



THE IOWA MUSIC TEACHER



Details inside

LXXXVIII no. 4
Spring 2026

THE EDITOR'S DESK

In this issue, you will discover pages of achievements from across our state, as we celebrate musical success at the district, state, divisional, and national levels. Iowa continues to distinguish itself through a standard of excellence that reflects both dedicated teaching and inspired learning. The breadth of accomplishment represented here is not incidental—it is the result of sustained commitment from teachers, students, and families alike.

This edition also captures the spirit of a historic year for MTNA, as we reflect on its 150th anniversary. You will find highlights from the national celebration, along with photographs and moments that underscore the vitality and connection within our profession. We are especially pleased to feature our 2026 Foundation Fellow, Nancy Cree, whose contributions exemplify the highest ideals of our organization.

We also take time to honor longevity and service. Congratulations to our 50-year members, Diane Smith and Suzanne Winterhof, whose decades of commitment have shaped not only their own studios but the broader musical community in Iowa. Their careers stand as a testament to the lasting impact of thoughtful, consistent teaching and volunteerism in our organization.

In addition, this issue recognizes the many students who performed on the at the MTNA National Conference, including several who earned top placements in MTNA competitions. We also celebrate the Des Moines Music Teachers Association, named MTNA's Local Association of the Year, a distinction that reflects exemplary leadership, programming, and community engagement.

Looking ahead, Luke Tyler and I are working together to implement an important structural improvement: a transition to @iamta.org email addresses for board members. This change is designed to streamline communication, improve archival consistency, offer easier transfer between officers, reduce spam, and better protect personal email accounts. It is a practical step toward greater organizational efficiency and professionalism.

And there is still much to anticipate. Our upcoming recognition of 140 years as a state affiliate at our State Conference in June will be at the



IMTA Magazine Editor

Cyndie Caruth, NCTM
magazine@iamta.org

University of Iowa in Iowa City and promises an outstanding lineup of sessions, performances, and opportunities. I strongly encourage you to explore the details of this issue and register soon.

Finally, a reminder that all submissions for the Summer issue—including articles, photos, and senior recital announcements—are due by June 1. Please send materials to magazine@iamta.org.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Iowa City.

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THE IOWA MUSIC TEACHER

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Membership Dues

IMTA/MTNA membership year:

July 1 through June 30.

Active MTNA National or International membership dues: \$107.00

Active Iowa IMTA dues: \$40.00

All IMTA dues: join by September 1 to enter competitions and festivals.

New IMTA members: join by October 1 to enter competitions.

MTNA Corporate or Institutional dues: \$200

MTNA Senior dues

70 years or older: \$81.00

IMTA Senior dues 70 or older: \$20.00

MTNA Collegiate Student membership dues are \$25.00

IMTA Collegiate Student membership dues: \$0

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.

Collegiate members entering students in IMTA events pay \$50 non-active member fee by Oct 1.

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.

Eligibility to adjudicate IMTA events and be on the adjudicator list, dues must be paid before September 1 in the previous year.

Contact Us

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

Don't hesitate to contact MTNA at (888) 512-5278 or (513) 421-1420 for further member information.

Advertising contact:

advertise@iamta.org

Submit articles and photos to or_magazine@iamta.org

IMTA Statement of Philosophy

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

IMTA Statement of Function

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

IMTA Magazine

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

MTNA Founding and Purpose

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

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

SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE! 140 YEARS OF MUSIC

The other day in a lesson, a student asked me what music I listened to when I wasn't at work. After thinking about it for a minute, I told them that I really don't listen to much music in my free time, other than what's on the radio in my car as I drive. The surprised look on their face made me laugh, as I explained that my ears were usually tired after listening to music for many hours a day while I'm in the studio. I love a large range of music, drawing the line at very little to avoid, but the silence of my house in the evening is the perfect music to my ears after a long day!

I've been fortunate to travel across the state in December, January and February to listen to many fantastic young musicians perform in auditions. In talking with another teacher at a recent event, we both came to the conclusion that having that judging opportunity really helps us to become better teachers for our own students, and also confirm that other students have the same hiccups and struggles as our own. If you are interested in judging, I encourage you to check out the requirements to add your name to our state list.

Some of my favorite memories of my time as a member in IMTA have occurred at district and state auditions. Not only did I learn the ropes of the process, but I also learned a lot about programming repertoire, the importance of teaching scales, and how much the theory tests help students to understand their music. I also learned a lot about how to prepare students for competition while continuing to encourage their talents and passion for playing.

As we begin celebrating IMTA's 140th anniversary, I invite members to reflect on their own meaningful experiences within the organization. These shared moments—whether at auditions, conferences, or local events—form the foundation of our collective history. I am currently gathering memories and photographs to compile into a commemorative

booklet to be shared at the conference, and I would welcome your contributions.

Last month, many of our members attended the MTNA National Conference in Chicago, joining colleagues from across the country in celebrating MTNA's 150th anniversary. The conference provided a rich environment of performances, presentations, and professional exchange. Among the highlights for Iowa was the recognition of Nancy Cree as this year's MTNA Foundation Fellow, as well as the Des Moines Music Teachers Association being honored as Local Association of the Year. These national acknowledgments reflect the strength and vitality of music education in our state.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to make plans to attend the IMTA State Conference, June 7–9, at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Preparations are well underway, and the conference promises a thoughtful and engaging lineup of sessions, performances, and opportunities for connections with colleagues.

As we enter a busy season filled with spring recitals, graduations, and a wide range of musical events, I wish you all a productive and rewarding conclusion to the year.



Iowa MTNA President

Allison Chenoweth McGurn
president@iamta.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Deadline postmark for IMTA State Conference

May 10, 2026

Deadline to register for IMTA scholarship

May 15, 2026

Register at iamta.org

Summer IMTA Magazine Deadline

June 1, 2026

Remember to submit your senior recital articles!

IMTA State Conference

June 7-9, 2026

University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

MTNA/IMTA Dues Deadline

July 1, 2026

Dues paid after September 1 must include the non-member fee to enter students in auditions.

New Iowa board members begin their term

July 1, 2026

Deadline for MTNA registrations

September 9, 2026, 3:00 pm ET

MTNA Competitions

Oct 24-25 2026

Central College

Pella, Iowa

More Organized – Less Spam!

The IMTA's new shared, secure space is a welcome update

Dear IMTA Members,

Over the coming months, IMTA will begin transitioning to a new, unified system for managing official email communication and document storage. This change is designed to create a more secure, organized, and reliable way for our organization to operate.

In recent years, we have seen an increase in scams and security concerns affecting professional organizations, including our own members. At the same time, our current system relies on a mix of individual accounts, multiple storage locations, and even physical files. This makes it difficult to keep information consistent, secure, and easily accessible.

Our new system will bring everything into one shared, secure space. This means that documents can be stored, organized, and accessed in a consistent way, without the limitations or confusion of multiple platforms. It will also allow board members to collaborate more easily while ensuring that important materials are preserved for future leadership.

Beginning July 1, when our new board takes office, all official IMTA communication should take place using assigned email addresses ending in “@iamta.org.” For security reasons, messages sent from personal email accounts should not be considered official, and messages sent to old accounts will not be forwarded. Updated contact information will be available on the IMTA website, and a complete list of board email addresses will be distributed at the state conference.

We understand that any change involving technology can feel daunting. Our goal is to make this transition as clear and manageable as possible. Step-by-step guidance, along with video tutorials and optional help sessions, will be provided to assist with setup and to answer any questions along the way.

This transition represents an important step forward. By improving security, simplifying communication, and creating a consistent system for storing our records, we are strengthening IMTA for both current members and future leadership.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we move into this next phase together.

Luke Tyler and Cyndie Caruth

From the Past



IMTA Archivist/Historian

Timothy LaFleur

timothydlafleur@gmail.com

"Today, no teacher is dependent on her past preparation, but can go on improving both herself and her students."

GROWING UP IN IOWA

By Gretchen Fahrenkrog

We marvel at the advances made since the turn of the century - not just the big ones like computer science or the conquest of space, but those more closely related to our personal lives - like Kleenex and ball-point pens. Perhaps less obvious, but infinitely more important to those in our special field, are the changes in music pedagogy, particularly in piano performance.

The century was still very young when I was introduced to the art of the keyboard. We lived in a small town where there was no choice of teachers - you went to the only one available. Our piano teacher was considered something of a "character" - stern faced, positive in her opinions, and a firm believer in "Life is real, Life is earnest." I realize now that she inherited her methods and choice of materials from *her* teacher, along with the conviction that playing the piano was a sort of dedication. She would have been quite appalled if someone had suggested to her that music could also be fun.

Actually, my lessons were my grandmother's idea. She could well afford it, not having to supervise the practice sessions. Her part was to listen to the finished product at the end of the week. Now that I think of it, my mother must have been as bored with the endless finger exercises and unimaginative "pieces" as I. Why else did she never notice all those lines I artfully skipped?

