



# THE IOWA MUSIC TEACHER

**Sneak Peek at  
Drake Conference '24**

**IMTA MTNA  
Competition Results**

**Duets Anyone?**

**LXXXVI no. 3**  
Winter 2024

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# THE EDITOR'S DESK

The events leading up to this issue have been nothing short of intense. I truly promised myself that I would not get involved in IMTA conference planning, but offered to lend a hand if necessary. It happens often; we started discussing ideas and I soon found myself deeply immersed in the planning stages with the DMMTA members. Thank you to the many people who have jumped in and offered a vortex of ideas; carefully mapping out the initial work. Nicholas Roth provided an inspiring tour of the Drake University Campus and we are so excited for what is to come!

You will want to read this issue from cover to cover. There is a sneak preview of what's in store for our June 2024 IMTA conference. You will also want to consider attending the MTNA conference in Atlanta in March 2024. This issue includes a reminder that quick and painless voting will soon open for MTNA national officers. You may also notice that our state pre-college piano auditions will relocate. Don't miss the Iowa MTNA competitions page that features the young winners who have been preparing for the West Central Division video competitions.

As we celebrate our collegiate chapters, we want to extend a warm welcome to our most recent chapter. The new chapter president who is profoundly immersed in the Iowa Music Teachers Association, is enthusiastically spreading the word among her peers at ISU about the significance of involvement in MTNA and IMTA.

Our connections with one another span many generations. The conference team cannot wait to connect with professionals of all ages as our focus on duets and collegiate members offers something for everyone. If you know of a non-member who may be hesitant, or would like to attend the conference, please invite them. You may request an extra magazine from me and I will



IMTA Information Editor

**Cyndie Caruth, NCTM**  
imtamagazine@gmail.com

mail it out immediately to a prospective member. As a non-member, they may also view this issue on the home page in the about section: [iamta.org/iowa-music-teacher-magazine](http://iamta.org/iowa-music-teacher-magazine).

Online state conference registration will be available sometime after February 1, 2024.

Cheers to all and continued blessings during the holiday season.

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# THE IOWA MUSIC TEACHER

Vol LXXXVI no.3 Winter 2024

## 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](http://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](mailto:imtaadvertising@gmail.com)  
Submit articles and photos to: [imtainformation@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.

# NAVIGATING THE HOLIDAYS AND UPCOMING AUDITIONS

**W**armest Holiday Greetings to all of you. As musicians, we have a unique and joyful vantage point from which to experience the beauty of the Christmas season. I've had the thrill of playing many of the exquisite choral and symphonic settings of ageless Christmas music. My King's College Choir Christmas CDs play on endless loop as I decorate the house for Christmas. I hope that you will enjoy meaningful time this month with your family and loved ones.

As I write this, most of us are in the process of preparing our students for auditions in the early months of 2024. We have only a week or two of lessons before our anticipated Christmas break. As much as we would like to enjoy the holidays and free ourselves from stress, I can't help but worry how my students will spend their Christmas break. Of course, it will involve a number of days without school, but how do we ensure that it's not a couple of weeks with no practice? Will they accomplish the assignments I've given them, master the difficult theory concepts I've presented and most of all, make progress musically and technically on their audition pieces? Will they have those last prickly passages mastered and memorized? We try to engineer successes for our students by preparing them to the best of our ability but ultimately they must take the initiative if they are to make progress without regular lessons for a few weeks. I'm always amazed how the pressure of knowing that the date of their performance is imminent invokes a different kind of focused practice! We enjoy the time off, but it's always good to see them again at that first January lesson.

I would like to encourage you to consider attending the MTNA Conference in Atlanta March 16-20, 2024. I just registered yesterday and I'm particularly looking forward to the

Tuesday evening piano recital by Sean Chen. It promises to be electrifying. I'm also very pleased that we'll be treated to a song recital by Headlam and Nerón. It seems I've taken away some indispensable piece of information or an indelible audio memory from each of the national conferences I've attended. First and foremost were the beautiful recitals played by Emmanuel Ax (Orlando), Jeremy Denk (San Antonio) and Ingrid Fliter (Spokane). And probably the most hilarious but useful advice from Marvin Blickenstaff on how to teach Clementi Sonatinas: "buy a red pencil".

We have a marvelous opportunity to attend our own IMTA Conference in June, 2024. There is more information in this magazine so mark your calendars and prepare to be inspired by recitals, master classes, informative clinicians and by your Iowa colleagues and friends.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



IMTA President

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

# VOTE FOR MTNA WEST CENTRAL DIVISION DIRECTOR TO SERVE 2026-2028



**Vanessa Cornett, NCTM**

Vanessa Cornett, NCTM, is professor of piano and piano pedagogy at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. She represented the West Central Division on the nominating committee and has served on the MTNA e-Journal editorial committee and national conference program committee. She currently serves as the vice president-

membership for the Minnesota MTA and is a member of the MMTA wellness forum and Foundation board of directors.

“MTNA has been my professional lifeline for many years. I am grateful for the outstanding teaching, mentoring and friendship of its wonderful members, and I would be honored to represent the West Central Division,” she says.



**Jason Sifford, NCTM**

Jason Sifford, NCTM, is a freelance pianist and teacher based in Iowa City, Iowa. He is also a composer for the Willis Music Company and the Footlitters’ Traveling Playhouse, a children’s musical theater project of the City of Coralville. He is a past president of the Iowa Music Teachers Association, was honored as Iowa’s Foundation Fellow for 2023, and most recently served on

MTNA’s National Certification Commission.

“MTNA has been at the center of my teaching career for over three decades, and I would love the opportunity to give back to the organization that has meant so much to me,” he says.

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## **Foundation Fellow deadline**

**January 15, 2024**

Submit donations to Sarah Reeves or call the MTNA office to submit in honor of Dr. Alan Huckleberry.

## **All first-time ACTIVE members may join MTNA for ½ price**

**January 1-31, 2024**

## **MTNA Elections**

**February 2024**

Vote at [MTNA.org](http://MTNA.org)

## **Early registration deadline for MTNA National Conference**

**February 5, 2024**

[MTNA.org](http://MTNA.org) (Register at [MTNA.org](http://MTNA.org))

Registration fee increases after Feb. 5, 2024

## **THEMA Competition**

**February 10, 2024**

Iowa PBS Studio

Johnston, Iowa

## **IMTA State Pre-College Auditions**

**March 9, 2024**

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

*(Note the change to CEDAR FALLS!)*

## **MTNA National Conference**

**March 16-24, 2024**

Atlanta, Georgia

Plan ahead to attend!

## **Deadline for discounted price for IMTA State Conference**

**May 1, 2024**

## **IMTA State Conference**

**June 2-3-4, 2024**

Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Read the many details in this issue!

## **Corrections from Previous Issue**

Please note the following changes to the Adjudication list:

**Mary Beth Shaffer's** address should be:

203 NE Harvest Ridge Ln

Ankeny, IA 50021

Phone 763-443-1558

[mbs723@shafferstudio.net](mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net)

**Janci Bronson's** mailing address should be:

051 Music Hall

2427 Union Dr.

Ames, IA 50011-2018

[jbronson@iastate.edu](mailto:jbronson@iastate.edu)

*Reminder: All festival and auditions dates are set and listed in the Fall magazine as well as online at [iamta.org](http://iamta.org). Registration dates are listed on your dashboard at [iamta.org](http://iamta.org)*

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

*Please review all rules and regulations when you login to your dashboard page at [iamta.org](http://iamta.org) as there are yearly updates.*



**2024 ATLANTA**  
Music Teachers National Association  
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[www.mtna.org/Conference](http://www.mtna.org/Conference)

# IMTA STATE CONFERENCE

June 2-4, 2024  
Drake University



## Welcome!

On behalf of Drake University and the Des Moines Music Teachers Association, it is my great privilege to welcome you to the 2024 conference at Drake University, June 2-4. We are fortunate to feature the supremely gifted pianist, Johan Botes, as our conference artist and the incomparable Wynn-Anne Rossi as our conference clinician.

The conference promises a tantalizing menu of activities. Presentations will take place in Drake University's highly versatile Patty and Fred Turner Jazz Center, an ideal space for our purposes. You won't want to miss this, so please accept the invitation to explore Drake University, enjoy the company of friends, and benefit from the stimulating presence of our fabulous conference artists!

Dr. Nicholas Roth

- Educational Sessions
- Attendee Awards
- Exhibits & Poster Sessions
- Piano Masterclasses
- Concerts & Recitals
- Photo Booth



**Dr. Johan Botes**  
Marshall University,  
2024 IMTA  
Conference Artist



**Wynn-Anne Rossi**  
Composer, Pianist,  
& 2024 IMTA  
Conference Clinician



**Peter Mack**  
MTNA President,  
2024 IMTA  
Conference Keynote  
Speaker



**Meet us at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa!**





**Sarah Reeves, Candace Carlson,  
Cyndie Caruth, Nessa Maly(chair)  
Mary Beth Shaffer. Not pictured  
Patricia Schroeder, Zoe Abrahamson.**

## June 2024 Drake Conference offers something for everyone

Take a moment to envision yourself this Spring, deeply engaged with students, recitals, performances and graduations, all within the midst of a bustling schedule. What better way is there to refresh and renew your energy this June with

like-minded colleagues than by attending the upcoming IMTA conference at the picturesque campus of Drake University in Des Moines?

