value the countless lifelong friendships I have made through our local, state and national organizations.

One of my cherished students who presented a senior recital many years ago (despite his monumental learning challenges), concluded his recital with the gift of a dozen roses. I know he meant to say, "thank you, Cyndie; I've learned so much from you". Instead, his words came out perfectly mixed up: "thank you, Cyndie, she has learned so much from me". There wasn't a dry eye in the house; his error was the justifiable truth. I learned from you, Brett, and every student, regardless of accomplishments or struggles. I couldn't be more grateful to my husband, family, teachers, students, and everyone who has had a profound impact on a gratifying career. I'm not finished by any means- I have more to learn, more to teach, more friendships to gain, and more experiences waiting to fill an already blessed life. I can only humbly say 'thank you' to everyone.

Cyndie Caruth, NCTM



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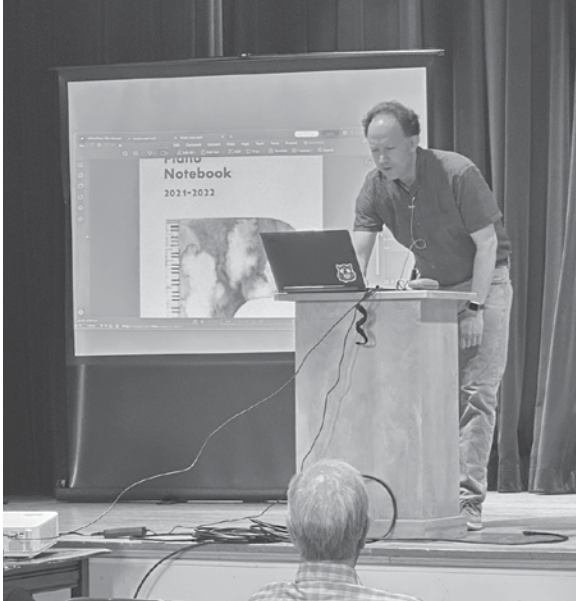
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DIGITAL ORGANIZATION TIPS



Jason Sifford presents final session at state IMTA Conference

Spring cleaning is a yearly activity in my studio. When school ends, I find myself going through my books and materials, putting them back in their places or discarding things to make room for all the new goodies I found at our national and state conferences.

This year, as I was rearranging my desk and trying to make sense of a very cluttered drawer, I looked up at my computer screen to find 64 icons on the desktop. (Yes, I counted!)

Some are app icons, some are scores I purchased for my students, some are pictures I use for social media posts, a couple of workshop handouts, and some mysterious thing called “s_and_g” (which turned out to be my ticket to a Simon and Garfunkel Story concert I attended in February.)

I quickly realized I needed to extend my spring cleaning to my digital workspace as well, so I thought I’d share a few of the strategies I’m using as I embark on my digital spring cleaning.

Tip #1 – Use Cloud Storage

There are several cloud storage options. Google Drive, Dropbox, and OneDrive are the most popular, and they all work in similar ways. The handy thing about them is that you can choose to have files available only in the cloud (freeing up space on your computer), or you can set files to be available offline so you can access them without an internet connection.

I always recommend focusing on one cloud service – it can get confusing if you can’t remember whether you put a file in Dropbox or on Google Drive. But if you find yourself sharing files with students or colleagues, it’s worth it to at least have free accounts on Dropbox and Google Drive, since it makes it easier to share files with others who use those services.

Tip #2 – Use Search

Most of us are used to having files stored in folders. When the home computer was first invented, operating systems were designed with filing systems that resembled the file cabinets most people were already familiar with. The icons still look like manila folders! But what if you’re wanting some sheet music at level three but all your files are organized by composer? The key here is to include the name of the composer and the level in the file name. I might have “Hook Minuet IMTA B2”, and even though I store all my digital music files by composer name, it will also show up if a search for “minuet” or “IMTA B2.” I do the same with email – rather than spend a ton of time sorting email into different folders, I use search. When I send emails to parents about our spring recital, I make sure I put “2023 Spring Recital” in the subject. If I want to see who’s responded to that email, I simply search for “2023 Spring Recital” and it will show me all the responses to that email.