The culmination of the year's work was the **SPRING RECITAL**. This was held in the sanctuary of our teacher's church, and was a very solemn occasion. I believe all our selections were chosen not for suitability, but to impress the audience. At least half of them were easy transcriptions from famous orchestral or operatic numbers - teacher's idea of bringing culture to the masses. All featured heavy chords or long scale passages. Almost all were somewhat beyond our pianistic ability. The result was, of course, that instead of putting our attention on making a musical statement, we invariably concentrated on trying to hit most of the right notes and reach the end before disaster struck.

Most of us eventually went on to teachers with a wider musical background, and we then began to find pleasure and fulfillment in our work. But there was still something missing, and I can remember no mention of analysis. We spoke of the key of three sharps instead of A major, or two flats instead of G minor. The fact that there were a few accidentals in addition simply passed us by.

Looking back, I have tried to pinpoint the time when I began to recognize patterns and form in the music I was studying. I am essentially a very lazy person, yet the discovery of combinations of notes and phrases throughout the page of music at first intrigued me like a puzzle. Then I found them a magic way of simplifying reading and memorization. Now I find it hard to understand why none of my teachers ever made use of the study of chord progressions and form analysis. When I reached a theory course in college, I was chagrined to discover that my

secrets were well known to others, and even had names!

Although my home town was small, it could boast three railroad branch lines, so during the summer months of my late high school and college days, I spent several days each week giving lessons in neighboring small towns. It could not be done now - the railroads have disappeared, and so has the incentive. In those days, with no TV, no Scouts, no 4-H, no Peewee baseball, even the children were glad for a different activity.

Still, I was limited in my teaching to what I had been taught or accidentally discovered. Small town teachers in that time had no opportunity to compare notes with others, so my students' repertoire advanced very little beyond what I had covered in my own early years.

I had taught for a long time before I learned of IMTA. I joined, expecting no more than the chance to give my students the opportunity of measuring themselves against their peers, and for myself, to be able to demand from them more consistent application to careful preparation. That was the only the beginning. Discussions among the other members, listening to other students' interpretations, the very helpful audition comments of judges, and clinicians lectures - all have been exceedingly helpful. For my students, learning to put into their music care, understanding, and the pride of communication have made an enormous difference. Today, no teacher is dependent on her past preparation, but can go on improving both herself and her students.



WESTON H. NOBLE

LUTHER COLLEGE NEWS

Jensen Hall, the new music building recently completed on the Luther College campus, was opened formally on Saturday, September 18, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a concert by the Minnesota Orchestra under the direction of Neville Marriner. Dedication rites followed on homecoming weekend, Sunday, October 10. The choral rehearsal room in the new facility was named after Weston H. Noble, conductor of the Nordic Choir. Funds for the Noble Rehearsal Room were contributed by alumni of the Nordic choir.

The new building includes studios, practice rooms, offices, classrooms, an organ room, and rehearsal spaces. Design features include south-facing skylights for passive solar heat and a minimum of glass on the north side.

The Dorian String Concerto Competition for students in grades nine to twelve, will be held on November 13. The winner will receive a cash award and will perform with the Luther Symphony on February 12. For applications and information, write Dr. Douglas Meyer at Luther College.

STADLER ENSEMBLE AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

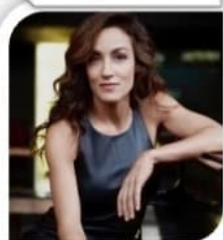
The Stadler Ensemble will play at the National Convention in Houston in March after completing a short tour in Iowa. Members of the ensemble are: James Luke, B flat Clarinet and Bassett Horn, Lois Kopacek, E flat Clarinet, Thomas Ayres, Clarinet and Bassoon, Molly Paccione, Clarinet and Bassoon, Maria DiPalma, Soprano, and Marian Yeager Luke, Piano.

During the summer, Dr. Luke served as consultant under the auspices of the Iowa Museum Association in visits to the instrument collections at The Davenport Art Gallery, the Putnam Museum in Davenport, the Sioux City Public Museum, and the Sioux City Art Center. The project was funded by a grant from the Drake University Faculty Development Fund.



Keys to Excellence Piano Series 2025-2026

Spencer Myer – Indiana University
Masterclass: October 26 @ 4:00pm
Concert: October 27 @ 7:30pm



Marta Aznavoorian & Janet Sung (violin)
DePaul University
Masterclass: November 9 @ 4pm
Concert: November 10 @ 7:30pm



Nicholas Roth – Drake University
Sally B. Bartlett Memorial Concert
December 1 @ 7:30pm



Molly Roseman – Univ. Wisconsin Stevens Point
Masterclass: February 15 @ 4:00pm
Concert: February 16 @ 7:30pm



All events in Sheslow Auditorium
FREE ADMISSION

Contact Nicholas Roth for information:
nicholas.roth@drake.edu

Welcome to the 2026 IMTA State Conference!



Conference Highlights

Educational Sessions

Attendee Awards

Exhibits & Poster Sessions

Piano Masterclasses

Concerts & Recitals



Voxman Music Building at the University of Iowa

On behalf of the East Central Music Teachers Association, I would like to invite you to the 2026 Iowa Music Teachers State Conference! The conference will be held June 7-9 in the Voxman Music Building at the University of Iowa.

Our guest recitalist this year is Carter Johnson, finalist of the 2025 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Our guest pedagogue is Christina Whitlock, best-known for her engaging presentations at national conferences and as host of the popular podcast "Beyond Measure."

We'll also have ample time to connect, at our annual Sunday picnic, the Awards Banquet, in the exhibit hall, and in the hallway between engaging presentations, masterclasses, and performances designed to keep you informed and inspired.

Most events will take place in Voxman's beautiful recital hall, and we'll be taking full advantage of the University of Iowa's excellent instruments. In addition to our guest recitalist, we'll hear from our students in recitals honoring the winners from this past year's IMTA and MTNA events, and the popular Iowa All-Stars Recital will cap the first day's activities.

The Hilton Garden Inn will serve as this year's official conference hotel. Located right across the street from our conference venue, all activities will be within easy walking distance. To reserve your room, use the link at the conference website.

New this year is a conference website that allows you to register and pay online. The site is hosted by our local association, so be sure to visit to get updated information regarding the conference. The address is:

jocomusic.org/imta-conference-2026

Come join us, we look forward to seeing you in Iowa City this June!

-Jason Stifford



Guest Recitalist
Carter Johnson



Guest Pedagogue
Christina Whitlock, MM, NCTM

www.jocomusic.org/imta-conference-2026

IMTA Conference Schedule

June 7-9, 2026 ■ University of Iowa ■ Iowa City, IA

Sunday, June 7

- 12:00 - 4:00pm Registration
- 12:00pm Scholarship Competition
- 1:00pm Board Meeting
- 3:00pm Q&A with Guest Clinician Christina Whitlock
- 4:00pm Honors Recital I
- 5:00pm Honors Recital II
- 6:00pm Picnic on Terrace
- 7:30pm Iowa All-Stars Concert

Monday, June 8

- 7:30am Local Association Breakfast
- 9:00am Opening Session and Carter Johnson Keynote
- 10:30am New Repertoire Session
- 11:30am Exhibit Hall Time
- 12:00pm Lunch on your own
- 1:30pm Multiple Sessions
- 2:30pm Elem/Int Masterclass with Christina Whitlock
- 4:00pm Collegiate Chapter Sessions
- 5:00pm Break
- 6:00pm Awards Banquet
- 7:30pm Carter Johnson Recital

Tuesday, June 9

- 9:00am Pedagogical Workshop with Christina Whitlock
- 10:00am Advanced Masterclass with Carter Johnson
- 11:30am Multiple Sessions
- 12:30pm Business Meeting and Lunch



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9:00am - 5:00pm

Evenings & Saturday's
By Appointment

2025 IMTA State Conference Registration Form

June 7-9, 2026 ■ University of Iowa ■ Iowa City, IA

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registration Options:

Full Conference - IMTA Members	\$110	\$ _____
Full Conference – Non-members	\$130	\$ _____
Full Conference – First time attending	\$80	\$ _____
Full Conference – Students	\$0	\$ _____
Single Day Registration	\$50	\$ _____

Preferred Day: Sunday Monday Tuesday

Meals:

Sunday Evening Picnic	\$15	\$ _____
Monday Breakfast	\$20	\$ _____
Monday Evening Banquet	\$38	\$ _____
Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>		
Tuesday Business Meeting Lunch	\$15	\$ _____

Total Registration Fees Due \$ _____

About You:

IMTA Member? Yes No

NCTM? Yes No

Out-of-State Attendee? Yes No

First time conference attendee? Yes No

Housing Information:

The official conference hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Iowa City University, located at 328 S Clinton St, Iowa City, IA 52240. It is a fully accessible facility right across the street from the Voxman Music Building. Paid parking is available on-site.