Our conference team has been diligently working with our artist clinicians to create an amazing and unique conference, filled with inventive sessions, activities and recitals that will be sure to inspire and offer you innovative ideas in teaching. Whether you have taught for many years or are new to teaching, there is something for everyone!

Our motto this year is “come as you are,” so anything from casual to professional attire is welcome!

The amazing composer, Wynn-Anni Rossi, will be our guest clinician with her *Dancing with the World series, Spark of Inspiration* session, and a bonus elementary-intermediate duet masterclass! (If you aren't aware, IMTA has voted to begin one piano, four-hands duet competitions, similar in structure to our solo pre-college auditions in the 2024-25 season!) Focusing on duet playing at conference is a perfect warm-up to this new event!

Dr. Johan Botes, our featured guest artist, is sure to “wow” us with his concert Monday night, along with an intermediate-advanced solo masterclass and an additional special session! We also welcome back the charismatic MTNA President, Peter Mack, to deliver the keynote address. Stay tuned for a special “Coffee with Peter Mack and Best Ideas” session on Monday morning!

So, what's new? Attendee awards, (randomly selected), will accompany each session. Come prepared to take many fun pictures with our clinicians and friends in our photo booth! We know there are those of you who wouldn't think of missing the ever-popular student

Honors Recital, Dr. Jason Sifford's informative tech session and Dr. Suzanne Torkelson's new repertoire session. For those of you who love to sleep in on Tuesday morning, you may want to reconsider as there will be an award given during the local association breakfast to the local association with the highest percentage of conference attendees, as well as a grand prize award for one lucky person at our final Tuesday meeting of the conference!

This year's Sunday evening recital will feature an outstanding “Celebrating Iowa Collegiate Young Artists” concert. Let's rally to help cover their expenses and support Iowa's future teachers and musicians who will be presenting poster sessions, performing, volunteering and engaging with everyone throughout the conference. We are hoping that you will choose to sponsor one of our young future teachers for \$75. Please see Mary Beth Shaffer's article under Local Association News for more details.

For those of you who have been long-time members, you may remember Bill Whipple who studied with Bill and Pat Medley during the late 80's. We are excited for his family to return to Iowa roots with a session which promises to be applicable to every teacher.

On a personal note - we want to encourage EVERYONE to attend. Whether you've never missed a conference or this will be your first, we are dedicated to providing exceptional entertainment, affordability, enticing sessions, and fun-filled events for members, non-members and student members.

In true IMTA fashion, our committee has become even better friends by working together to formulate ideas and work through obstacles. While our chair, Nessa Maly will be relocating to Missouri in January, she leaves all of us with the energy she has put into this conference. Please join us in sincerely thanking her for her long hours of dedication. As a committee we are both sad, yet grateful, that she is leaving us with the tools and momentum to continue her work. Even though Nessa will be returning for the June conference (hooray!) she wants you to know that she will miss everyone in Iowa along with her heartfelt connections through Riemann Music.

**Conference Team: Nessa Maly (Chair), Cyndie Caruth, Mary Beth Shaffer, Sarah Reeves, Nicholas Roth, Patricia Schroeder, Candace Carlson, Zoe Abrahamson**

### IMTA Conference Hotel Home2 Suites by Hilton

Conveniently located adjacent to Drake University Fine Arts!  
A very limited number of conference rate suites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. **RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW!**

Rates per night:

King Studio Suite - \$124.00 per room

Queen/Queen Studio Suite - \$154.00 per room (Includes 2 queens)

Reservations online or by phone with discount code found at IMTA website at [iamta.org/conferences.php](http://iamta.org/conferences.php)

*Drake University campus dorms will be available as single or shared rooms. More information to come on the [iamta.org](http://iamta.org) website conference page and Spring magazine. Additional hotel options are approximately 1.5+ miles from Drake campus.*

### Collegiate Student Conference Sponsorship Form

Sponsor a collegiate student this year by providing a \$75 scholarship donation for a collegiate member who will be participating at conference as a performer, presenter or volunteer. Our collegiate members are the future of IMTA and we want to encourage their participation! **All sponsors will be listed in the conference booklet. Thank you for your support!**

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of collegiate members you wish to sponsor: \_\_\_\_ X \$75 = \_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Iowa Music Teachers Association and include in the memo line Collegiate Conference Sponsorship.

Mail completed sponsorship form with a check made out to IMTA to:

Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM  
203 NE Harvest Ridge Lane  
Ankeny, IA 50021



Dear Iowa Teachers!  
Greetings from a cold and rainy West Virginia! My name is Johan Botes and

I am thrilled to be your guest artist for your upcoming 2024 conference in Des Moines! I am SO looking forward to spending some time with you all - the last time I was in Des Moines, I was driving "out west" for a 30-day travel excursion to some National Parks, and Iowa seemed to be a spot to sleep over, but I've never spent any time there beyond that!

For my solo recital, I plan on presenting composers that are so dear to my heart, and music I absolutely adore and love to share with the public. There will be some Mozart to clean the palette, Chopin waltzes to get your dance moves going; French woman composer Chaminade for poetry; Debussy to help you fall into a Monet painting, and last but not least, I'll send you off with one of my heroes, George Gershwin! I will also give a presentation on a topic that I feel is very much relevant today. I call it: "Too many notes - and not enough hours in the day". Yes, we all struggle to fit every last bit of work in our days that is filled with so much that we seem to go on auto-pilot. We're going to discuss motivation and engagement in our studios; in essence, how can we practice smarter, and not longer? I'm also excited to give a masterclass. Masterclasses to me are such a joy in which to partake. I'd love for people to be there, ask questions, and be part of the discussion! We are all teachers and we all can learn from each other, and THAT is why we gather and create "Amazing" at state and national conferences. June will be here before we know it, so start getting excited!

**Johan Botes**



I am thrilled to return to Iowa to pass on the latest news from MTNA National headquarters. I'm also excited to visit my many friends again, and can't wait to go antique whispering!

**Peter Mack**



We are very excited to return to Iowa to speak about neurodiversity inclusion within music teaching. We met at the University of Iowa where William studied piano pedagogy and performance while Christina studied music therapy; the perfect combination for our presentation topic! We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones as well.

**William and Christina Whipple**



Hello neighbor!

I'm writing from Minnesota, your friendly neighbor to the north, and I'm truly delighted that I get to come for a musical visit! Your southern warmth is forever welcome, even in Summer.

Wild plans are afoot for IMTA, 2024. You might want to get your dancin' shoes on! My newest piano series, Dancing with the World, is the inspiration for one of my sessions. Together, we will explore infectious rhythms and melodious modes as we take a trip around the world. And yes, I'll be teaching a few dance steps. Plan on a few belly laughs!

My other session will be a crash course in gardening. I'll be planting "Seeds of Imagination," paving the way for spontaneous improvisation and ultimately, original composition! Creativity is a natural language for humans, especially kids, and I have simple tips for unlocking its power at the piano. The younger, the better.

I'm also delighted to be hosting a masterclass of my duet compositions. It will be fun to share personal, composer stories. And here's the good news! I've recently been uploading duet recordings to my YouTube channel for use in your studios. Most of these duets are now available for active listening to help with preparation. Visit Wynn-Anne Rossi Music on YouTube, and go to the playlist of your choice.

Cheers to the beautiful adventure ahead!

**Wynn-Anne Rossi**



I look forward to attending the IMTA state conference in June 2024, during which I hope to present one session titled "Logistics in Piano Duet Playing."

There are a few necessary things to consider in starting piano duet teams: finding compatible duet partners; selecting literature that fits the technical and musical level of the duet team; and supplying adequate piano benches to seat two players. There are also other decisions to make, such as who will be in charge of the pedals, who will turn the pages, etc.. Different from solo piano playing, duet players need to learn to share the limited physical space, communicate through non-verbal cues, as well as balance the overall texture in duet playing.

Planning for my session is still in the preliminary stage at this moment. I have contacted state conference guest artist Johan Botes, also my friend and colleague from Interlochen Arts Camp, and hope to perform some piano duets together. There is also a possibility for me to coach a student piano duet team at the end of this session. Look forward to seeing you all at the state conference in June!

**Dr. Xiao Hu**



# Collegiate Poster Presentation Specifications & Application Form

## Poster Presentation Session Description:

A poster presentation is a visual presentation of information that conference participants may view. Authors present and describe the work, provide handouts, and answer questions during the poster session presentation time.

## Typical categories include (but are not limited to):

Research, Studio/Pedagogy Projects, and Practical Teaching Information.

To apply, please submit the following information via email to Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM, [mbs723@shafferstudio.net](mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net).

### 1. A Microsoft Word document containing:

- Presenter information: name(s), institutional affiliation, collegiate chapter (if applicable), e-mail, telephone
- A 35 (or fewer) word bio on each presenter
- Poster title (in its final form) and a 35-word poster description

2. A headshot that meets the following specifications: Minimum of 300 dpi, does not exceed 1.5MB, and attach this file to your email (do not embed in the email body).

3. If available, please send a JPEG or PDF file of the proposed poster (do not embed in the email body). Information on posters should be visible from 3-4 feet away. Posters should be mounted on 36" x 48" tri-fold posterboard. Professionally printed posters are preferred.

**Where:** Anderson Gallery, Drake University

**When:** Monday, June 3, 2024

**Time:** 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

**Deadline for Submission:** March 31, 2024

Please submit application information and direct any questions to Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM, at [mbs723@shafferstudio.net](mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net).