Tip #3 – Save Often and Keep Backups

Backup your files. I cannot stress this enough. I keep copies of everything in three places – on my home desktop, on my cloud service, and on an external hard drive that I back up every few months. Glitches happen. I had an application crash unexpectedly and would’ve lost three hours of work except that I’ve made a habit of pressing control-S every five minutes or so. (And thankfully, many applications do automatic saves.) Almost everyone I know has lost valuable time because of computer crashes and lost files. Do yourself a favor, save often and back up your files. I was once asked about a workshop I’d given twenty years ago – a teacher had kept and used a handout of mine for that long. They’d lost their copy and emailed me for it. After twenty years, that file was still sitting on an external backup in my closet. The great thing about digital storage is that it doesn’t take up much physical space. A lifetime of work can fit in a shoebox, just make sure that shoebox is well-organized!



IMTA State Technology Chair

Dr. Jason Sifford, NCTM
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WEST CENTRAL DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT WCD LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Part I

Did you know that the 8 states comprising the West Central Division have a total of 78 active local associations? In this two-part article, enjoy reading about some special programs and events that 18 of these associations have presented this past year! Congratulations to all of our local association leaders and members for outstanding service and engagement in the music profession!

Broomfield MTA, Colorado

Submitted by Christina Lynn-Craig, President, BMTA

Broomfield Music Teachers Association began our “Marvelous Musicales” program for students, teachers, and community members to have an opportunity to perform at the Broomfield Auditorium.

BMTA was instrumental in selecting the Sauter grand piano there and in raising funds for the purchase of the piano. BMTA felt that it was important to make certain that people who might not be a part of festivals, competitions or concerts would have the chance to play this instrument which belongs to the citizens of Broomfield. These public recitals are offered twice a year.

Performers share favorite folk, jazz, classical, musical theater, contemporary or original music with the community. Singers and instrumentalists are usually in the mix, and duets and other ensembles are always a hit! Students may perform with friends and family members. Musicales are free and open to the public, though

*Broomfield MTA
Marvelous Musicales
performer*



Broomfield MTA Marvelous Musicales performers

we gratefully accept donations! This event is open to performers of all ages and all abilities. Performers do not need to be studying with a member of BMTA, or with anyone at all. Participants do not need to memorize their music, but it must be “performance ready”.

BMTA is grateful to CSMTA for the grants they have provided in the past to help support this program.

Fort Dodge Area MTA, Iowa

Submitted by Joan Hopkins on behalf of Linda Benson, President, FDAMTA

Fort Dodge Area Music Teachers sponsors a fun music carnival event each spring called Keyboard

Kapers where students can earn Solo, Duet, Theory Games, Scales, Sight-Reading, and Star Performer ribbons by performing. Having fun at the Fort Dodge in the various Area MTA Keyboard Kapers

Continued on next page



MTNA WCD Director

Mary Beth Shaffer
mbs723@shafferstudio.net

rooms set up for each event. Member teachers are in each room to adjudicate and help students complete the options they have prepared. It is also an outreach opportunity as we invite non-member teachers to bring their students and begin an acquaintance with IMTA. Older students and parents often assist in the Theory Games room to help participants get into a game. Students are provided a name tag and large envelope to put their music and ribbons into as they move from activity to activity. A sheet attached to the envelope has their individual schedule and titles of pieces and duets, level of sight reading, and list of scales they have prepared, with room at each for the adjudicator to write comments. A Star Performer, selected by their teacher, is scheduled in the Games room each 20 minutes. Chairs are set for audience and game action stops as the student introduces them self and their piece and then performs.

Central Minnesota MTA, Minnesota

Submitted by Linda Smith, President, CMMTA

Central MN Music Teachers is a local group of MN Music Teachers Association founded in 1988. We meet the first Friday of the month and have several informational programs plus a Christmas party and spring luncheon.

In January of 2023, our topic was “The Physics of Music and Sound” presented by Todd Johnson. Todd is a physics professor at St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN. In a very interesting and interactive presentation, we learned about sound waves, frequency and pitch and how a piano is tuned to equal temperament. We also learned about the human voice and what it means to sing in tune. With slinkys, Todd demonstrated how sound waves travel through the air, assisted by his wife, Katie, our CMMT secretary.