Hotel phone: [\(319\) 248-6100](tel:3192486100)

Registrations must be postmarked by **May 10th**. Make checks payable to IMTA with “2026 Conference” in the memo and mail to:

Jason Sifford
330 W Park Rd
Iowa City, IA 52246

Map & Hotel Lodging

IMTA Conference Voxman Music Building

University of Iowa
93 E Burlington St
Iowa City, IA 52240

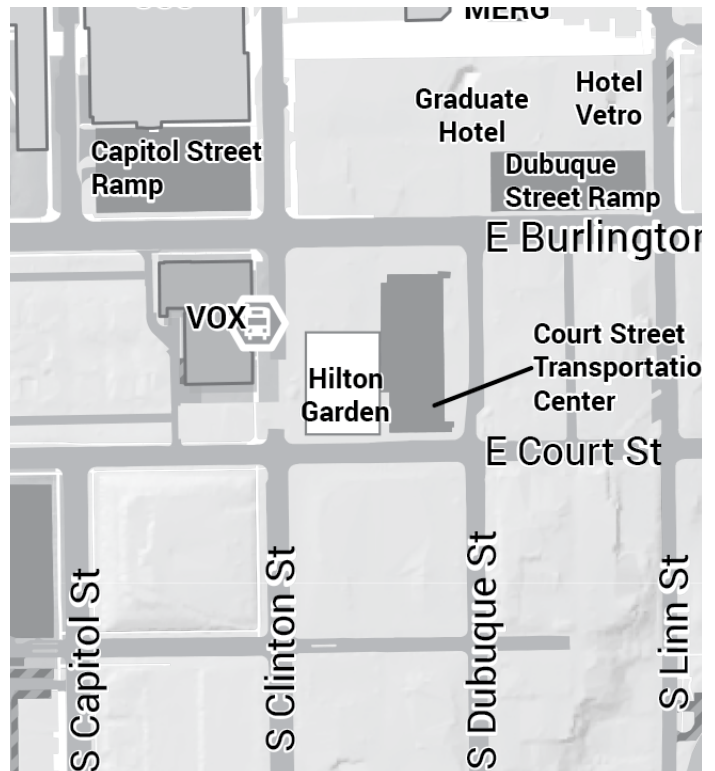
IMTA Conference Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Iowa City Downtown University

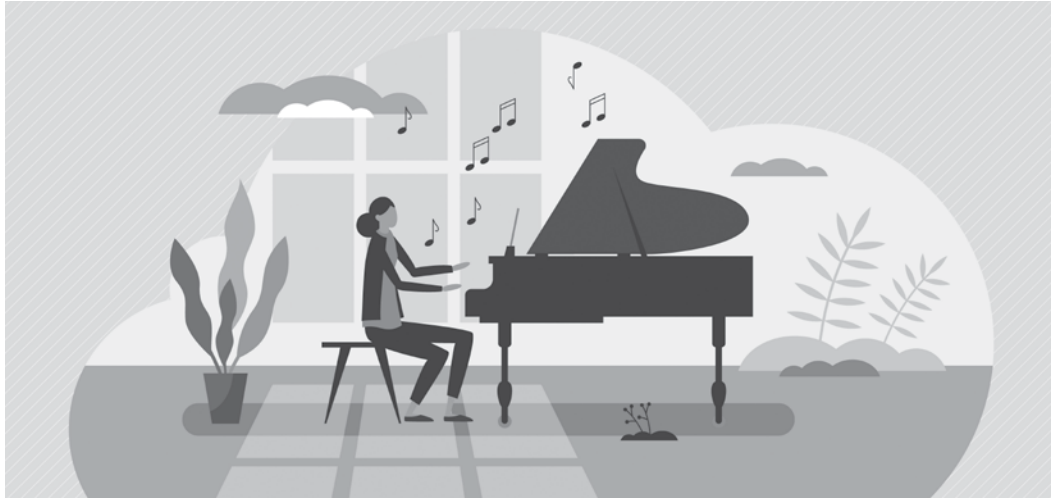
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for details.





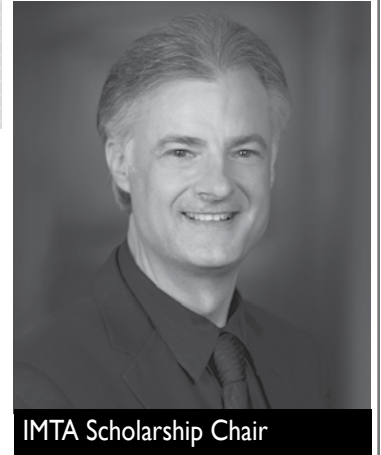
IMTA/West Music Scholarship Auditions June 7, 2026

2026 State Conference in Iowa City

Available to high school seniors whose teachers are IMTA/MTNA members.

Rules and registration at iamta.org/scholarships.php

Deadline to register online is May 15, 2026.



IMTA Scholarship Chair

Nicholas Roth

scholarship@iamta.org

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COLLEGIATE CORNER: SPRING UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Collegiate poster sessions were very popular at the 2026 MTNA National Conference in Chicago.

One of my goals for this column is to celebrate and connect our collegiate chapters across the state. If your chapter is hosting events, launching new initiatives, or finding creative ways to build community, I would be delighted to highlight your work in a future issue. Please feel free to reach out so we can share your successes with the wider IMTA community.

Spotlight on the University of Iowa

As we look ahead to the 2026 IMTA Conference this June, we are grateful to the University of Iowa for hosting. Beyond their conference preparations, the collegiate chapter has been diligent this year in areas of membership development, student engagement, and community outreach.

Last semester, the chapter organized an informational session about MTNA, paired with a pizza social to introduce students to the benefits of membership. In an effort to broaden their programming and community-building, they also screened the classic film *Amadeus*! Looking inward as well as outward, the chapter is organizing an exploratory “Keyboard Tour” of the university’s harpsichords and organs—an inventive way to connect students with the rich keyboard resources available on campus while fostering collegial curiosity.

Performance outreach has been another hallmark of their year. The chapter regularly schedules recitals that showcase the artistry of its members while strengthening ties with the Iowa City community. This spring, students are presenting solo and chamber repertoire at the Iowa City Public Library, performing at Oaknoll (a local senior living community), and—now in its second year—offering a fun-filled and creative recital at the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center’s spring open house. These varied venues reflect both traditional and innovative approaches to community engagement and affirm the chapter’s commitment to service through music.

The University of Iowa’s initiatives serve as an inspiring model of what collegiate chapters can accomplish through thoughtful planning, creativity, and collaboration. I hope their work sparks ideas for programming and outreach across our state.

Share Your 2026 Conference Highlights

Were you a collegiate attendee at the 2026 MTNA National Conference in Chicago? I invite you to share your favorite sessions, performances, networking moments, or takeaways so we can feature them in an upcoming issue of Collegiate Corner.



IMTA Collegiate Member Chair
Craig Jordan
craigjordanpiano@gmail.com

Collegiate Activity at the 2026 MTNA Conference in Chicago

I was delighted to see a handful of attendees at the West Central Division Collegiate Meet-Up during the MTNA Conference in Chicago. The University of Iowa was represented by several members, and one student from Dordt was able to stop by briefly. While attendance didn't quite match last year—when I managed to strong-arm the entire University of Iowa chapter into joining us—I remain optimistic that we can build even greater momentum for next year's conference in St. Louis.

We gathered on Sunday afternoon to connect, share highlights from the many

engaging presentations, and simply enjoy the camaraderie of fellow collegiate members from across the division. In addition to a spread of snacks, we added a bit of excitement with a raffle for a complimentary meal at the division dinner. Congratulations to Henry Wolf of the University of Iowa, our Shaw's Crab Shack dinner winner!

The conference as a whole provided a rich opportunity to connect and reconnect—especially during the poster sessions. It was invigorating to encounter the breadth of thoughtful, innovative projects our colleagues are pursuing and contributing to the field.



Craig Jordan offering his "dumpster fire" for a drawing for a free WCD dinner.

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IMTA STATE AUDITIONS AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Congratulations to all the students and their teachers for an amazing season of music-making culminating with our State Auditions. The students all arrived excited (and maybe a little nervous!) on March 14 to showcase their months of hard work, dedication, hours of practice, and, most of all, their love for music as they performed for our prestigious judges.

This year's numbers for State Auditions were as follows:

Level A: 14

Level B: 15

Level C: 16

Level D: 17

Level E I: 9

Level E II: 10

Level F: 16

I would like to thank our judges; **Dr. Nicole Messerschmidt, Allison Chenoweth McGurn, Dr. Bryan Stanley, Dr. Kristin Jonina Taylor, Dr. Du Huang, and Dr. Charles Schmidt.** Thank you, judges, for taking time out of your busy schedules to offer your attention, comments, and feedback for our students. It is deeply appreciated.

I owe a huge thank you to **Dr. Andrea Johnson** and her students, who helped tremendously with organization, set-up, greeting, and navigating students, answering questions, and many other things to ensure that things ran smoothly throughout the day. I could not have done it without their help. Thank you so much.