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DR. MARIKO MORITA, ORGAN  
PROF. NATIA SHIOSHVILI, PIANO

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# MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS RESULTS

The football stadium of Iowa State University was bustling with Homecoming excitement on November 4th and 5th while music students from across the state gathered at the Simon Estes Music Hall to showcase their skills.

This year's competition had 36 entrants. With such a hard-working group of students, our judges certainly did not have an easy task selecting winners! We extend a heartfelt thanks to the following judges for lending their time and expertise:

### Piano

Dr. April Kim  
*St. Olaf College*

Dr. Hyein Choi  
*St. Olaf College*

Dr. Charles Schmidt  
*Augustana College*

### Voice

Terry Chasteen  
*University of Western Illinois*

Dr. Chad Sonka  
*Iowa State University*

Dr. Sean Stephenson  
*Central College*

### Woodwind

Dr. Jeff Erickson  
*University of Wisconsin - La Crosse*

### String

Dr. Maureen Yuen  
*Drake University*

Congratulations to students and their teachers on the superb musicianship displayed at this year's competition. Best of luck to our winners and state representatives as they advance to Divisions (video only) on December 6th!

## State Representatives and winners to perform for MTNA Division Competition



**Diane Smith, NCTM**  
imtamnachair@gmail.com



**Keira Cromwell**  
Junior String  
Laura Shaw  
Iowa City  
Iowa Representative



**Olivia Tice**  
Senior Voice  
Leanne Freeman-Miller  
Des Moines  
Iowa Representative



**Hannah Cotran & Chloe Liang**  
Senior Piano Duet  
Cyndie Caruth  
Urbandale/Johnston  
Iowa Representatives



## Junior Piano



**Gwenth Franczyk**  
Winner  
Cyndie Caruth  
Urbandale



**Lucas Du**  
Alternate  
Larisa Kanevski  
Ames



**Duy H. Duong**  
Honorable Mention  
Cyndie Caruth  
Ankeny

## Senior String



**Tai Caputo**  
Winner  
Joseph Kromholz  
Iowa City



**Sabrina Du**  
Alternate  
Dawn Marino-Ohmes  
Iowa City



**Jessie Li**  
Honorable Mention  
Dawn Marino-Ohmes  
Iowa City

## Senior Piano



**Kento Sugiyama**  
Winner  
Jack Winerock/  
Feilin Lin Murray  
Iowa City



**Henry Mauser**  
Alternate  
Suzanne Torkelson  
Osage



**Elizabeth Deng**  
Honorable Mention  
Larisa Kanevski  
Ankeny



**Jack Stremlow**  
Honorable Mention  
Marian Lee  
Davenport

## Young Artist Voice



**Eleni Anthan**  
Winner  
Leanne Freeman-Miller  
West Des Moines



**Caitlyn Dean**  
Alternate  
Leanne Freeman-Miller  
Johnston



**Delaney Downs**  
Honorable Mention  
Leanne Freeman-Miller  
Des Moines



**Thomas Drummond**  
Winner  
Kenneth Tse  
Iowa City



**Chris Hunley**  
Alternate  
Kenneth Tse  
Iowa City



**Courtney Joiner**  
Honorable Mention  
Beverly Gibson  
Orange City

## Young Artist Woodwind

# IaMTA.org : WEBSITE TIPS FOR AUDITIONS & FESTIVALS

**B**y now, most of us, and our students, have at least one Festival under our belt. Next up are Auditions!

The term, “Audition”, sounds as if the student is trying out for something, which isn’t exactly the case. Students perform 3-4 pieces before a qualified judge, who grades the student’s performance as I, II, or III and provides written comments. Each student’s age and skill determine the “level” at which the student performs, and one or two students from each level are selected to perform at IMTA State Auditions. Most students at District Auditions are required to complete a music theory exam, with honors going to the top scoring students.

It is easy to sign your students up for auditions. Log in to the IAMTA.org website and click on “AUDITIONS” in the upper right corner. Students that were registered last year will be listed under “REGISTERED STUDENT NAME”. To remove a student, click “DELETE” at the right side of the student’s name and performance level. To set up this year’s students and pieces, click “EDIT” at the left side of the student’s name. To add a new student, simply type the student’s information in the empty fields below the list of students. When done editing or adding student info, click “NEXT” to put in repertoire selections. *Important: The page won’t move forward to repertoire selections until all required information is filled in on the first page.*

Next is the student’s repertoire page. Repertoire that can be selected is based on the student’s PERFORMANCE LEVEL on the first page. If the performance level is incorrect, there’s no way to back up to the first page. Save the student, then start over, making sure the student’s PERFORMANCE LEVEL is correct.

*Important: It is very important for teachers to review student registrations and remove any students who will not participate in festivals or auditions this year. Teachers will be required to pay fees for all students whose names appear on the IAMTA.org Festival or Audition registration pages.*

All festival and repertoire selections come from the approved Repertoire List, available only to members when they log in to the IAMTA.org website. Spreadsheet versions of the IMTA Repertoire List are no longer available. This year, the Repertoire List is only available on the website.

District audition registration deadlines and audition dates are on the website Events Calendar.



IMTA Website Chair

**Angela Binns**  
imtainformation@gmail.com

# IOWA STATE MUSIC



## Programs of Study

Bachelor of Music Degree

Keyboard Performance

Keyboard Education

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Minor in Music

Lessons for non-majors

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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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# NEW CERTIFICATION CONNECTIONS

It is challenging to come up with ideas to encourage our Iowa Teachers towards becoming a National Certified teachers of Music. Our fellow members are all so busy working in their studios, accompanying choirs and soloists, and even working a church job on top of a busy family life! It's a 'hard sell' to convince many of you to find the time to make Certification part of your schedules. But I have an idea I would like to try with any IMTA teacher who is even thinking of becoming Nationally Certified.

You may remember an article I wrote in a past issue entitled *The Gifts of Imperfection: Courage, Compassion, and Connection*. That article caught the attention of Beth Gigante Klingenstein, the Chair of Certification in North Dakota. You may remember her as the author of *The Independent Piano Teacher's Studio Handbook*. She was a former MTNA Secretary-Treasurer, a West Central Division Director, and served on the American Music Teacher editorial committee, among a host of other activities concerning the promotion of music education.

My attendance at her monthly Zoom meeting with Certification candidates from all around North Dakota was just fun! We conversed about all the normal topics life brings and then Beth asked each person attending where they were with their certification. She was encouraging in every way! Each conversation was enlightening: one candidate was expecting her first baby and another was finishing her doctoral dissertation. Another candidate had

called in from her car and was traveling while we spoke for the short Zoom meeting together.

***I would like to try to establish a monthly Zoom meeting with any of you concerning Certification.*** It will be at a regular time each month. Over morning coffee? At lunch time on a teaching day? On a Friday morning when we all are looking forward to the weekend?

Please contact me at 563-349-9407 or [lindajallebach@gmail.com](mailto:lindajallebach@gmail.com) if you have even thought about the NCTM program and would like to investigate or get started. We can form a group to encourage, to share, to commiserate the journey towards certification. I would love to hear from you and make this the year (or years) that you become Nationally Certified!!

*Would a monthly group conversation on Zoom be what is needed to encourage busy IMTA teachers who would like to become Nationally Certified?*



**IMTA Certification Chair**

**Linda Allebach, NCTM**  
[imtacertification@gmail.com](mailto: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!*

# AMES ADDS TWO FESTIVALS



IMTA State Festival Chair

**Rachel McCoy**  
imtafestivals@gmail.com

I was pleasantly surprised to receive an email from Paula Forrest this past October wanting to know how Ames could have an IMTA festival this year. Actually, they wanted to have two festivals because the festival date landed on the IHSMA All-State music event. So, Angela Binns and I coordinated with Paula Forrest and Michiyo Nakatani on getting the website to work for both festivals. Several emails and phone calls later, we had Ames set up to hold two festivals this fall. Welcome back to IMTA Festivals, Ames teachers and students!

In addition to overseeing all of the Festival Centers in the state, I also keep track of our newest judges on the Probationary Judges List. The Probationary List of Judges is updated whenever a new evaluation comes through or a new application is sent to me. By the time you receive this magazine, this list may have changed; the website is always the best place to check because it is updated as new information becomes available. If you or someone you know is interested in learning how to become a judge for IMTA, check the website for information or email me at [imtafestivals@gmail.com](mailto:imtafestivals@gmail.com).

## IMTA 2023-2024 PROBATIONARY JUDGES

Updated 12/7/23

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](https://iamta.org/members/forms-resources.php) 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](mailto:imtafestivals@gmail.com).