A monthly meeting of the Central Minnesota MTA

Lincoln MTA, Nebraska

Submitted by Angela Miller Niles, President, Nebraska MTA

The Lincoln Music Teachers Association (LMTA) celebrated its 80th Anniversary in 2022. Their award-winning LMTA Music Outreach Program (LMTA-MOP) also reached a milestone, celebrating its 25th Anniversary of serving the underserved. LMTA-MOP is a unique program which provides low-cost music lessons with an LMTA Teacher who meets educational and active requirements, instruments and their upkeep, instructional materials, and community performance opportunities for up to 50 area limited-resource students to study the instrument of their choice.

The cost to student families is determined by the Federal Reduced/Free Lunch status. When ready, students may participate in community service recitals and enter (free of charge) all LMTA events, District and State Festivals, and MTNA Competitions. Exceptional students, or “Rising Stars”, may audition to study a second instrument or spend more time with their present teacher without paying an extra contribution.

Using private, area foundation and club donations, grants, fundraising activities, and modest fees paid by the student families, LMTA-MOP pays its teachers and other operating costs. Because of the work of LMTA volunteers who administer the program, and Community Partners who provide free or greatly reduced-cost piano tuning, instrument rental, upkeep and repairs, free printed music, piano moving and storage, and meeting or teaching space, LMTA-MOP remains strong.

Aurora MTA, Colorado

Submitted by Jerome Gilmer, President, AMTA

Aurora Music Teachers Association had a good year with stimulating programs and a number of recitals that had lots of participation and great attendance.

In February, we had a very special recital with the theme, “AMTA Goes To Hollywood,” where students dressed as if they were going to the Oscars, they entered on a red carpet, had their photos taken with a life-sized cutout image of the real Oscar statue, and each student received a small gold Oscar like trophy for their participation.

Additional programs included two general recitals, two adult potluck lunch recitals and a community outreach recital at the Cherry Creek Retirement Center.

AMTA met monthly on Friday at Aurora Central Library, and our Teachers’ Performance Group met monthly on Friday at Calliope Music Studios to socialize and perform for each other.

Sioux Falls Area MTA, South Dakota

Submitted by Susan Winters, NCTM, President, SEAMTA

We tried a different format for meetings this year that seemed to interest more people. We had our meetings at a local music store on Saturday afternoons. We met for “lunch and learn” sessions in



October, November, and February.

A recent Sioux Falls Area MTA “Lunch and Learn”

Our programs included SDSU students sharing their diploma recitals, a Q&A session, and a program on new technologies for piano and keyboards. We sponsored a mid-winter recital in February with several teachers participating and held our annual MTNA Festival and Theory Event in March with approximately 300 participants. We are also planning for a Duet/Trio recital in December.

In April, FMMTA hosted a piano rally for our students. This was an adjudicated event which included performances, music games, and written/keyboard theory quizzes.

Manhattan Area MTA, Kansas

Submitted by Paula Moseman, President, MAMTA

The Manhattan Area Music Teachers Association (MAMTA) had two events that were a huge success this year. Although MAMTA does not have a large membership, all the members do a great job of working together! The first event was a concerto competition the chapter hosted in which over 40 students from the studios of eight member teachers participated and were divided into divisions based on grade. Within each of these divisions, prizes were awarded to the 1st and 2nd place winners. Honorable Mentions were also given at the judges' discretion.

Our other very popular event was the Piano Fair. Piano Fair is a carnival like event we hold each year where students come and demonstrate their skills in several different areas. There are booths for performance, rhythm, scales and chords, intervals, listening, symbols, note identification, as well as a bonus booth for either transposition or improvisation. After the student completes the skill at each booth, their points are tallied, and they are awarded prizes based on the number of points they received. Piano Fair is always a big hit with the students!

Des Moines MTA, Iowa

Submitted by Vanessa Maly, President, DMMTA

Des Moines MTA holds "Camp Scholarship Auditions" each spring, and \$700 in prize money is distributed among top finishers! Interested students audition on 1-2 pieces for three judges, DMMTA members and an audience. The winners must use the money toward furthering their musical training at summer camps. All scholarship money is raised through membership fees, advertisers, patron contributions, and private donations or memorials from current DMMTA members. Camp Scholarship Auditions are a win-win-win: Students receive a bonus performance opportunity, assistance toward attending a summer music camp, AND music camps have additional attendees!