Thanks to **Sarah Hostetler** for organizing the lunch for the judges, to **Cyndie Caruth** for being the on-site photographer to make sure all the Winners, Runners-up, and Honorable Mentions have their picture included in the magazine. Cyndie also helped guide me through the process, answering many questions and printing the programs and certificates. Boundless thanks, Cyndie! Also, thank you to our webmaster, **Julia Andrews**, for figuring

out glitches, helping with registrations, and for correcting forms on the site. Thank you, Julia! I would also like to thank **Allison Chenoweth** for ordering the awards, which is a big task, and for answering questions along the way. I truly appreciate it. Thank you to every teacher who volunteered at the registration table, as a door monitor, or as a judge's assistant.

Best wishes to all students and their teachers for a wonderful spring of continued music-making. We look forward to hearing performances from our winners at the June conference!



IMTA State Auditions Chair

Dr. Melinda Westphalen
auditions@iamta.org

DISCOVERING ALTERNATIVES TO MAJOR WORKS

How many of us have had students come to us with pieces that are clearly beyond their current experience, ability level, or dedication to practice? Whether a student likes *Claire de Lune*, *Moonlight Sonata* (movement I, of course), or *Liebesträume No. 3*, we have all seen students who like to reach beyond their current ability.

Many pedagogical composers have written brilliant materials to help teachers bridge a student's development in preparation for playing more difficult music. As teachers, it's always great to have resources to redirect students to options that better support their learning.

Claire de Lune (Impressionism): While not the most difficult selection related to Debussy's output, it is still more technical and musically challenging than students expect to learn, much less play well.

Alternative: Impressionist Collections by Jennifer Linn: *Les Petite Images* (B3), *Les Petite Impressions* (D3), or *American Impressions* (D3). *Moonshadow on the Mountains*, from *Les Petite Impressions*, is a particularly effective choice.

Classical Alternative: Edvard Grieg: *Notturmo* (D2).

Moonlight Sonata: A favorite among music lovers everywhere, we all know students want to tackle this late-intermediate E1 selection. Usually, this is harder than students expect, given the key (C-sharp minor), the large intervals in the left hand, arpeggios, and compound lines that require sensitive voicing and phrasing. Playing the notes alone may be beyond the student, much less playing with sensitivity and emotion at the Adagio tempo. Redirecting students to a slow, melancholy work in the classical style could be a pedagogically successful alternative.

Alternatives: You may consider pieces with the same atmosphere or technical challenges, regardless of era. Some possibilities may include: Bach WTC Prelude in C (D1), Chopin e minor prelude (D2/E2), Gillock's *Midnight Mood* (D2), Satie's *Gnossien no. 2* and *Gymnopedie no. 1* (both C3), *Prelude no. 7* by Vandall (B2), or etudes by Stephen Heller (*Op. 125 no. 6* and *op. 47 no. 15*).

Spring 2026

Liebesträume No. 3/Fantaisie-Improvisation: Some students always seem to find the most difficult selection to showcase their developing technique. Works by Chopin, Liszt, Brahms, and others carry a reputation of being extraordinarily challenging, which seems to draw certain students. Just because a student wants to play *La Campanella*, it does not mean they are ready. Finding rewarding works that prepare students for these other selections can not only help motivate them, but it can also help their continuance and positively affect their technical and musical development. If you have students approaching this highly advanced level, consider the following works: Maria Szymanowska's *Nocturne in B-flat*, Heller's etudes Op. 45 (D2), 46, 47, and 125 (D2/E2), Burgmüller's Op. 100 (B2/C2), 105, 106, and 109 (D2), and MacDowell's Op. 39 (D2/E2).

Gershwin: Students love to play jazz and Gershwin. Their method books likely had numerous jazz selections, and the jazz idiom is just so accessible to many people. However, jumping into jazz works can be intimidating, particularly for those who don't play jazz themselves. Luckily, there are ample available resources to help even the least comfortable teachers give a great introduction to jazz playing. Some resources include: Christopher Norton's *Microjazz* (B3-D3), a graded selection of 60+ selections in multiple authentic styles ranging from intermediate to early advanced; Valerie Capers *Portraits of Jazz* (D3), which features 20 pieces in different styles, all dedicated to a famous jazz musician; especially in *Jazzy Style* (C3+), Dennis Alexander, a multi-book collection of jazz works from intermediate to advanced levels.

Please remember that if you have any questions or updates for the repertoire list, send them to repertoire@iamta.org. Please double-check your physical copies of the old list against the online version, as there are a few inconsistencies that still need to be fixed. If you have suggestions or works you would like added for next year, please do so before May 15.



IMTA Repertoire Chair

Dr. Luke Tyler, NCTM
repertoire@iamta.org

This year, the Repertoire committee will be exploring repertoire for one piano-four hands. Please send any suggestions you have to Luke for the committee to review. Categories are elementary, intermediate, and advanced.

BEING A GOOD ZOOMER!



With the launch of a Virtual IMTA Chapter and increased use of Zoom for IMTA board meetings, I thought a quick tutorial might be helpful. Zoom has come a long way since the pandemic, and while they've added a ton of features to the service, it's still easy to master the basics and make sure your

meetings go smoothly, whether you're a host or an attendee.

Before the Meeting

When getting ready for an online meeting, it's worth doing a bit of preparation. Give some thought to your surroundings. You want to be able to see the screen and hear everyone clearly. Get a notepad and a pencil to jot things down (or have a note-taking app handy.) And grab a glass of water to stay hydrated so you can speak clearly when called upon.

Test your audio and video. Don't worry too much about the equipment. Everything these days is probably fine unless your computer is more than 10 years old. (If it is, there's really nothing you can do. Same with a cheap Chromebook. They're great for email and documents, but they sacrifice a lot in terms of audiovisual quality to keep the price down.)

Check your audio. You never know when your computer may have switched settings on you, so make sure the right microphone is selected and the gain (volume) is turned up. Then look at your video. Make sure you're happy with how you look. Yes, you might like sitting on your porch on a sunny day with your iPad in your lap, but keep in mind that the rest of us are going to spend the hour looking up your nose and into the sun. (Yes, I've actually seen this happen. Multiple times.) Please don't be that person.

Entering the Meeting

Zoom lets hosts set things up in a variety of ways. Sometimes there's a waiting room, sometimes there isn't. Sometimes your audio and video are automatically off, but sometimes they're not. Take a moment to check yourself when you enter. Then, let the host do the talking. There's nothing more frustrating than doing a mic check and having ten people all say "we can't hear you, you're muted." Be patient

and let the host get people situated – that's their job.

After you've said hello, and especially if it's a large meeting, mute yourself. All it takes is one person who forgot that the television is on in the next room to send everyone scrambling, trying to figure out where the extra noise is coming from. Personally, I like to keep my video on if possible. It makes for a friendlier atmosphere for all. A sea of black rectangles just isn't fun to talk to.

Being a Good Attendee

Your view of the meeting may or may not be under your control. Hosts can force the screen to work a certain way, but often, you have some control over what a meeting looks like. You can choose a gallery view that shows everyone, a speaker view that automatically highlights whoever is talking, or you can "pin" a particular window to keep a particular person in view regardless. Also, be aware that not everyone's view is the same. I might be top right for you, but I could bottom left for someone else.

Open the chat window. The chat window is a wonderful thing. You can type short messages to everyone, and I find it a useful way to relay information that people might want to refer to later or that's tangential to the topic currently being discussed. For example, if someone is describing something their group is doing, instead of interrupting the flow of conversation, you could simply type "We do the same in our local" or "We've had good luck scheduling meetings on Thursdays." You can also send a message to a particular person. Be aware that these messages are archived when the meeting is recorded, so avoid saying things like "LOL did Jason just fall out of bed or does he really not know how to comb what little hair he has left?" (I probably just fell out of bed, but honestly it could be either.)

Saying Goodbye

When the meeting's over. Just wave goodbye and leave. If you have to leave early, say goodbye in chat so you don't interrupt the conversation. Ending conversations online is always awkward. We forgive you. Make a few reminders to yourself about things that need a follow-up, and pat yourself on the back for being a good cyber-citizen. Your fellow Zoom attendees will thank you!



IMTA State Technology Chair

Dr. Jason Sifford, NCTM
imtatechnology@gmail.com

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FOUNDATION FELLOW NANCY CREE HONORED



Nancy Cree accepts the 2026 Iowa Foundation award, honoring her lifetime of service. Left to right, MTNA CEO, Brian Shepard, 2026 Iowa Foundation Fellow, Nancy Cree, Former MTNA president, Martha Hilley, MTNA President, Kevin Chance.

I am very pleased to announce that our 2026 Iowa Foundation Fellow Nancy Cree will be honored at the upcoming MTNA Conference Gala in Chicago. We expect to fill two gala tables with IMTA teachers who are excited to cheer on Nancy as she accepts this award honoring her lifetime of service to our musical community. I want to extend a huge thank you to Jason Sifford who reached out to former students of Nancy's and let them know how she was being honored. Many were thrilled to donate to the foundation fund in her honor. Thanks to these fundraising efforts and the donations of IMTA teachers, we surpassed the \$1500 goal in early January.