**Congratulations to Abbie Brewer for completing the Probationary Judges requirements!**

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

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

**Mavis Chen**  
1332 Collins St  
Webster City, IA 50595  
515-236-0076  
[mavischen21@yahoo.com.tw](mailto:mavischen21@yahoo.com.tw)

**Nicole Messerschmitt (1)**  
320 S Westminster St  
Iowa City, IA 52245  
515-451-5088  
[npeterpiano@gmail.com](mailto:npeterpiano@gmail.com)

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

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

**Sarah Reeves**  
1021 NW Applewood St  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
641-203-6659  
[sarahgv46@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgv46@gmail.com)

# 2023-2024 Festivals Schedule

Center	Registration Deadline	Event Date	Location	Chairperson
Ames	11-4-23	11-18-23	Iowa State University	Michiyo Nakatani nakatani@isunet.net 515-451-2256
Ames	11-25-23	12-16-23	Iowa State University	Paula Forrest forrestps@isunet.net 515-292-3891
Cedar Falls	11-3-23	12-2-23	University of Northern Iowa	Andrea Johnson andrea.johnson@uni.edu 503-536-3925
Cedar Rapids	12-16-23	1-6-24	Kirkwood Community College	Allison Chenoweth achenoweth@westmusic.com 319-651-4613
Coralville (Iowa City)	10-22-23	11-12-23	West Music, Coralville	Nancy Cree nancy@nancycree.com 319-354-3085
Des Moines/ Suburbs	11-4-23	12-2-23	Teacher's homes	Irina Kaplan irinak@mchsi.com 515-287-2280
Dubuque	10-21-23	11-11-22	University of Dubuque	Leslie Appleby leslieappleby@gmail.com 563-663-6730
Dyersville	11-18-23	12-2-23	Rachel's home	Rachel McCoy rachel.d.mccoy@gmail.com 712-830-9239
Forest City	12-30-23	1-13-24	Waldorf University	Melissa Phillips melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu 507-360-6477
Lytton	11-18-23	12-2-23	Deb's home	Deb Ausborn debausborn@gmail.com 712-830-4634
Mason City	11-18-23	12-2-23	NIACC	Lissa Pohlman lissa.pohlman@gmail.com 641-420-3254
Quad Cities	10-28-23	11-11-23	St. Ambrose	Charles Schmidt charlesschmidt@augustana.edu 309-230-0148
Webster City	12-30-23	1-12-23 & 1-13-23	Asbury United Methodist Church	Joan Hopkins kjhopkins67@gmail.com 515-835-0371

# STATE COMPETITION MOVED TO UNI

The IMTA State Competition on March 9th, 2024, is gearing up for a great event! However, due to security enhancements at Iowa State University, we've decided to relocate the event to the University of Northern Iowa. But rest assured, the excitement and fervor for this performance opportunity remain undiminished!

This competition holds significance for budding pianists who've poured their hearts into practicing and perfecting their pieces. It's a culmination of months of dedication, guidance from teachers, and support from district auditions chairs, making it a defining moment in their musical journey.

The change in location serves the primary purpose of ensuring a safe and convenient environment for all involved. The University of Northern Iowa, renowned for its excellent facilities provides an exceptional alternative venue.

Despite the change, the core essence of the competition remains unchanged. Our judges carefully selected for their expertise, will ensure fairness and celebrate the talent on display.

## Important instructions for the district chairs:

1. Verify the updated audition dates and locations on the website. If changes are required, please inform me promptly.
2. Once you've confirmed judges for auditions, kindly email me their details for website updates.
3. With registration deadlines approaching, contact teachers who might opt out and request removal of their students' names from the website. This proactive step will prevent complications after registration closure.

**Teachers, a special note for you:** If your student wins at District Auditions, plan to attend State Auditions and dedicate a few hours to volunteering. Volunteer lists will be sent after the final District Audition in February 2023. Your participation is vital as per IMTA Audition Rules to ensure a seamlessly organized event.

Mark your calendars for the IMTA State Competition at the University of Northern Iowa on March 9, 2024.




IMTA Auditions Chair

**Andrea Johnson**  
imtaauditionschair@gmail.com

A black and white photograph of a violinist's hands playing a violin. The violinist is wearing a dark suit jacket. The background is blurred, showing other musicians and an audience.

**Music awards up to \$5,000 are available to both majors and non majors.**

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**For more information contact our Visual and Performing Arts Recruiter Evelyn Rush, [finearts@cornellcollege](mailto:finearts@cornellcollege).**

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

with Wynn-Anne Rossi

## Dream Job

*Wynn-Anne Rossi is a renowned composer with vibrant educational outreach. Her compositions have inspired audiences across the United States and around the world.*

*We are delighted to welcome Wynn-Anne Rossi to the IMTA Conference in June 2024. She will be presenting a masterclass of piano duets!*

Sometimes I daydream. After a long, challenging day of teaching and composing, I sometimes dream of what I might do if I could do it all over again. Music is obviously my thing, but what if it were something else? World travel comes to mind. I'd love to be a super-taster, critiquing all the best foods of the world. Or maybe an architect, building balanced structures with beautiful elements of asymmetry. I'd love to be a modern dancer, exploring rhythms in a completely new way, connecting to my body instead of being so centered in my mind.

But then I pinch myself, waking up to the realization that as a musician, I'm living the dream. My work can brush elbows with any dream job of this planet. That's because music is made of imagination, and imagination can take us anywhere! As musicians, we can travel to see the northern lights of Alaska, the rain forests of Latin America or even back in history to visit the jazz greats! Every time we teach a lesson or compose a new piece, we become the architect, balancing mathematical patterns with the asymmetry of personal expression. And as for dancing, leave that to our lively fingers!

My particular life as a composer tends to reveal itself in chapters. When I first sought publication, I took myself and my work too seriously. In other words, it was mostly about me and what I was compelled to say. It was lonely work, and I thank the heavens for my life as a teacher. Teaching has always brought me great joy, and I soon realized the imminent need for

a creative approach and more contemporary sounds in our pedagogical library. As a result, my compositional life did a flip-flop from being about me to being about others. And that's when the real fun began!

I won't go into all my crazy chapters, but I'll highlight the two that will be the focus of my talks for the IMTA State Conference, 2024: *Seeds of Imagination* and *Dancing with the World*.

*Seeds of Imagination* is rooted in my early childhood memories. Our family had a piano, and my mom had the creative insight to turn it into a toy. She would lift me up on the piano bench to make up silly stories. I still remember that early sensation of swinging my legs with delight. Many of the stories were about animals, but we progressed to musical concoctions with stormy weather, hiking up mountains, encountering monsters and more. To this day, I believe these early memories are the root reason I'm a composer. Creative spark is in every child on this planet, and music allows it to thrive. By awakening musical imagination at a young age, we emphasize that the piano is about the love of sound. We also build interpretative "muscles" that heighten the use of range, dynamics, articulations and so much more. And by the way, musical imagination isn't just for young kids!

*Dancing with the World* has been a recent chapter. It began with an invitation to attend a dance class at the Tapestry Folkdance Center



Wynn-Anne Rossi writes that she lives her life in chapters with many stories behind the music she composes and experiences she has had.

Learn more about her and her music at the upcoming IMTA Conference.

in Minneapolis. I joined an international circle dance session and got hooked! Not only did I enjoy this community dance experience, but I also discovered contagious sounds from around the world. As I took on new dance steps, I began to associate certain modes and rhythms with particular regions and countries. With a fever that must have come over Bartok, I became excited about enhancing my own musical language as a composer. Music grows and evolves through sharing. Fusion is in its nature, and so my own voice as a composer expanded to encompass these unique sounds from around the world. The result is my new series of four leveled books called *Dancing with the World*. I look forward to sharing examples, including a few dance steps!

There is one more session I will be giving for the conference. A duet masterclass of my own works! It will be a joy to share the stories behind the music and experience these pieces in new ways

through the interpretation of these young musicians. I'm a firm believer in musical ownership. Once I'm done composing a new work, ownership transfers to future performers. I provide the "bones" of the music, whereas each performer provides living spirit in the present moment. Quite the miracle!

A next chapter awaits us all. Through the sounds of music, we continue to enjoy international travel, architecture, dance styles and so much more. It is through our daydreams and hard work as musicians and teachers that we continue to explore this world and ourselves. And can we agree? Yes! It's a dream job.

I hope to see all of you in June, 2024 for the IMTA Conference. Until then, please come for an online visit:  
 YouTube ~ Wynn-Anne Rossi Music  
 Facebook ~ Wynn-Anne Rossi Music or Wynn-Anne Rossi  
 Website ~ [www.rossi-music.com](http://www.rossi-music.com)

Wynn-Anne Rossi has over 150 publications, primarily for piano, which are widely distributed online and in music stores. Her repertoire also includes works for vocal and chamber groups, concert band and orchestra. Various commissions have been sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio, the National Endowment for the Arts, Music Teachers National Association and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Wynn-Anne specializes in bringing the art of composition to every musician. She has been offering composition residencies throughout the country since 2003, inspiring thousands of students to write their own music. Partnerships have included the MUNDI Project (UT), Linda Luebke String Festival (IN), St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (MN), and many more. Rossi has also written two comprehensive series which encourage young pianists to compose: *Music by Me* (FJH Music, with Kevin Olson) and most recently, *Creative Composition Toolbox* (Alfred Music). Her new video series, *Wednesdays with Wynn-Anne*, is now available for curious composers of all ages and levels.

Active as a presenter, Wynn-Anne is known for her innovative lectures, workshops and masterclasses. Her educational voice has moved beyond the borders of the United States, reaching audiences from Iceland to Australia. She presents on a wide variety of subjects including American music, inspired by her two popular series, *Musica Latina* and *Jazzin' Americana*.

Rossi was educated at the University of Colorado in theory and composition. Further training included choral conducting at Harvard University and jazz pedagogy through the University of Illinois. She has also studied with Pulitzer Prize recipient Aaron Jay Kernis.

What does Wynn-Anne do other than music? She loves to ice-skate or roller-blade, depending on the weather. She practices elementary juggling to inspire humility and often brainstorms while watching red-bellied woodpeckers at her bird feeder. Family members include her husband Greg, Luigi the puppy, Mario the kitty and her awesome son, Nick.