DMMTA hosts Camp Scholarship Auditions for cash prizes

Fargo Moorhead MTA, North Dakota

Submitted by Vangie Johnson Parker, President, FMMTA

As president of FMMTA, I'm very proud to list two of the highlights of our 2022-2023 season.

Our biggest endeavors this year focused on student performances. In November, we featured student in the Multi-Piano recital. The committee chose several duet pieces at several levels. 60+ students auditioned and two/three students played duets and trios at each of the four pianos on stage. Our conductor, Dr. Peter Haberman was an inspirational and exciting individual with whom to work. The concert proved to be a great fundraiser and a wonderful experience for all involved!



Fargo Moorhead MTA recently held a Multi-piano recital with four pianos on stage.

Denver Area MTA, Colorado

Submitted by Ben Raznick, President, DAMTA

Denver Area Music Teachers Association (DAMTA) is thrilled to have been awarded the 2022 Local Association of the Year by Colorado State MTA. Our 43rd Annual Fall Course "Nurturing The Well Rounded Musician" brought in seven speakers to discuss topics such as East Asian Music for Students, Culturally Responsive Teaching in Music Education, Leveled Piano Music by Black Composers, and Developing Dissonant Awareness in the Young Pianist. Our Spring Programs covered topics such as Cultivating the Growth Mindset, Nelita True's Legendary Approach to Memorizing Music, The Genius of Thelonious Monk and an Introduction to the Music of India. This year DAMTA awarded \$1000 of Scholarships to 8 students, and our Student Musicales maintained strong attendance. We are especially proud of our Musicales hosted at Caley Ridge Assisted Living featuring 25 students. DAMTA looks forward to an exciting 2023/24, and applied for an MTNA Community Engagement Grant to host a free community event for students to perform works by Black Composers from Dr. Leah Claiborne's 2-volume series "Music Of Black Composers".



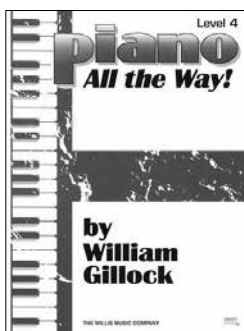
Denver Area MTA, named the 2022 Local Association of the Year by Colorado State MTA

MUSIC SPEAKS: GEMS FROM A PRINT MUSIC GEEK

Hello from Nessa Maly with Rieman Music. I am super delighted to share joys about my favorite repertoire pieces! When Cyndie talked to me about music reviews for the magazine, I immediately responded that I am not a writer... especially following the amazing wordsmith Amy Jo Wrobel! However, a highlight in my music world is totally geeking out about print music. Yes, geeking. :) I absolutely love checking out the new music as it arrives. I'm always excited to suggest music to teachers and students to unearth that perfect piece. Honestly, so many of those suggestions come from talking to you; I discover I also love the pieces you use with your students! To begin this journey with you, I wanted to review two of my favorite oldies and two new arrivals that were presented by Dr. Suzanne Torkelson at the New Music Session during the 2023 State IMTA Conference at Coe.

Piano All the Way Book 4 *William Gillock – Intermediate (1969)*

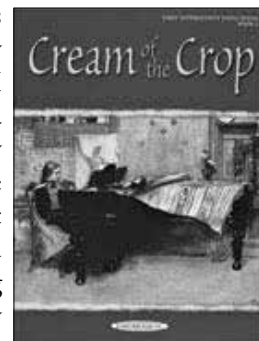
Gillock...you seriously cannot go wrong with Gillock! This methodical series is a perfect example of lost and forgotten books that a teacher had pointed out to me years ago. Book 4 focuses on chords and voicings, which makes it a great book for beginner church pianists, but fun pieces for everyone to play. Starting with the first piece “Chorale” which is a great introduction to four-part harmony with excellent chord progressions. Selections like “Old Plantation” and “At the Opera” champion chord inversions. One of my favorites is “In Old Vienna”, where I can literally imagine myself sitting outside a restaurant with an accordion player strolling by. Then I transport to the circus to watch a clown perform tricks with “The Juggler”. Finishing



this book off with a bang - the bold “Journey in the Night” with heavy chords, arpeggios and scales to create a flashy piece listed at both B and C levels. (P.S. – Book 3 is also amazing!)