As we look forward to renewing our memberships for the new year, I want to encourage all our teachers to go to MTNA's foundation page and read about the many

scholarships and grants that are awarded each year. By the time this article is printed, MTNA's new website will be live, making it easier than ever to access helpful information. Teachers can also look forward to making contributions to our next foundation fellow, who will be announced at the State Conference banquet in Iowa City. Make sure to check out the conference website for more information. <https://www.jocomusic.org/imta-conference-2026>.



IMTA State Foundation Chair

Sarah Reeves
imtafoundation@gmail.com

SPRING TREASURER'S REPORT

Spring is coming and that means I'm going to start seeing reminder emails from MTNA to renew my membership. I'm sure all of you will be receiving those shortly if you haven't already. I hope all of you continue to be a part of IMTA! Every one of you contributes to who we are in IMTA as a whole, making us smarter, stronger and more effective.

Hopefully your dues feel worth it to you for all the things that MTNA and IMTA and your local associations do for you. I certainly feel that way about my membership; so much so that, before I was state treasurer, I was totally fine with being clueless about what my dues were actually paying. Now that I am the steward of those funds I see exactly where they go and I'd love to share a few of the wonderful things our dues are making possible. It turns out there's great things happening with those funds that make it even more of a positive experience for me to renew my membership each year.

So, here are a few of my favorite things to which our IMTA dues contribute...

- Travel grants for Iowa students performing at the National Conference
- Reimbursements for leadership to attend national events for training and to represent our state
- Expenses toward our State Auditions
- Expenses toward our MTNA Competition
- Commissioning composers to write music for our organization (How cool is that!)
- The Gala table at MTNA National Conference to honor our Foundation Fellow
- The IMTA website (such a great tool!) and the IMT Magazine (so valuable!)

And, there are, of course, business expenses (postage, insurance, etc) that are generally boring and not my favorite things but also so essential to running our organization.

Thank you all for trusting me with this stewardship over your hard earned funds. Your time and expertise and your dues make all the difference for IMTA to be what it is. Happy Spring! Say hi to me at our State Conference in Iowa City!

Bank Balances

Account	Balance as of 3/1/26
Checking; general fund	\$17,570
Savings; CD earnings	\$3,549
CD	\$40,000
Total Balance	\$61,119



IMTA Treasurer

Carlene Albrechtsen

finance@iamta.org

MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to Faith Eugenia Scott, student of Rosa Scott, for earning Third Place in the MTNA Elementary Composition Competition. We look forward to hearing her composition performed at the upcoming IMTA State Conference.

Since that announcement, the MTNA National Conference has taken place in Chicago, where Iowa was represented with remarkable distinction. We are proud to recognize the achievements of all students who advanced to the national level, as well as those who earned top honors within the West Central Division.

In the Senior Woodwind division, Silas Golinick of Iowa City, a student of Jae-Hyun Ryoo, was awarded Third Place at the national level.

Iowa's presence in the Young Artist Voice division included five of the eight national finalists from Iowa, all studying at Drake University. Four of these students—Olivia Tice, Leah Mendelin, Emily Jurzyk, and Cadence Lowery-Hart—study with Leanne Freeman Miller, while Gabriel McKee studies with Alyssa Becker.

National honors in the Young Artist Voice division were as follows:

- Winner: Olivia Tice (Des Moines), student of Leanne Freeman Miller
- Second Place: Leah Mendelin, student of Leanne Freeman Miller
- Third Place: Emily Jurzyk (Des Moines), student of Leanne Freeman Miller

In the Young Artist Woodwind division, Chris Hunley of Iowa City, a student of Kenneth Tse was named MTNA winner.

We also recognize with distinction those West Central Division winners who advanced to the national competition:

- Cadence Lowery-Hart, voice student of Leanne Freeman Miller
- Gabriel McKee, voice student of Alyssa Becker

We commend all competitors and their teachers for their commitment, discipline, and artistic excellence on the state, division, and national stages. 2026-27 Iowa MTNA Competition will be held at Central College, Pella on October 24-25, 2026.



Iowa MTNA Competitions Chair

Diane Smith, NCTM
imtamtchair@gmail.com

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In Memory

CELEBRATING A LIFE OF FAITH, FAMILY, & MUSIC

Barbara Michaelson, 69, of Coralville, passed away peacefully at home on January 24th, surrounded by her loving family after a courageous year-long battle with lymphoma.

Barb was born October 4th, 1956, in Nevada, Iowa, to Raymond and Janette (Eckhart) Eggers. She was the youngest of six children. Barb cherished her childhood spent on a farm in State Center, Iowa. The farm was purchased by her great-grandfather in 1907, and she took pride in the fact that the farm continues to be run by the Eggers family after over a century.

From an early age, music and faith were central to Barb's life. She began serving as the church organist for Trinity Lutheran Church at the age of 12. She graduated from West Marshall High School in 1975, where she was involved in many musical activities, such as playing clarinet, piano, and organ.

She studied piano at Wartburg College for two years where she met her husband, Charles "Chuck" Michaelson. After their marriage in 1977 in State Center, they moved to Iowa City to continue their piano studies at the University of Iowa under renowned pianist Kenneth Amada. She received a Bachelor of Music in 1979 and a Master of Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy in 1981. After graduating, they moved to the Twin Cities in Minnesota where Barb was trained in the Suzuki music methodology and learned abstracting, a career she would later continue in Iowa.

Barb and Chuck moved back to Iowa where they raised two children, Sarah and Erik. Barb began teaching piano at Preucil School of Music, where she continued to teach and provide accompaniment for string ensembles for 35 years. She loved teaching students and watching them grow. In addition to teaching, Barb also worked at Hawkeye Title and Settlement as title plant manager for the past 22 years. She was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, where she was a member of the bell choir and often enjoyed playing piano for services.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother and sister-in-law Jerry and Sally, her brother Roger, and her niece Cynthia Sue.



Barbara Michaelson
October 4, 1956 - January 24, 2026

She is survived by her husband, Chuck; daughter, Sarah of Lake Forest, Illinois; son Erik (Molly) of Brooklyn, New York. She is also survived by her siblings, Ellen (Londell Johnson) of Melbourne, Dan (Carolyn) of Waverly, and David (Judy) of State Center, her sister-in-law, Annette Eggers of Paris, Texas, her brother-in-law, Rob (Any) of San Antonio, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and Compassus Hospice for their wonderful care.

Barb's services were held at Zion Lutheran Church in Iowa City on Saturday, February 7th, with a visitation at 10 am and funeral at 11 am, followed by a luncheon. A private burial service for family took place on Monday, February 9th in Harlington Cemetery, Waverly.

Memorial donations can be made to the Zion Lutheran Church music programs, Preucil School of Music piano department, or Blood Cancer United.

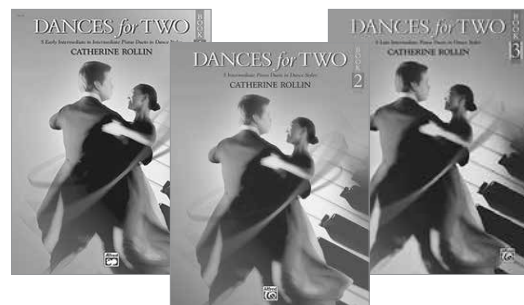
FIELD-TESTED DUETS: REPERTOIRE MY STUDENTS LOVE TO PLAY

Elementary Level

I Like Duets! Book 1

by Valerie Roth Roubos

These adorable character pieces stay mostly in the five-finger range, with the melody passing between the hands. The composer often uses octave jumps and patterned key groupings to help students explore the piano confidently. They are easy and fun, great for building excitement, confidence and the ability to listen to another part. So far, it seems only Book 1 is published, but I hope to see a sequel!

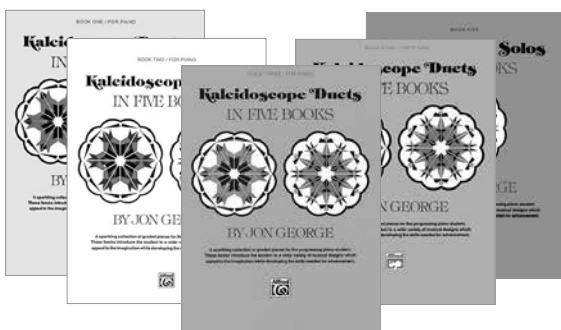


Dancin' Fun" and be swept away by "Russian Waltz." Each new dance style opens a door to discussing musical idioms, appropriate tempi, and maybe even the basic dance steps. What better way is there to help players become a cohesive team than through dance?

Hamilton for Piano Duet

Arranged by
Eric Baumgartner

With the meteoric success of the hit musical *Hamilton*, millions of people around the world have become avid fans. Unfortunately, piano solo versions tend to be either over-simplified to the point of sounding boring, or they are very difficult to play because of the rhythmic complexity. These duets distribute the rhythms and melodies between two players to lessen the difficulty. Because of this distribution, student may find the pieces less fulfilling to practice on their own, so it's great to assign to a pair of friends or siblings who can practice together regularly.



Kaleidoscope Duets in Five Books

by Jon George

This graded set of duets is meant to correspond with the Kaleidoscope Solos in difficulty level. These equal-part duets allow students to learn both parts and practice playing both sides for a fuller understanding of ensemble playing. One of the greatest strengths of this collection is the exquisite detail in articulation and phrasing.