## *Keys to Excellence* Piano Series 2023-2024



**Garik Pedersen** – Eastern Michigan University  
Masterclass: October 1 @ 4:00pm  
Concert: October 2 @ 7:30pm



**Bruce Brubaker** – New England Conservatory  
Masterclass: November 12 @ 4:00pm  
Concert: November 13 @ 7:30pm



**Nicholas Roth** – Drake University  
*Sally B. Bartlett Memorial Concert*  
November 27 @ 7:30pm



**Lori Sims** – Western Michigan University  
Masterclass: April 7 @ 4:00pm  
Concert: April 8 @ 7:30pm

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Contact Nicholas Roth for information:  
[nicholas.roth@drake.edu](mailto:nicholas.roth@drake.edu)



# FOUNDATION SUPPORT

I hope each one of you is enjoying a season of celebration with your friends and loved ones. It is certainly a busy time of year as our students participate in recitals, festivals, and various holiday programs. In the Des Moines area, we are also beginning to ramp up for the 2024 IMTA State Conference, which will be held on the beautiful Drake University campus. As a first-time attendee of the conference in 2023, I am so excited to be involved in planning this year.

For those of you who have never participated in a conference, I can tell you I personally found the experience invigorating on many levels. It allowed me to network with teachers from across the state, many of whom I had heard of or even corresponded with, but had never met. Every meal and coffee break was an opportunity to bond over the struggles and joys of teaching music. And, of course, the program of artists and speakers was amazing.

We teachers pour our hearts and souls into teaching all year long. Getting to spend time recharging our zeal for our work with others who share a common dream is vital for maintaining that enthusiasm. For me, the conference was well worth the cost of attending. I hope someday soon to be able to work up to attending the National Conference.

But for now, attending the State Conference has become part of my business budget, right alongside my yearly membership dues.

Having extolled the virtues of our IMTA Conference, I would like to encourage those of you who can to support our 2024 Iowa Foundation Fellow Dr. Alan Huckleberry. Being nominated as the Foundation Fellow is a great honor reserved for members who have shown exemplary service and leadership within our state organization. As Iowa Music Teachers,

we want to proudly support this year's worthy nominee at the 2024 MTNA Conference. Our goal is to raise \$1500 in honor of our nominee by January 1. Our current balance is \$453. These funds, along with those from other states will support the ongoing mission of the MTNA Foundation. If you would like to learn more about the foundation and its many community, teacher and student grants, visit [mtnafoundation.org/mtna-grants/](https://mtnafoundation.org/mtna-grants/).

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to IMTA with Foundation Fellow in the memo line. Checks can be sent to our treasurer:

Cate Bryan  
130 SE Trillium Dr  
Waukee, IA 50263

Thank you all for being amazing teachers, and Happy Holidays!



**IMTA State Foundation Chair**

**Sarah Reeves**  
[imtafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:imtafoundation@gmail.com)

# WINTER TREASURER'S REPORT



IMTA Treasurer

**Cate Bryan, NCTM**

imtafinance@gmail.com

Here are the balances as of December 1, 2023:

**Checking:** \$17,777.42  
**Scholarship / Money Market:** \$6,115.57  
**CD Balance:** \$39,005.18

The CD matured on October 5, 2023 and we rolled the CD back over to Veridian Credit Union for a 15 month CD with an APR of 5.391%.

In September, I submitted to the IRS our 990-N form to continue to maintain our 501c3 status.

The 2023-2024 budget is listed for your review. I hope to not only break even, but stay in the black as best we can given the inflation problems of today.

Lastly, If you haven't had an opportunity to support our Foundation Fellow, Dr. Alan Huckleberry, I highly encourage you to mail in your donation to me so we can complete the fundraising in record time!

Please make your check out to IMTA, and in the memo, please notate - Foundation Fellow Donation.

You can mail to me as follows:

Cate Bryan, NCTM  
 IMTA State Treasurer  
 130 SE Trillium Drive  
 Waukee, IA 50263

Blessings on your holiday season!

## 2023-2024 IMTA Budget

	Income	Expense	Total:	
Awards	\$0.00	\$200.00	(\$200.00)	
Auditions	\$16,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$3,000.00	
Commissioned Composer	\$750.00	\$1,500.00	(\$750.00)	
D&O Insurance	\$0.00	\$600.00	(\$600.00)	
Festivals	\$7,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,500.00	
Magazine	\$15,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$2,000.00	750 Quarterly to Robin Doty
Mailing List Sales and Syllabus	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Member Travel	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	(\$2,000.00)	
MTNA Competition	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	(\$1,500.00)	
MTNA Gala Table	\$0.00	\$350.00	(\$350.00)	
Bi-Yearly Summit	\$0.00	\$800.00	(\$800.00)	
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$250.00	(\$250.00)	
IMTA Dues	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	
Student Scholarships	\$500.00	\$5,000.00	(\$4,500.00)	Paid for both 2023 and 2024
Student Travel	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	(\$2,000.00)	
NCTM Incentive Scholarship	\$0.00	\$400.00	(\$400.00)	
IMTA Web Maintenance	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	(\$1,500.00)	200 Quarterly to WebSpec
THEMA Scholarship	\$0.00	\$300.00	(\$300.00)	
IMTA Conference	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	
SEIMTA Balance	\$546.05		\$546.05	
			\$0.00	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,896.05</b>	<b>\$59,900.00</b>	<b>\$996.05</b>	



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**The competition is held annually at the Iowa PBS studios  
in Johnston, Iowa.**

**Application forms and detailed information may be found at:  
[terracehill.iowa.gov](http://terracehill.iowa.gov)**

# WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST COLLEGIATE CHAPTER: ISU

I hope all of you have had a beautiful holiday season! Reflecting back on the last few months, I am happy to share that we have a new collegiate chapter! Many congratulations to the new collegiate chapter at Iowa State University! Advised and led by Dr. Janci Bronson as well as Collegiate Chapter President, Ellie Lashier, this chapter is motivated and enthusiastic. Iowa now has five collegiate chapters – University of Northern Iowa, University of Iowa, Faith Baptist, Waldorf University, and Iowa State University.

Looking ahead, collegiate members will have two wonderful opportunities at our upcoming state conference at Drake University! First, Sunday evening, June 2, at 7:00 pm, there will be a “Celebrating Iowa Collegiate Young Artists” concert featuring IMTA collegiate members as well as Drake University students. We welcome any instrument – voice, piano, wind, brass, etc.! Ensembles are also welcome if there is at least one collegiate IMTA member involved. Application forms will be sent out to the collegiate chapters; however, if you are a collegiate member not connected with

a chapter, please reach out to me at [melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu](mailto:melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu) for an application! Application deadline is March 31. We hope that many take advantage of this opportunity, and we are excited to encourage you in your musical journey!

Second, collegiate members will also have the chance to present at the Collegiate Poster Session on Monday, June 3. This will be held at the Anderson Gallery at Drake University. If interested, please contact Mary Beth Shaffer at [mbs723@shafferstudio.net](mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net) or refer to the application in this magazine. Application deadline for the Collegiate Poster Session is March 31.

Collegiate members, please know that the conference registration is free for you! We would love to have you attend! In addition, collegiate members who perform in the “Celebrating Iowa Collegiate Young Artists” concert and/or present a poster session and/or volunteer to assist with the conference will receive a free meal for the Sunday dinner and all three meals free on Monday. We are excited to see you at the conference in June!



**IMTA Collegiate Chapters Chair**  
**Melissa Phillips**  
[melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu](mailto:melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu)

## THEORY REMINDERS FOR TEACHERS & STUDENTS



**IMTA Theory Chair**  
**Donita McCoy**  
[ddmccoy@msn.com](mailto:ddmccoy@msn.com)

Hopefully, those who are ready to “practice” theory for auditions have found the “practice” tests on the website. It turned out that I had to “learn something new” (how to edit a PDF using Adobe Acrobat Pro) in order to prepare them for the website. Really, I thought I had improved my brain enough during Covid with all the new things we all had to learn.

I have a few reminders as you prepare your students:

1. Remind them to “turn the page over”. Most levels have questions on the back.

2. There is no time limit to take the theory test.
3. A level is optional as indicated on the registration. Theory scores will not affect performance scores at A level only.
4. Should a student have special needs or require assistance reading, someone will be assigned to help them if it is not disruptive to others.

Anyone interested in being on the Theory Committee would be most welcome. There are openings!



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# From the Past



IMTA Archivist/Historian  
Timothy LaFleur

## FRIENDSHIP LASTS A LIFETIME

by Abby Hill

The first day in my new home was marvelous. The white house was enormous with shimmering, oversized windows and beautiful flowers. My room was especially dazzling. I sat in the corner of a somewhat large room under a breath-taking chandelier. The luminous light reflected off my sleek, black body which made me look even more stunning.

One day, about a week after I had moved in, a small girl about nine years old came into the room and walked towards me. She had dark amber hair and smelled like fresh lilacs after a rain shower. She hopped onto my cold, leathery seat and stared at my ivory keys. Gently she pressed them, creating a rainbow of musical notes into a song of her own. It tickled and made me feel overjoyed that someone was finally playing me.

Eventually, I came to learn that the small girl who had first brought my music into her life was named Molly. Spending a lot of time together, Molly and I became great friends. Everyday she would sit on my seat and play music out of her books. Some days Molly would play wonderfully and others she would struggle. It was the days she had trouble that frustrated me. I wanted so strongly for her to play the correct notes so she would be satisfied, but all I could do was let her try on her own. I would sit there helplessly, listening to her sob, and pray, for her sake, that she would play to her expectations. It didn't matter to me what she played, right or wrong, just as long as she played. It was the most splendid feeling to have Molly use me everyday. I felt wanted.