Cream of the Crop Book 2 *Various – Early Intermediate (1960 – 1980)*

This book has always been one of my childhood favorites. I remember sitting at a recital when a girl in my grade went up to the piano and my jaw just dropped. She played this bold showstopping piece and oh my goodness- I wanted to play it too! “From a Lighthouse Window” (Burnam) starts with big striking chords going down the piano with a light fluffy interlude... it’s great for those “Great Smoky Mountain” students! Also paired with “The Elf and the Fairy” (Bentley) playful arpeggios, “Flamenco” (Scher) dance, the fun happy “Roller-Skating” (Wermel), and “Theme and Variations on a Spiritual” (Beard) – based on Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho... all are sure to please a variety of students.



Standout Solos *Melody Bober – Intermediate (2022)*

This is one of my new favorite books! Subtitled “10 Dramatic Pieces for Piano”, this book is just that. Bober strikes again and creates a wonderful book of intermediate piano solos. The first piece, “Beneath the Stars” is beautiful and reminiscent of a John Williams theme (in my opinion!). “Fiesta Friday” will make you dance



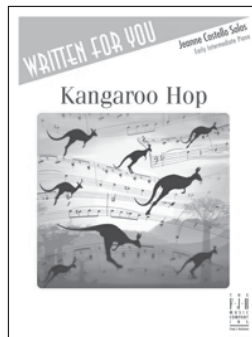
Nessa Maly

at the piano... try to keep your feet on the floor for this one! Or tip-toe around playing “A Sneaking Suspicion” with the left hand processing into a genius boogie beat. As much as I dislike winter, I will admit “Snowy Wonderland” was impossible to play without smiling and thinking of frolicking through light fluffy snow. Such a great variety of pieces and well thought out compositions that are entertaining to play.

Kangaroo Hop

Jeanne Costello – Early Intermediate (2022)

What a cute little energetic piece! I imagined two kangaroos playing and hopping around with happy little babies (or joeys) in their pouches. This is a stellar piece for left hand melody, while the right hand interjects with the “hopping”. You will love the switch of staccato to legato in both hands and the use of different octaves in the piano. Such a fun catchy solo for students!



IaMTA.org Continued from page 9

your account password, set up a new member account, or change an email address are found on the IMTA website login page, <http://iamta.org/login.php>.

- You can download district and audition results under the Auditions and Festivals menu items to have in your own files
- If your students participated in Festivals and/or Auditions during the 2022-23 season, log in to the website and update or remove your student's registration information.
- If you were in a leadership position that has changed for the 2023-24 season, make sure to provide login information for the [imta\[position\]@gmail.com](mailto:imta[position]@gmail.com) email account to the new person in that position. If you are the new person, touch base with the previous person to be sure you are able to access and use the email account. If you need assistance making changes to the leadership email account, such as phone number, recovery email address, forwarding, etc., contact me at either imtawebmaster@gmail.com or 641.569.0396.



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MTNA 2023-2024

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The Iowa MTNA Junior, Senior & Young Artist Competitions will be held **November 4th-5th** at Iowa State University.

Registration deadline for Junior, Senior, Young Artist & Composition Competitions is **Wed, September 13th, 2023, 2 P.M. CT/3 P.M. ET.**

Registration deadline for the Chamber Music Competitions is **Wed, December 6, 2023, 2 P.M. CT/3 P.M. ET.**

For further information, please visit Competitions Guidelines (mtna.org) or contact your state coordinators:

Diane Smith - Iowa MTNA Competitions Chair - dianemsmith@mchsi.com

Rebecca Nickles Mick - Junior & Senior Coordinator - rebecca.nickles@gmail.com

Donita McCoy - Young Artist & Chamber Music Coordinator - ddmccoy@msn.com

Tina Chapman - Composition Coordinator - tchapman@westmusic.com

Junior Performance:

- Age: 11–14 on January 1, 2024
- Entry Fee: \$80
- Performance categories: Piano, String (Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass) and Woodwind (Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone).
- State Maximum Performance Time: 20 Minutes

Senior Performance:

- Age: 15–18 on January 1, 2024
- Piano Duet Age: 11–18 on January 1, 2024. One of the duet partners must be 15–18 on January 1, 2024.
- Entry Fee: \$110
- Performance Categories: Brass (Trumpet, Horn, Euphonium, Trombone, Tuba), Solo Piano, Piano Duet (one piano/four hands), String (Violin, Viola, Cello and String Bass), Voice and Woodwind (Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone).
- State Maximum Performance Time: 25 Minutes (20 Minutes for Voice)

Young Artist Performance:

- Age: 19–26 on January 1, 2024
- Entry Fee: \$120
- Performance categories: Brass (Trumpet, Horn, Euphonium, Trombone, Tuba), Piano, String (Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass), Voice and Woodwind (Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone).
- State Maximum Performance Time: 30 Minutes

Chamber Music Performance:

- The age of each ensemble member must be 18–29 on January 1, 2024.
- Entry Fee: \$145 for each ensemble (includes \$25 Accepted fee). Registrations and all fees will be submitted on the Accepted site and will be available Wednesday, November 1, 2023.
- Registration deadline: Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.

There will be no exceptions.

- State Maximum Performance Time: 40 Minutes
- The preliminary round is video submission only.

Composition:

Elementary:

- Age: 5–10 on January 1, 2024
- Entry Fee: \$50

Junior:

- Age: 11–14 on January 1, 2024
- Entry Fee: \$70

Senior:

- Age: 15–18 on January 1, 2024
- Entry Fee: \$100

Young Artist:

- Age: 19–26 on January 1, 2024
- Entry fee: \$100

*All categories must not exceed a 10 minute performance time.

Special Prizes For National Piano Finalists:

Chopin Prize: Best Chopin Performance given by the Chopin Foundation of the U.S.: Junior Piano, \$500 cash award: Senior Piano, \$1,000 cash award.

Ebony Prize: Awards for best performance of a work written by a Black composer will be provided by Ebony Music Inc.: Junior Piano, \$500; Senior Piano, \$750; Young Artist Piano, \$1,000. Visit the Ebony Music website for suggested repertoire.

2023 MTNA NATIONAL COMPETITIONS RESULTS



Lucas Wiese Ibarra
Kenneth Tse



Caitlyn Dean
Leanne Freeman-Miller



Molly McDonough
Leanne Freeman-Miller



Lingxiao Li
Kenneth Tse

Iowa was well represented by our talented musicians and skilled teachers during the 2022-2023 MTNA Competitions.

Students who won during the State Competitions at Wartburg College in October 2022 submitted video recordings for Divisions in January. Division Honors went to:

Senior Woodwind

Winner: **Lucas Wiese Ibarra** of Iowa City, student of Kenneth Tse

Senior Voice

Alternate: **Caitlin Dean** of Johnston, student of Leanne Freeman-Miller

Young Artist Voice

Winner: **Molly McDonough** of Des Moines, student of Leanne Freeman-Miller

Young Artist Woodwind

Winner: **Lingxiao Li** of Coralville, student of Kenneth Tse

The final round of the MTNA Competitions, Nationals, was held in Reno, Nevada in March during the MTNA National Conference. National Honors were claimed by:

Young Artist Voice

2nd Place: Molly McDonough of Des Moines, student of Leanne Freeman-Miller

Young Artist Woodwind

3rd Place: Lingxiao Lie of Coralville, student of Kenneth Tse

We offer a final congratulations to the incredible performers and teachers who participated in the MTNA Competitions. Thank you for representing our state so well!



Iowa MTNA Competitions Chair

Diane Smith, NCTM
imtamtchair@gmail.com

CLASS OF 2023

EICHSTEDT'S SENIOR RECITAL

Pianist Sarah Eichstedt has been studying piano since the age of six. Sarah first studied with Diane Higgins in North Carolina. Upon moving to Iowa, she has studied at Caruth Piano Studio for the last four years. During this time, she has participated in numerous competitions and performances. She was named winner at C and D level district auditions, placed honorable mention at state competition, along with being named to the theory honor roll. Sarah composed three pieces, among them, *The Horses of Camargue* and *Halloween Night*.

Sarah was a Dorian Festival Advanced Piano Recital performer. In 2022 she was the Central Iowa Victor Borge Legacy Award winner. She also participated in the UNI festivals. In that same year, Sarah won 1st place in the Des Moines Music Teachers' Association scholarship tryouts and attended summer piano camps.