Intermediate Level

Dances for Two

by Catherine Rollin (Set of 3 Books)

Travel from Charleston, to Havana, to Paris and have a rollicking good time with this fun collection by Catherine Rollin. Students will love "Double Digit, Finger Snappin', Jazz

New Orleans Jazz Styles Complete Edition

by William Gillock,
adapted by Glenda Austin

Decades after the release of William Gillocks very popular solo editions, Glenda Austin has lovingly adapted these fantastic pieces for piano duet. The Complete Edition is

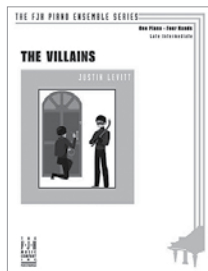


Sarah Reeves

three books in one, comprised of 15 New Orleans scenes that will be sure to capture the imagination and get toes tapping. From the lazy beat of “Mississippi Mud” to the intense rhythmic drive of “Downtown Beat,” students will be sure to enjoy dipping a toe into the world of New Orleans Jazz.

“The Villains”
by Justin Levitt

This is a piece for students who enjoy being playfully sinister. Players get to engage in a little theatre—the piece opens with faux knocking on a door and ringing of a doorbell before the “thieves” proceed to break into a musical number. The primo carries a large share of the musical difficulty, but a strong and steady secondo player who can follow and adapt to the primo is essential. Players get to switch places twice, making eye contact with the audience and keeping up the fun throughout the piece.



“Rattlesnake Rag” by Kevin Olson

This last piece is published as late intermediate/early advanced. It is high intensity throughout, filled with trills, shifting rhythmic accents and chromatic elements, evoking the slithering menace and telltale rattle of that dreaded serpent. Just as the players are getting comfortable in their parts, the danger is kept alive as they must switch places and take up the other part for the rest of the piece.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

with Carter Johnson & Christina Whitlock

2026 IMTA Convention Guest Artists

Carter Johnson

Pianist Carter Johnson is a dynamic and thoughtful musician whose artistry reflects both technical command and expressive depth. Equally at home in the great pillars of the

classical repertoire and in contemporary works, Johnson brings clarity, color, and compelling storytelling to every performance.

Trained in a rigorous classical tradition, Johnson has distinguished himself through performances that balance intellectual insight with emotional immediacy. His interpretations reveal a careful attention to structure and style, whether navigating the architectural grandeur of Beethoven, the lyricism of Chopin, or the rhythmic vitality of 20th- and 21st-century composers. Critics and audiences alike have noted his refined tonal palette and his ability to shape long musical lines with sensitivity and intention.

For our conference, Carter will showcase Robert Schumann's *Kinderszenen*. There is an aspect of childlike wonder that connects the hopes

and dreams of our youngest students with the refined artistry of history's greatest pianists. The piece has fired the imaginations of artists such as Horowitz and Argerich, and Johnson is eager to bring the perspective of a new generation to our hall.

Beyond the concert stage, Johnson is deeply committed to musical education and outreach. He believes in fostering curiosity, discipline, and creativity in developing musicians, and he frequently works with students in masterclasses and residencies. With a growing reputation for musicianship marked by integrity and imagination, he continues to build a career that is both artistically vibrant and meaningfully connected to the communities he serves.



We are excited to welcome Carter Johnson and Christina Whitlock to the IMTA Conference in June 2026. They will give the conference recital, present masterclasses, and give lectures.

Christina Whitlock

Christina Whitlock is a passionate and experienced piano teacher dedicated to nurturing musical growth in students of all ages. With more than three decades of teaching experience, Whitlock has become a respected voice in the piano-teaching community, known for her thoughtful approach to instruction and commitment to fostering lifelong musical engagement.

Whitlock's journey in music began long before her professional career; she started teaching in a private setting at just fourteen years old, sparking a lifelong devotion to piano education. That experience has served her well, and in 2020, she launched her podcast "Beyond Measure," which recently celebrated its 250th episode.

In her show, Christina takes on the mantle of everyone's "piano teacher friend." She's the kind of friend we all need - someone who's ready to offer advice when we feel stuck, encouragement when



we feel uninspired, and maybe even a bit of tough love when we get a little off-track.

Today, Christina is the Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair for the Indiana Music Teachers Association where she is also past-president. She currently operates an independent studio in Muncie, where she offers individualized lessons and group classes. Her teaching philosophy emphasizes customization to meet each student's unique strengths and goals, helping learners find confidence and joy at the keyboard.

Her enthusiasm is contagious and has made her a very popular figure at national MTNA and NCKP conferences, and we are thrilled to benefit from her wisdom this summer in Iowa City!

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SPRING IN FULL SWING

Auditions Concluded

With auditions concluded, we can reflect on the dedication shown by our students. Preparing for auditions requires discipline and courage. The experience itself — regardless of outcome — teaches valuable lessons in preparation, focus, and self-evaluation. Congratulations to all of the students and teachers who participated in IMTA Auditions around the state!

The Recital Season

There is something uniquely special about spring recitals. They serve as both a culmination and a celebration — a moment when students take a seat on the bench to share their progress with family, friends, and community members. For many students, these performances are milestones. They build confidence, resilience, and pride. For teachers, they are reminders of why we do this work — seeing a hesitant beginner become a poised performer is a reward in itself.

Strength in Community

At the heart of our work is something even more important than repertoire and recitals: our relationships. Our strength as an organization comes from the connection we share with fellow members. Through shared ideas, mentorship, workshops, and events, we strengthen our teaching and elevate opportunities for our students.

The state conference in June will provide an excellent opportunity to gather with fellow IMTA members to celebrate our accomplishments, hear new music, plan for the upcoming year and enjoy inspiring performances by students and guest musicians alike. Please plan to attend this exciting event in Iowa City on June 7th-9th.

Welcome to our new members!

Mallorie Egbers, Sioux City
Organ, Piano
Active Member

Rebekah Hickok, Des Moines
Flute, Piano
Active Member

Nancy Lehman, Ankeny
Piano
Active Member

Sean Stephenson, Pella
Voice
Active Member

Chaitrasri Ramshetty, Clive
Piano
Student Member

Sydney Scandrett, Ames
Piano
Collegiate

Emma Villnow, Willmar, MN
Collegiate Member

Josiah Voss, Sioux Center
Collegiate Member



Nora Reiter
imtamembers@gmail.com

Welcome!

GET TO KNOW TWO OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Welcome new member, Rebekah Hickok

Rebekah Hickok is a freelance flutist and private flute and piano instructor with a vibrant career spanning performance, education, and ensemble collaboration. A graduate of the University of Northern Iowa School of Music, Rebekah studied under world renowned flutist Dr. Angeleita Floyd, while achieving her bachelor's degree in flute performance.

After completing formal studies, Rebekah moved to Princeton, NJ, where she continued flute instruction with Goran Marcusson and Julius Baker. Rebekah then began her teaching career, teaching at Endless Music and the Scranton Music Academy while performing with the Northern Tier Symphony Orchestra for 10 seasons. Upon returning to Des Moines

in 2021, Rebekah joined Mobile Music Lessons before opening a private studio in downtown Des Moines, where students of all ages receive individualized, technique-driven instruction.

An active performer in the central Iowa music community, Rebekah is a member of the Greater Des Moines Flute Choir and the Des Moines Community Orchestra. Chamber music is also a central part of her work, performing regularly with the woodwind trio Opus 3, as well as a flute trio and flute quartet in the Des Moines metro area.

Dedicated to both artistry and education, Rebekah continues to cultivate musical excellence in the studio and on the stage.



Rebekah Hickok

Welcome new member, Chaitra Ramshetty

Chaitrasri "Chaitra" Ramshetty is a 14-year-old freshman in the Waukee Community School District. She is pleased to join the Iowa Music Teachers Association (IMTA) program and looks forward to continued growth through its opportunities.