Eventually, as Molly got older and continued to improve, her frustrating days of practice got more sporadic. Molly had become a wonderful pianist, and I was so proud of her.

I was especially excited the day I was played at Molly's wedding. It was a beautiful wedding, and everyone marveled at how beautiful I was, not to mention how beautiful Molly looked. She continued to play me even after she was married. I had stayed in the same room of the same house for over fourteen years, and I was part of the family. Molly's parents had died, and now she and her husband lived in the house and

had a child of their own.

Molly's daughter, Trish, was just like her mother. Trish learned to play me just like Molly had. It was just like a little Molly playing me all over again except that Trish and I didn't have that special connection that Molly and I shared. Molly taught her daughter well and made her practice as diligently as she had when she was Trish's age.

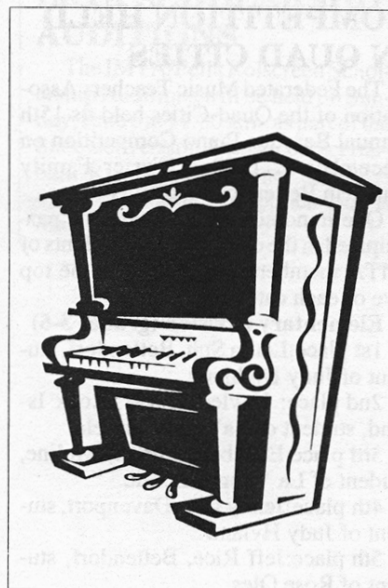
Over the years Trish grew to be an excellent pianist just like her mother and played me often. What I really missed was Molly playing her emotions through me, but she hardly even glanced at me anymore.

As Trish and Molly grew older, so did I. My once shiny wood was now dull and dusty. My keys were chipped and yellowing, and I hadn't been tuned in years. Trish was married and out of the house now, and it had been years since Molly had stepped foot in my room. It worried me, and I was so lonely. I longed for Molly, or even Trish, to come and pound their energy through my keys as they had done so many years before.

Then one day I overheard Molly's husband talking to someone on the phone. Molly was very sick. She was extremely old and did not have much time to live. The thought of Molly dead made me ache inside, yet it was somewhat comforting to know that she had not forgotten about me. She was just unable to play me because she was so ill. She would get better. I knew my Molly would. Then she would come and play me like she had always done in the past, and everything would be just fine. I knew, though, that this would probably not be the case.

It was a Sunday evening, and the sun was slowly melting into the earth like hot butter. The colors of the sunset were streaming through the window and glowing off my worn, once glossy body. I sat there wondering what was to become of me.

Then, suddenly, I heard light, gliding footsteps coming across the faded tan carpet. I took a glimpse towards the doorway, and there was Molly, fragile, old, and limp. She helped herself slowly across the room and lowered her body onto my sturdy seat, gripping my wooden framework. The fragrance of fresh lilacs swept over me, and my mind traced



back to the first day I met Molly. I was ecstatic to see her and wished I could have reached out and hugged her. All I wanted her to do was play me. I wanted that familiar feeling of reassurance back again.

Slowly, Molly laid her tiny, wrinkled hands onto my keyboard and started playing a song by memory. I recognized the song right away. It was one she had written herself and used to play when it was just us two together. It was our song. With all her effort, she played the song and I listened. It was as if we were one, creating a sea of sound so beautiful, I got chills. Molly needed me and I needed her. She was the only thing in the world that mattered to me.

As Molly strummed the last chord, she laid her head down on top of her hands and took her last breath. She died peacefully in my arms that night, and I knew that was what she wanted. It eased my pain to know that she had brought back our very special connection once more before she passed away. I knew she was now content, and so was I. I would miss her. I was her one friend who had been there for her since she was a child and who completely understood her. No other friendship would compare to the one I had shared with Molly. We had communicated our love for one another, not through our voices, but through our music.

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: TACKLING AI, PART I

**A**rtificial Intelligence. Everyone's talking about it. And being a disruptive technology, it has been met with giddy excitement from some and great trepidation from others. What does it mean for music teachers? It's difficult to say – most of the buzz surrounding AI lately has been in the realms of text and visual art, but AI is also showing up in a variety of musical applications as well. Let's take a moment to unpack the pros and cons as they currently stand.

## How AI Can Help You

First, let's say you need to send a letter to your families letting them know you plan to discontinue lessons. It's a difficult letter to write and just thinking about it gives you anxiety. I logged into ChatGPT and told it to "write a letter to a piano student's parent letting them know I have to discontinue lessons." Here's what ChatGPT gave me:

Dear [Parent's Name],

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of a decision that has not been easy for me to make. After careful consideration, I regret to inform you that I must discontinue piano lessons with [Student's Name] as of [date].

I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to work with [Student's Name]. Over the course of our lessons, I have witnessed [his/her] dedication, enthusiasm, and progress in learning the piano. It has truly been a pleasure to be a part of [his/her] musical journey.

Several factors have contributed to this difficult decision, and I believe it is in [Student's Name]'s best interest to explore alternative avenues for further musical education. I understand the importance of consistency in a student's learning experience, and I want to ensure that [he/she] has the opportunity to thrive under the guidance of a teacher whose approach

aligns more closely with [his/her] current needs and goals.

I am more than willing to provide recommendations for other qualified piano instructors in the area who may better suit [Student's Name]'s requirements. Please feel free to reach out if you would like assistance in finding a suitable replacement.

I want to emphasize that this decision is not a reflection of [Student's Name]'s abilities or commitment. [He/She] has been a joy to teach, and I believe [his/her] passion for music will continue to flourish with the right guidance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I wish [Student's Name] continued success and fulfillment in [his/her] musical pursuits.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Let's be honest – that's a very good letter! And while I wouldn't send it "as-is" it would definitely help me get started. I could customize it in a variety of ways, change some words and phrases to make it sound more like me, but I would absolutely find it a helpful way to get started on writing such a difficult note.

Or let's say I've been procrastinating and need some ideas for a group class tomorrow. I type in "give me 5 ideas for a music class for eight 5th graders." In less than 10 seconds, ChatGPT gave me ideas for DIY Musical Instruments, Music Theory Games, Movement Activities, World Music Exploration, and Musical Storytelling. And while it didn't give me details on how to do those things, further interaction with the app could help flesh things out and, combined with my own imagination, I'd be well on my way to a solid lesson plan.

How does ChatGPT do this? While I'm no expert, the short answer is that it spends enormous amounts of time scouring the web and other sources for data and summarizes it for



IMTA State Technology Chair

**Dr. Jason Sifford, NCTM**  
imtatechnology@gmail.com



you in the blink of an eye. It's accurate, has impeccable grammar and spelling, and depending on the input you give it, it can be incredibly specific and tailored to your exact needs.

That said, there are some potential problems...

### How AI Can Be Problematic

First, AI is only as good as the input you give it. Like any other tool, it's only effective if you know how to use it. And if it doesn't understand exactly what you want, the result can be odd. I asked it for a good fast piece for a piano student, and it said Mozart's "Turkish March" would be a good elementary piece. (On the other hand, it also recommended the Pieczonka Tarantella for an intermediate student, which is a decent suggestion!)

Second, AI is a disruptive technology because it can take the place of human thought. Just like robots have replaced physical labor in warehouses and assembly lines, AI could potentially

replace mental labor. That might sound nice when it saves you time and money, but when it puts you out of a job because nobody needs a human to tell them what piece they should play next, that's a problem. (For the record, after the Petzold Minuet in G, ChatGPT recommends the Burgmuller Ballade, Clementi Op. 36, No. 1, the Soldier's March from Schumann's Album for the Young, and Kuhlau Op. 55, No. 1.)

### What's Next?

So far, we've just scratched the surface of what ChatGPT can do. In my next column, I'll dive into some of the more music-specific applications of the technology. (Which again, are exciting but potentially disruptive.) Until then, whether you're excited or worried about AI, know that it still can't replace being in a room with another human making music. And personally, I don't think it ever will.



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# WEST CENTRAL DIVISION SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STATE PRESIDENTS & DIRECTOR-ELECT

*As I draw near the end of my term as the West Central Division Director, I have been reflecting on my own MTNA leadership journey. It has been and continues to be a journey that I may not have embarked on without the wonderful encouragement and support of my colleagues!*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as division director, and I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of the 2234 division members who have contributed to making this leadership opportunity truly fulfilling and rewarding for me.*

*As you enjoy reading about our division's state presidents, I hope that you will be inspired to say "YES" to leadership opportunities in your state and local associations. MTNA needs YOU!*



**Andrew Cooperstock, NCTM**  
President of Colorado State Music Teachers Association



**Sharon Jensen, NCTM**  
President of Iowa Music Teachers Association



**Jason Hausback**  
President of Missouri Music Teachers Association



**Mark Stevens, NCTM**  
President of South Dakota Music Teachers Association



**James Knight**  
President of Kansas Music Teachers Association



**Jacob Fitzpatrick**  
President of Minnesota Music Teachers Association



**MTNA WCD Director**  
**Mary Beth Shaffer**  
mbs723@shafferstudio.net



**Brenda Wristen, NCTM**  
President of Nebraska Music Teachers Association



**Tamara Bertram**  
President of North Dakota Music Teachers Association



**Cyndie Caruth, NCTM**  
West Central Division Director-elect

## How long have you been an MTNA member?

**AC:** Since 1986 (37 years!)

**SJ:** I've been a member of IMTA since 1986 when I started my first job after finishing my doctorate. I had been named Assistant Professor of Music at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, and there was an extremely active group of teachers in the Quad Cities, QMTA. Thankfully, they are still one of our most vibrant groups. I didn't enter students for many years as I was busy with my faculty position and raising small children, but I served as an adjudicator and formed many life-long friendships with the teachers. Since moving to Dubuque in 1996, I've been part of a much smaller but equally gifted group of teachers, DBQMTA.