In school, Sarah played the keyboard for the Valley High School Show Band, Jazz Choir, and was an accompanist for two years.

Sarah's April 21st recital was held at the Des Moines Salisbury House. Her program consisted of works by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, Grieg and Debussy. She also performed a Stravinsky duet with her younger sister, Ellen. Additionally, she performed excerpts from Beethoven's *Piano Quartet No. 3* along with her classmates Kathryn Schultz, cello; Melina Reverol, violin and Lauren Schultz, viola.

Outside of piano, she has experience on the swim team and has enjoyed being an equestrian for six years. She was a Performing Arts Center Technician along with additional work experiences. She has been part of the editing team of *INK Magazine*, a member of World Cultures Club, Key Club, and CORE Club. Sarah is also a National Honor Society member and a silver cord volunteer. She has earned an academic letter for all four years of high school, and is an AP Scholar with distinction.

Sarah was awarded an IMTA/West scholarship for future study in music. She plans to study business accounting at the University of Toronto and continue a music minor in piano.



Sarah Eichstedt

NAMTA ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to Simeon Hasselbrook and Elizabeth Stanish, recipients of the 2023 NAMTA Scholarship Auditions this spring at the Hearst Center for the Arts in Cedar Falls.

There was a total of \$2,050.00 in scholarship monies awarded to two high school senior pianists following their performance of musical selections before members of NAMTA and adjudicator Dr. Robin Guy, professor of keyboard and collaborative piano at the University of Northern Iowa.

Simeon Hasselbrook currently studies with Dr. Andrea Johnson of UNI and will attend the University of Iowa studying Pre-law while continuing his piano studies. In addition to piano, Simeon also plays organ as well as percussion.

Elizabeth Stanish currently studies with Pat Reuter-Riddle of Waterloo. She is enrolled in the National Guard and in addition to her Guard training will be attending the University of Northern Iowa studying Piano Performance. In addition to piano, Elizabeth also plays the clarinet and hopes to participate in the military band in the future.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Robin Guy, Simeon Hasselbrook, and Elizabeth Stanish

LOCAL ASSOCIATION SEMINAR IN SEPTEMBER

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve IMTA as VP of Local Associations. IMTA has some vibrant and creative associations, and I look forward to working with the local association and collegiate chapter leadership and membership in IMTA!

Please reach out with any questions or concerns you might have throughout this year at mbs723@shafferstudio.net. I would be happy

to visit either in person or online with your membership as well.

Once again, MTNA will be offering a highly informative seminar for local association leadership on September 29, 2023. I can guarantee that this will be very beneficial for anyone in a local association leadership role, so please mark your calendars and be on the lookout for an email invitation from MTNA.



IMTA State Local Associations Chair

Mary Beth Shaffer
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In Memory

CELEBRATING A LIFE OF SERVICE

Bruce Lee Perry was born in Sac City, Iowa to Loraine and Hubert Perry. The family lived right behind the Methodist Church and as a child Bruce spent many hours with his grandparents and his father on their farm.

While in grade school, Bruce joined Cub Scouts, where one of his projects involved collecting postcards. While he discontinued scouting, Bruce's passion for collecting postcards became a lifelong hobby. While Bruce and his classmates were learning to spell words and read sentences, Bruce also began taking piano lessons.

Bruce's father Hubert used to tell him, "Find something that makes you happy, and be creative enough to get someone to pay you to do it. If you are fulfilled by what you do, you will never work a day in your life." Reminded of his father's mantra, Bruce decided it would be best to find something he loved for his occupation, and he was determined to accomplish that objective, regardless of others' expectations. Discovering the joy of music at a young age ultimately led to a vocation for Bruce.

After graduating from Sac City High School, he ventured off to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa to study music and biology. He later studied music at the graduate level at University of Iowa. As a classical pianist, he performed throughout the Midwest and in Brazil. As a singer he performed in recital, opera, and oratorio.

As a teacher, it was extremely gratifying to him to know that more than forty of his former students are currently pursuing careers in the musical world.

Bruce, a longtime member and adjudicator for the Iowa Music Teachers Association was also the Coordinator of Worship and Music at Grace Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge, Iowa for 32 years.