Chaitra has studied and performed piano for approximately ten years. She has achieved Level 4 certification through the

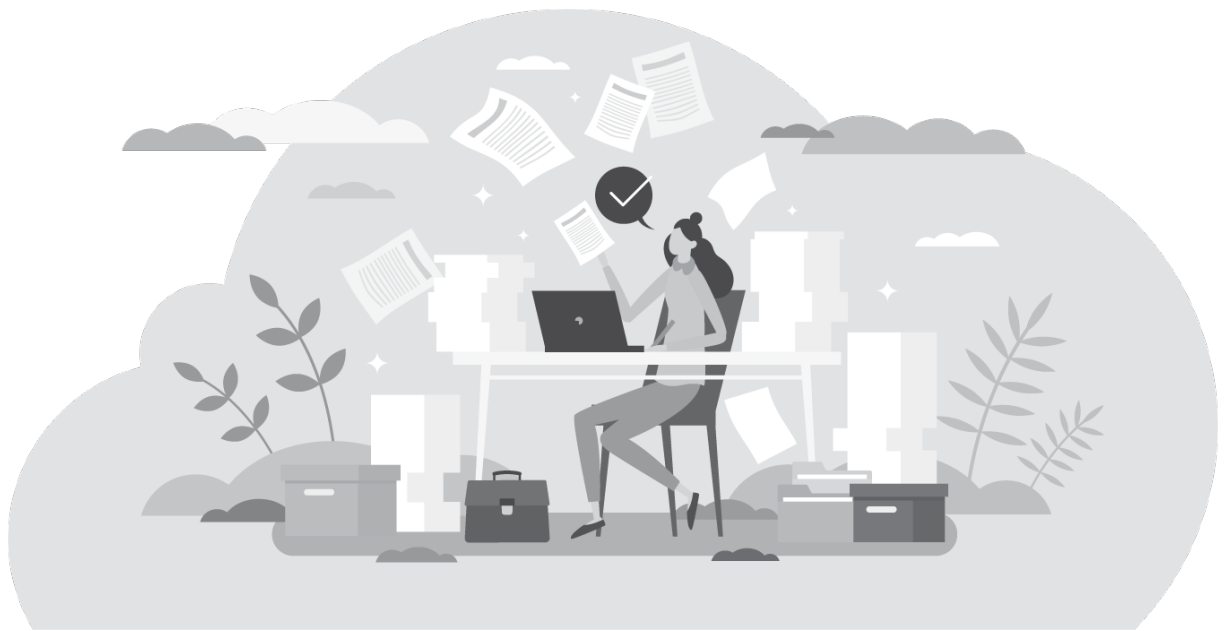
Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) Certificate of Merit program. In addition to her musical studies, she shares her music with the community by performing Christmas selections at local nursing homes during the winter season.

She is honored to be part of IMTA and grateful for the opportunity to participate.



Chaitra Ramshetty

NAVIGATING THE PATH TO MTNA CERTIFICATION



It's spring cleaning time in the Bryan household (much to the misery of my husband)! I'm currently reorganizing my studio, sorting my music and papers while collecting new educational materials to read after the competition season ends. During this time of reordering, I came upon my Project 1 teaching philosophy that I prepared for my certification in 2020. I jumped into an immediate rabbit hole of reading through it, reflecting on how much I've grown in the past six years, and also realizing that it would be wise to update it and add the many things I've learned! And of course, this timing of me finding my own teaching philosophy could not be more perfect, as I hinted about Project 1 to you all in the last edition.

For those who are in the beginning processes of certification, in December I talked about managing Project 3 and taking advantage of the time between recording student sessions by working through and preparing Projects 1, 4, and 5. My next recommendation would be to start on Project 1, writing your teaching philosophy. Since your teaching philosophy is

the foundation of all the practical applications of your studio, it's best to articulate this first before moving onto Projects 4/5 (teaching environment and business practices / policies).

You're given 600 words to share both your educational goals (why, how, what, and who you teach) and an essay on your choice of the following:

1. Development of a healthy technique
2. Development of proficient musical skills
3. Development of artistic and expressive performance skills
4. Preferred age(s)/level(s) for introducing a student to formal music lessons and why you prefer these age(s)/level(s). If you choose preferred ages, select one of the Pre-school age, OR Average-age beginner, 7–8 year old, OR Older beginners and Adults
5. Different learning modalities- aural learners
6. Different learning modalities- visual learners
7. Different learning modalities- kinesthetic learners

As I double majored at Hillsdale College with a piano performance and classical studies degree, I wanted to make sure that my piano teaching



IMTA Certification Chair

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

philosophy included all my other studies, so I began with the following: “As the philosopher Plato has written, “...musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul...” This quote is the essence of my endeavors in teaching. My goal is to enrich my students’ lives with the world of music. I firmly believe that the lessons learned in piano – discipline, perseverance, and empathy – can be transferred to all aspects of life and study.”

Since writing my philosophy six years ago, I’ve spent much time reading about the cardinal virtues of prudence, temperance, fortitude, and justice, and did a small workshop in March 2024 entitled: “Schole: Incorporating Virtuous Leisure in the Studio.” As I “spring clean” my studio philosophy now, I am now including how my studio focuses on infusing these virtues into my students, not only for piano practice, but for all of life’s expectations.

For those who already have their certification, now may be the best time to circle back to your original philosophical writings and “spring clean” your writings to match the growth and future plans

of your studio. If you do decide to do this, I would love to hear how you’ve updated your philosophy, and I would be honored if you’d allow me to share your changes to help encourage others to either do the same or begin / continue through the certification process – email me at cate.bryan@gmail.com

As always, if any of you are in the midst of your certification process and need assistance or a listening ear, or if you are interested in learning more about how to become certified, please do not hesitate to reach out to me – cate.bryan@gmail.com

Lastly, your biggest key to success in beginning every project is to read through and follow the MTNA instructions that can be found through this website link: https://certification.mtna.org/downloads/certification/Piano_TPP_2023.pdf

Next quarter, I will share my best practices for completing Project 4. Blessings and cheers!

2026 List of Iowa NCTM

Zoe Ann Abrahamson, NCTM
 Carlene R. Albrechtsen, NCTM
 Linda J. Allebach, NCTM
 Pamela J. Anderson, NCTM
 Julia Andrews, NCTM
 Leslie A. Appleby, NCTM
 Deborah J. Ausborn, NCTM
 Kristina M. Boell, NCTM
 Laurie Braaten-Reuter, NCTM
 Janci L.A. Bronson, NCTM
 Catherine Larsen Bryan, NCTM
 Janet Carlson, NCTM
 Cyndie J. Caruth, NCTM
 Dr. Elisa C. Cooper, NCTM
 Marilee Crawley-Mertins, NCTM
 Laura Crumbleholme, NCTM
 Patrice R. Ewoldt, NCTM
 Olivia Andrea Gonzalez, NCTM
 Nicole M. Green, NCTM
 Dr. Robin Dawn Guy, NCTM

Berneil W. Hanson, NCTM
 Jean E. Hilbert, NCTM
 Karen Joan Hopkins, NCTM
 Sarah A. Hostetler, NCTM
 Sue Ann Hudson, NCTM
 Judy Hyland, NCTM
 Dr. Sharon Kleinhuizen Jensen, NCTM
 Linda Johansen, NCTM
 Anne B. Johnson, NCTM
 Marilee A. Kleespies, NCTM
 Lynn Kroeger, NCTM
 Timothy D. LaFleur, NCTM
 Karen K. Langstraat, NCTM
 Dianne Janice Lawson, NCTM
 Lucinda M. Lear, NCTM
 Kendra Luis, NCTM
 Dr. John MacInnis, NCTM
 Dr. Kathryn Lucas March, NCTM
 Rachel McCoy, NCTM
 Lois Nassen, NCTM

Jedda W. Newton, NCTM
 Sherri Lynn Nicholson, NCTM
 Melissa Phillips, NCTM
 Roberta Quist, NCTM
 Patricia Reuter Riddle, NCTM
 Dr. Nicholas Roth, NCTM
 Margaret E. Runaas, NCTM
 Richard Sessler, NCTM
 Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM
 Dr. Jason E. Sifford, NCTM
 Diane M. Smith, NCTM
 Doris Ann Swanson, NCTM
 Joyce Templeman, NCTM
 Dr. Carole L. Thomas, NCTM
 Janet Thulin, NCTM
 Dr. Suzanne Torkelson, NCTM
 Dr. Luke A. Tyler, NCTM
 Lois Vander Zee, NCTM
 Suzanne Winterhof, NCTM

Council Bluffs

IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

January 24, 2026 at Salem United Methodist Church

Chair: Julie Bond

Adjudicators: Lois Vander Zee, Kristin Jonina Taylor, Bryan Stanley

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Paige Benson** (*Julie Bond*)

1st Alternate: **Evelyn Wilson** (*Julie Bond*)

Honorable Mention: **Clara Riebe** (*Julie Bond*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Violet Wilson** (*Julie Bond*)

1st Alternate: **Crosby Martin** (*Debra Heald*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Keegan Meyer** (*Dianne Lawson*)

1st Alternate: **Ella Geier** (*Julie Bond*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Tenzin Tran** (*Bryan Stanley*)

1st Alternate: **Lauren Walmrath** (*Debra Heald*)

LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Braydon Fujan** (*Nancy Schoen*)

Winner: **Bennett Lambelet** (*Kristin Taylor*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

LEVEL A:

94% **Paige Benson** (*Julie Bond*)

92% **Clara Riebe** (*Julie Bond*)

90% **Carolynn Roberts** (*Debra Heald*)

LEVEL B:

96% **Crosby Martin** (*Debra Heald*)

92% **Jersey Martin** (*Julie Bond*)

LEVEL C:

94% **Keegan Meyer** (*Dianne Lawson*)

92% **Vivienne Benson** (*Julie Bond*)

LEVEL F:

98% **Braydon Fujan** (*Nancy Schoen*)

SAMTA Siouxland

IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

February 14, 2026 at Dordt University

Chair: Lois Vander Zee

Adjudicators: Dr. Patrice Ewoldt

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Evie De Jager** (*Jessica Hummel*)