**JH:** I joined MTNA in 2014. To be honest, as a trombonist I didn't know anything about it, and when I moved to Missouri, I was asked to judge the state Young Artist Brass competition in 2012. From that point on I was curious about MTNA, and I started finding out more a year later when I was invited to be a MTNA State Chair for the first time. As I'm sure it is in many states, once you get involved, somebody with a keen eye will keep getting you involved more!

**MS:** I've been a member of MTNA since the fall of 2018. I was a student member in the past as well.

**JK:** I've been a member of MTNA for almost 7 years.

**JF:** I joined MTNA when I was in college, so that would have been 2003 or so. That means I've been a member for 20 years!

**CC:** 50 years!

## What/who inspired you to join?

**AC:** I'd been active in the competitions since I was young and even won the divisional level of the Baldwin Junior Keyboard Award a couple years. I've served on a college faculty since 1987 and for both my own continued growth as well as that of my students felt it was important to join MTNA and remain current ever since. I've appreciated opportunities to present many times at the national conference and as guest in various states and to serve as adjudicator at the state, division, and national levels.

**SJ:** As a child, I studied piano with my mother who has been a member of MMTA for over 50 years. I competed in Michigan MTA auditions each year and as a result I acquired an excellent understanding of music theory before I attended college. Some of my favorite pieces to play and teach were ones I begged my teacher to play after hearing them played at auditions. One of those is Jardins sous la pluie from Estampes by Debussy.

**JH:** I of course joined once I was an officer, but seeing the hard work and dedication of students of all ages and backgrounds was really inspiring. Although MTNA runs on a different timeline than most of the instrumental competitions for winds (due to Marching Band always being in the fall), I decided I wanted to start getting students involved myself.

**MS:** I grew up as a student in the Washington State chapter

of MTNA. The state offered numerous opportunities for performances, competitions, student evaluations, and community. The opportunities I had as a student through MTNA were essential to my growth as a pianist. When I began teaching at the collegiate level, also in Washington State, I was thrilled to have the chance to participate as a teacher and serve the organization in various roles.

**JK:** Various members of our local Association, WMMTA encouraged me to join. Also, having the connection to the national organization was very enticing in terms of member and student activities.

**JF:** When I started teaching, I wanted my students to be able to participate in the same programs in which I had participated. So, in order for my students to participate in those programs, I needed to be a member. And to this day, I use our wonderful programs with all my students.

**CC:** Connie Danielson, my private teacher in High School encouraged me and told me it was a must that I join. My longtime friend and teacher William David with whom I studied at Iowa State University is also a lifelong member who encouraged by example for all of his students to become involved in MTNA.

## Have you held other leadership positions in your collegiate, local, state associations and if so, what positions?

**AC:** If you mean with MTNA (I've also been active at the national level with NCKP, Mu Phi Epsilon, Federation, etc.), President-elect of CSMTA was my first office.

**SJ:** I have been president of DBQMTA for 12 years and auditions co-chair since 2013. I served as IMTA Local Associations Chair since 2015 and President-elect for 2 years before becoming President of IMTA in June, 2023.

**JH:** I was the state chair for MTNA Jr/Sr competitions for one year, followed by the VP Auditions Scheduling for 8 years. In Missouri it is a split position (2 VPs for running the auditions,) and one of those years I had to also do VP Auditions Adjudication, so it got pretty intense! Technically, I was President-elect for 5 months (our then President-elect moved away), and then I became President in November of 2022.

**MS:** I was on the board of directors for WSMTA for one year, and have served as the treasurer for my current local association, the Brookings Music Teachers Association in Brookings, SD, for three years.

**JK:** I am also a co-collaborative piano chair in WMMTA. I was also president in our piano teachers league, WAPTL when it was in existence.

**JF:** I've been on the Minnesota Music Teachers Association board of directors in a few other capacities.

**CC:** I've served two terms as Iowa President as well as serving as Local Associations Chair, Mentor, Certification Chair, State and

*Continued on next page*

District Auditions Chair, Foundation Chair, Advertising Editor, Website Chair, Theory Chair, Repertoire Committee, Bylaws Committee, Mary Sue Harris Grant Committee, and WCD member at large. I'm currently Magazine Editor for IMTA and honored to serve as WCD Director in 2024-26.

### **What opportunities have you/do you enjoy the most as state president?**

**AC:** I've enjoyed meeting and working alongside so many inspiring members of my state and beyond and learning about all levels of the organization. A two-year term goes by quickly, but I am grateful to be making, I hope, a difference. I'm proudest of CSMTA's creation of a new Vice President for DEI, for shepherding a move of our state conference to the Fall, which will hopefully help increase attendance, and helping to increase communication among members, especially via social media.

**SJ:** I have been president for four months so I'm learning more each month about the workings of this wonderful association. I have thoroughly enjoyed the national conferences I've attended and look forward to the 2024 MTNA Conference in Atlanta. The state conferences Iowa hosts each summer are always memorable and truly inspiring. I don't believe I've missed one since 2005! The ideas and insights presented are invaluable but I always enjoy the fellowship and renewal of acquaintances which always takes place at these events. I was able to reconnect with a dear friend from my years at UT Austin at the conference in Spokane, WA.

**JH:** Attending the MTNA Summit on Leadership and my first MTNA National Conference this year in Reno was really an eye opener. I really do think the membership of the organization is eclectic and we have a lot of talented, creative people involved. Being a part of the Showcase Recital at Summit and hearing presidents from around the country perform was really quite a treat!

**MS:** Well, I'm brand new in the role! But I'm excited to start working with our state and local chapters right away. I attended the MNTA National Leadership Summit this year and came away with a lot of positive energy from the great sessions I attended as well as all of the hardworking, talented people I met. I look forward to meeting with local chapters to discuss the needs and ideas they have for the future of SDMTA, and to developing some new programs and initiatives to enhance our teacher and student experiences throughout the state.

**JK:** For me, I enjoy meeting other state presidents and people in leadership roles across the country and learning from them, as well as realizing how similar our challenges can be. Also, I look forward to working with our state members in increasing membership in various parts of the state that are under-represented.

**JF:** I am constantly inspired by all of the members and their commitment to our students and to musical excellence. This inspiration is also a reminder that our organization is not one person; rather, we collectively are the organization. We all bring our own strengths to the table and share them with others, and

we can then discover ways to teach, enjoy, and better our world through music.

**CC:** I thoroughly enjoy the team of board members and committees who are committed to looking at every aspect of our organization and how it can function in a more economical and efficient manner, while maintaining the core values of our organization. We have accomplished so much and continue to grow as an organization! I hope to share these accomplishments with other states and learn from their experiences as I step into the WCD Director position.

### **What advice and/or encouragement would you give to others to inspire them to consider a leadership role in their local and/or state association?**

**AC:** MTNA provides such rich opportunities for working with others with similar interests,

sharing talents, and making a difference to students, colleagues, and community.

**SJ:** I'm so pleased that in Iowa we have such a willing group of members who are willing to serve as leaders. There were approximately 6 board positions to fill when I became president and I was able to fill 5 of those with enthusiastic, capable members who despite busy families and demanding careers were ready to step up to the challenge. I serve because I've gained so much from this organization and I desire to pay it forward to the next generation.

**JH:** As stated above, MTNA and the state affiliates are always looking for people to be involved. If you're interested, it's often as simple as contacting an official and letting them know. I know I can speak for Missouri that we will definitely find something for you to do to be involved! The positions do vary quite a bit, and not all of them are time-consuming. For me, it was a great way to get connected with other teachers when I was new to Missouri. The connections I've made and the opportunities that have opened up due to my leadership involvement have been invaluable to my career, but even more importantly, make it fun to be involved. I enjoy seeing my own students benefit and excel, but it is also great to see all the students benefit.

**MS:** I think that an organization can only be as strong as its individual parts. For a state chapter to thrive, the local chapters need to be active and thriving as well! I hope all of our members will feel empowered to serve at the local level in ways that suit their abilities and interests. We all have the ability to help shape our local organizations to match our interests and goals! I believe that, once our members get involved and see the positive change they can help create, they will realize the opportunities available to join in this work at the state level as well.

**JK:** My advice is don't be afraid to ask questions and reach out to the people on your executive board, as well as other state

*Continued on next page*

# STATE CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMTA LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Our IMTA Local Associations have had a busy and productive Fall 2023, with many festivals, auditions, meetings and teacher presentations underway. I would like to extend a special thank you to all of the volunteer members who invest countless hours in making each event a success for their students and colleagues.

Speaking of events, it is not too early to start thinking about the 2024 IMTA Conference, June 2- 4 at Drake University! I am delighted to invite you to join with the conference committee in making this a fantastically fun and musically memorable conference!