Directing the Fort Dodge Choral Society proved to be an opportunity that combined all of his creative talents— from choosing a theme for the next concert, to researching to find the right music, rehearsing with the choir, and finally performing. Bruce considered Choral Society's performance of "Alzheimer's Stories" by Robert S. Cohen and Herschel Garfein to be one of the most poignant artistic achievements of his life. While it was the love of music that brought these people into each other's lives, the choristers stayed together due to their deep friendships.

Bruce was a dedicated historian and visionary for Sac City and the communities of Sac County. Bruce published a book for Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series about Sac County,



Bruce Perry
June 24, 1956 - June 10, 2023

using historic postcards from his collection that he started in grade school. He wrote many National Register nominations for historical properties in the area, including the Chautauqua Park Historic District, Park Hotel, and the Sac City Monument Square District.

Bruce was a successful grant writer, recently producing grants to help with projects like the kiosks near the popcorn ball, renovations to the Chautauqua Building, and the feasibility study for the middle school. Bruce was President of the Sac Community Foundation. He served on the Sac City Council since 2014 and was an ambassador for the community in numerous ways, leading his work to expand beyond the city and include roles like:

- Executive Board Member for Iowa League of Cities
- Past President for Northwest Iowa League of Cities
- President of Preservation Iowa
- President of Sac County Historic Preservation Commission
- Sac County Economic & Tourism Development Board Member

Bruce profoundly committed himself to the community of Sac City and was a Third Degree Mason in the Sac City Occidental Lodge #178, performing dozens of Masonic Services for his brethren who passed before him.

TAKING LITTLE BITES!

Have you heard of tiny Melinda Mae,
Who ate a monstrous whale?
She thought she could,
She said she would,
So she started in right at the tail.
And everyone said, "You're much too small,"
But that didn't bother Melinda at all.
She took little bites and she chewed very slow,
Just like a good girl should...
...And in eighty-nine years she ate that whale
Because she said she would!

—Shel Silverstein



Linda Allebach, NCTM
imtacertification@gmail.com

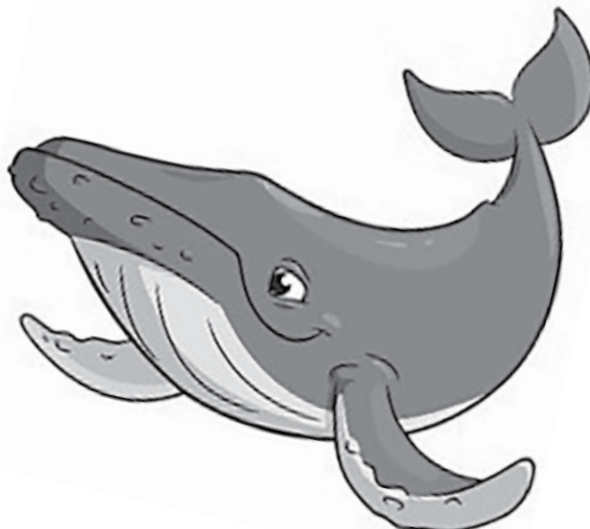
Explore your own path to certification! Linda is there to guide you as well as connect you with others who are undertaking this professional journey. Contact her today!

When my children were growing up, one of our favorite activities was reading before naptime and bedtime. The delightful poems of *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein made up some of that wonderful time and my girls love these works to this day.

When considering whether to register and work towards any large project like becoming Nationally Certified, we have our doubts towards finding the time, energy, and tenacity to getting the job done. There are just too many things going on in our lives and the excuses are all justifiable.

What if we come at this mammoth task by taking on the determination of 'Melinda Mae?' After you register (you can do lots of the NCTM work like recording before then! Check out Certification 101 on the MTNA website.), you will be given a year to completion. If you still are in the throes of working through the Teacher Projects, MTNA will give you an extra year without any additional fees. Let's just not hope it takes 89 years like Melinda Mae!

If you desire to join the ranks of Nationally Certified Teachers in Iowa and our nation, consider letting me know so I can help you get started. You will grow, learn, and perhaps change some of your studio policies after this fulfilling process. I can promise that it will make you a better teacher, musician, and professional by becoming Nationally Certified!





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