Local Associations can add to the conference festivities by donating one or more items for attendee awards! The conference planning committee kindly requests that each local association provide at least one item, valued between \$30-\$50. Please email Pat Schroeder at [patschroeder54@gmail.com](mailto:patschroeder54@gmail.com) with your donation information (local association name, contact person, email, and what you will be donating) by April 1st.

Another wonderful opportunity for both IMTA Local Associations, as well as their individual members, is to sponsor a collegiate student this year by providing a \$75 scholarship donation for a collegiate member who will be participating at conference as a performer, presenter or volunteer. Our collegiate members are the future of IMTA and we need to encourage their participation in our association! If you are interested in sponsorship, please email Mary Beth Shaffer at [mbs723@shafferstudio.net](mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net) for further details.

New this year is a very special Certification Funding Award that will be given to the IMTA local association or collegiate chapter with the highest percentage of members in attendance (with a minimum of 5 and excluding the hosting local association for conference,) at the 2024 IMTA Conference! The association receiving this award will select a person from their membership to receive this funding from IMTA. The awardee will be responsible for completing their certification within the one-year time limit from the date the application is received at MTNA Headquarters.



IMTA State Local Associations Chair

**Mary Beth Shaffer**  
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*Continued from previous page*

presidents, and those representing at the national level. Also, try to regularly read board minutes to keep on top of our current issues. I found there is a lot of time devoted to reading bylaws, minutes, updates, etc. to keep on top of all of the responsibilities of not only the presidential position, but everyone else's. Lastly, reach out to as many members as possible at auditions and conferences to keep on top of their concerns.

**JF:** The entire burden of the organization does not fall on you, nor are you responsible for everything that happens. Rather, let people shine and share their strengths. Encourage participation in the organization in a variety of capacities, because when people are involved, they become empowered and also care about the organization.

**CC:** I have always felt it was necessary to bounce ideas off many people. While I love to think outside the box, not everything works for everyone. In a leadership role, much like teaching, try to figure out what will work; what will not work must quickly be tossed aside, even if it means changing your path. The most important thing is not to tackle your position alone. You can end up making poor decisions or appear like you are a "boss." You are surrounded by a team. Involve them to spark creativity and in turn, you will help them to step into leadership roles effectively.

# DUETS BY ROSSI & NEW KID-FRIENDLY BOOKS

**Music Speaks** has come to a close. We will all miss Nessa Maly's insights as she is relocating to Kansas City. Please Look for new reviews in our next issue from Sarah Reeves.



**Nessa Maly**

I hope you are all ready for the holidays (I'm not!) and all the fun moments that arrive with them. I always look forward to many food outings and time with family and friends.... but not the colder weather. I'm ready for summer way earlier than most, so I keep getting geared up and excited for the Iowa Music Teachers Association State Conference in June! It will be so nice to sit outside and enjoy a picnic again in the 90 degree weather (see, I'm already thinking about that!). As you may have read in this magazine, Wynn-Anne Rossi will be implementing a masterclass of piano duets. I want to share just a few of her many great duet opportunities and a few newer kid-friendly books I've been raving about. I hope you enjoy these recommended gems!

### **Jazzin' Americana for Two Books 1-4**

*Wynn-Anne Rossi – Late Elementary-Early Advanced Piano Duet (1997)*

Okay – let me first start by saying this whole series is absolutely entertaining AND informative. Each piece in these books honors jazz heritage and is inspired by the jazz greats! Yet again, Wynn-Anne creates music that accurately depicts the composer and a variety of styles – blues, rock, ragtime, bebop... this has it all! Bonus points, she gives little “rhythm workshops” at the beginning of each piece to work on to help work on the style. Play tunes such as “Waltz for Sarah” (Sarah Vaughan), “Buddy Boobop” (Bud Powell), “Hancock Rock” (Herbie Hancock), and “Trailblazer” (Melba Doretta Liston). Your students will love reading the short informational blurbs about each great – not too long but just enough to perceive the setting.

### **Lost in the Wind**

*Wynn-Anne Rossi – Early Intermediate Piano Duet (2012)*

I absolutely love this haunting melody in E minor and students will too! The left hand creates a moving bass line that opens and closes with the right hand singing this beautiful eerie theme. The tempo set as “swirling” accurately depicts the movement of this piece. The Secondo gets

a moment to shine through the theme halfway in the piece and it ends peacefully with the same original theme.

### **Monster Play**

*Wynn-Anne Rossi – Elementary Piano Duet (1997)*

This amusing duet shows just enough dissonance to be scary and fun at the same time! The Primo part happily plays a cute little melody that dances above the clunky left hand waltz. I can totally imagine these creatures prancing around the kids' room pretending to be frightening but really just having quite a blast playing with their toys. Or perhaps I've seen Monsters Inc too many times... but it is really an engaging piece!

### **Dot-to-Dot Adventures**

*Kevin Costley – Elementary/Late Elementary (2022)*

This is a great collection of children's songs (think Bingo, Baa Baa Black Sleep, Mary Had a Little Lamb, Muffin Man, Itsy Bitsy Spider) that incorporates the Alberti Bass on each song making it a great beginner lesson for sonatas and chords. After each song is a dot-to-dot artwork page connected to the song where students can connect the dots and even color in the pages if they wish!

### **Wonderful Me**

*Jyoti Hench – Early Elementary (2020)*

Students can play a tune that they literally filled in the blanks about themselves. I am sold on this creative idea! With mental boosting pieces such as “I Like Me”, “My Feelings”, “Someone Special”, “Take a Deep Breath”, and “I Did It!”, students are encouraged to complete the sentences of the songs with positive expressions. Then play and sing the song with your added words, how unique! In “All About Me” they finish the lyrics -- “My hair is \_\_\_\_\_, and my eyes are \_\_\_\_\_, they help me look like me, see?” Complete the book with “I Did It!” where the students can share how they feel with their achievement by filling in the lyrics. How fun!!!

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# DUETS ANYONE?

Submitted by Xiao Hu and Du Huang

Piano players spend the majority of time alone with the piano. We practice alone, go to weekly piano lessons alone, and perform on stage alone. The reason in part is piano is a wonderful instrument capable of creating melody and harmony, and enjoys a large and easily accessible pitch range. As a matter of fact, we do not need anyone else to function well in the musical landscape. If anything, other instruments, voices, and ensembles need us.

Well, all these wonderful attributes have a little side effect as, pianists tend to lead a solitary musical lifestyle. We don't have an easy way to share joys, frustration, and camaraderie that comes with being a member of a musical ensemble or chamber group. Developmentally speaking, today's youth highly value friendship with peers and social interaction. But, Iowa piano teachers, we can enrich our piano students' enjoyment in music by incorporating piano duet in our teaching studios. Students will be delighted in this adventure, and discover the joy of making music with others at the piano. Your duet partner can be a sibling, a neighbor, fellow students in the same studio, a parent, or a teacher. Besides the fun aspect, there are certainly musical and educational benefits of playing piano duets.

A few Iowa piano teachers have held the common desire to see more Iowa piano students playing piano duets: Mavis Chen of Fort Dodge, Suzanne Torkelson of Waverly, Xiao Hu and Du Huang of Decorah, have spent several months proposing a new Piano Duet Competition (include a non-competitive option) to the Iowa Music Teacher Association. We are delighted that the IMTA board has approved this event! We need help and wisdom from more people to develop competition guidelines, construct a repertoire list (level A through level F, similar to IMTA solo auditions), and finalize all logistics including audition time (perhaps district auditions in April and state audition during state conference) and audition sites. To turn a good idea into a real and meaningful event for the whole state, we definitely need your help and participation. We are aiming to offer this event in 2025. If you wish to offer ideas and help, or have questions to clarify during the planning process, please email us. Xiao Hu: [huxi01@luther.edu](mailto:huxi01@luther.edu), Du Huang: [du.huang@luther.edu](mailto:du.huang@luther.edu).

Xiao and Du teach piano at Luther College, and perform as the Unison Piano Duo. For more information about their piano duo, please visit: [www.unisonpianoduo.com](http://www.unisonpianoduo.com).



*Xiao Hu and Du Huang, along with other IMTA members, are advocating for more Iowa piano students to play duets.*

# Welcome!

## TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

As we begin 2024, we will be busy preparing our students for local auditions, or perhaps college auditions which also take place during this time. Hopefully a break in December and early January will prove restful and fruitful for us as we gear up for these challenging and sometimes stressful events. These experiences help mold our students and us into better students and teachers.

I would like to personally welcome all new or returning members to our IMTA family. If you have any questions about becoming active with your local group, or about auditions either this year or next year, please reach out to me or your local association president and we will guide you in the right direction.

**Breanna Brooks**  
Ankeny, IA  
*Collegiate Member*

**Constance Langhorst**  
Lake Mills, IA  
*New Member*

**Canlin Qiu**  
North Liberty, IA  
*Collegiate Member*

**Terra Falkena**  
Hospers, IA  
*New Member*

**Benjamin Lockwood**  
Andover, MN  
*Collegiate Member*

**Baylee Saylor**  
Cambridge, IA  
*Collegiate Member*

**Jordyn Frerichs**  
Ankeny, IA  
*Collegiate Member*

**Tylar Meister**  
Iowa City, IA  
*Collegiate Member*

**Megan Wagner**  
Ankeny, IA  
*Collegiate Member*

**Ethan Hexamer**  
Alton, IA  
*Collegiate Member*

**Naomi Neely**  
New Virginia, IA  
*New Member*

**Barbara Wells**  
Storm Lake, IA  
*New Member*

**Hyejin Joo**  
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