Alternate: **Evia Tuschen** (*Jessica Hummel*)

Honorable Mention: **Charlotte Scholten** (*Jessica Hummel*)

Honorable Mention: **Lincoln Wilcox** (*Jessica Hummel*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Louisa De Vries** (*Jessica Hummel*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Leah Evertse** (*Lois Vander Zee*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Saydie MacInnis** (*Lois Vander Zee*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

LEVEL B:

94% **Reuben Groenewold** (*Lois Vander Zee*)

LEVEL C:

98% **Leah Evertse** (*Lois Vander Zee*)

Des Moines IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

January 24, 2026 at Drake University, Des Moines

Chair: Cyndie Caruth, Timothy LaFleur

Adjudicators: Dr. Janci Bronson, Dr. Mei-Hsuan Huang, Paula Forrest, Linda Benson

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Sophie Baghdasaryan** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Lyla McGinnis** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Zoe Wang** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 1st Alternate: **Gabriella Knezevic** (*Rosa Scott*)
 2nd Alternate: **Peter Wendt** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 3rd Alternate: **Evie De Haan** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 Honorable Mention: **Theo Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Sally Hathaway** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Odi Li** (*Sarah Reeves*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Riley Klinefelter** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Aria Smart** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 1st Alternate: **Saylah Attig** (*Mary Shaffer*)
 2nd Alternate: **Addie Robinson** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Yaasiel Aholou** (*Marcia Hintz*)
 Honorable Mention: **Lily De Haan** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 Honorable Mention: **Maggie Hathaway** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Lucas Wang** (*Sue Hudson*)
 Honorable Mention: **Clare Wei** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Aiden Zhu** (*Patricia Schroeder*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Vicky Lin** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Charlotte McClure** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 1st Alternate: **Matthew Wei** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 2nd Alternate: **Andrew Guo Zhen** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Andy Nguyen** (*Galina Jarrell*)
 Honorable Mention: **Rebecca Ren** (*Sue Hudson*)
 Honorable Mention: **Sadie Wang** (*Susan Kuyper*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Cecelia Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Arnav Dervesh** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Hannah Xu** (*Marcia Hintz*)
 1st Alternate: **Gianna Marr** (*Rosa Scott*)
 2nd Alternate: **Josephine Wang** (*Sue Hudson*)
 3rd Alternate: **Brandt Wang** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 Honorable Mention: **Aiden Feldmann** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Edward Sandquist** (*Marion Scott*)
 Honorable Mention: **Ketziah Wittenberg** (*Susan Kuyper*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Bella De Haan** (*Nicholas Roth*)
 Winner: **Sebastian Gearhart** (*Marion Scott*)

1st Alternate: **Faith Eugenia Villar-Cordova Scott** (*Rosa Scott*)
 2nd Alternate: **Vincent Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Aakansha Ganesh** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Michael McGarry** (*Bonnie Corron*)

LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Duy Xuan Ha Duong** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Gwenyth Franczyk** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Chloe Liang** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Olivia McClure** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Winner: **Zoe Podlich** (*Patricia Schroeder*)
 Winner: **Isabelle Ryan** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 1st Alternate: **Isabelle Turner** (*Galina Jarrell*)
 2nd Alternate: **Marianne Rose Villar-Cordova Scott** (*Rosa Scott*)
 3rd Alternate: **Caleb Moetsch** (*Marion Scott*)
 Honorable Mention: **Hannah Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **Ellen Eichstedt** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 Honorable Mention: **William Glasnapp** (*Marion Scott*)
 Honorable Mention: **Eli McGinnis** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

LEVEL A:

98% **RJ Ponulak** (*Sherri Lauritsen*)
 98% **Zoe Wang** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 96% **Lyla McGinnis** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 94% **Emerie Plett** (*Sherri Lauritsen*)
 94% **Anna Roorda** (*Fiona Ladwig*)
 92% **Trenton Baker** (*Bonnie Corron*)
 92% **Kyle Brock** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 92% **Theo Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 92% **Esmé Smith** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 90% **Sophie Baghdasaryan** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 90% **Aila Jovanovic** (*Sarah Reeves*)

LEVEL B:

100% **Yaasiel Aholou** (*Marcia Hintz*)
 100% **Saylah Attig** (*Mary Shaffer*)
 100% **Aria Smart** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 98% **Klaire Johnson** (*Mary Shaffer*)
 96% **Clare Wei** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 94% **Bernadette Marie Kesten** (*Marion Scott*)
 94% **Carson Paskach** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 94% **Lydia Roorda** (*Fiona Ladwig*)
 94% **Ivy Ruppert** (*Mary Shaffer*)
 94% **Lucas Wang** (*Sue Hudson*)
 92% **Maggie Hathaway** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 92% **Riley Klinefelter** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 92% **Annie Ouyang** (*Sarah Reeves*)
 92% **Aiden Zhu** (*Patricia Schroeder*)

LEVEL C:

100% **Sadie Wang** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 98% **Vicky Lin** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 98% **Rebecca Ren** (*Sue Hudson*)
 98% **Marshall Truong** (*Marcia Hintz*)
 98% **Andrew Guo Zhen** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 96% **Andy Nguyen** (*Galina Jarrell*)
 96% **Matthew Wei** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 94% **Charlotte McClure** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 94% **Emmitt Robinson** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 94% **Emma Roorda** (*Fiona Ladwig*)
 92% **Benjamin Bjorklund** (*Bonnie Corron*)
 92% **Lydia Brock** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 90% **Elise Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 90% **Lauren Oppenhuizen** (*Susan Kuyper*)

LEVEL D:

100% **Asher Palagummi** (*Timothy LaFleur*)
 100% **Hannah Xu** (*Marcia Hintz*)
 98% **Gianna Marr** (*Rosa Scott*)
 98% **Brandt Wang** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 94% **Arnav Dervesh** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 94% **Ketziah Wittenberg** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 92% **Cecelia Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 92% **Grace De Haan** (*Susan Kuyper*)
 92% **Aiden Feldmann** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 92% **Josephine Wang** (*Sue Hudson*)

LEVEL E:

98% **Aakansha Ganesh** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 96% **Faith Eugenia Villar-Cordova Scott** (*Rosa Scott*)
 94% **Vincent Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 90% **Bella De Haan** (*Nicholas Roth*)
 90% **Michael McGarry** (*Bonnie Corron*)

LEVEL F:

100% **Duy Xuan Ha Duong** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 100% **Ellen Eichstedt** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 100% **Isabelle Ryan** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 100% **Marianne Rose Villar-Cordova Scott** (*Rosa Scott*)
 98% **William Glasnapp** (*Marion Scott*)
 98% **Isabelle Turner** (*Galina Jarrell*)
 98% **Vivian Zhang** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 94% **Hannah Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 94% **Eli McGinnis** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 90% **Anushka Dervesh** (*Cyndie Caruth*)
 90% **Olivia McClure** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

Dubuque

IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

February 7, 2026 at University of Dubuque

Chair: Sharon Jensen

Adjudicators: Julia Andrews, Jason Sifford

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Hugo Hauta** (*Sharon Jensen*)

1st Alternate: **Josiah Mostert** (*Sharon Jensen*)

Honorable Mention: **Ian Kim** (*Sharon Jensen*)

Honorable Mention: **Helena Williams** (*Sharon Jensen*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Julia Worsham** (*Sharon Jensen*)

1st Alternate: **Anna Schlimm** (*Sharon Jensen*)

Honorable Mention: **Leif Johnstad** (*Sharon Jensen*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Jaina Moser** (*Sharon Jensen*)

1st Alternate: **Noel Kim** (*Sharon Jensen*)

Honorable Mention: **Jewel Schroeder** (*Leslie Appleby*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Ruah Kim** (*Sharon Jensen*)

1st Alternate: **Jack Mostert** (*Sharon Jensen*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Joshua Miller** (*Sharon Jensen*)

LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Thomas Noonan** (*Sharon Jensen*)

1st Alternate: **Randen McManus** (*Leslie Appleby*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

LEVEL A :

96% **Helena Williams** (*Sharon Jensen*)

90% **Ian Kim** (*Sharon Jensen*)

LEVEL B:

94% **Symphony McCoy** (*Rachel McCoy*)

94% **Julia Worsham** (*Sharon Jensen*)

92% **Anna Schlimm** (*Sharon Jensen*)

90% **Bennett Koestler-Oglesby** (*Leslie Appleby*)

LEVEL C:

98% **Jaina Moser** (*Sharon Jensen*)

96% **Emily Welter** (*Sharon Jensen*)

94% **Noel Kim** (*Sharon Jensen*)

92% **Kenneth Fleming** (*Ashleigh Zaniias*)

LEVEL D:

96% **Ruah Kim** (*Sharon Jensen*)

LEVEL E:

94% **Joshua Miller** (*Sharon Jensen*)

LEVEL E:

100% **Thomas Noonan** (*Sharon Jensen*)

96% **Randen McManus** (*Leslie Appleby*)

Cedar Rapids IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

January 24, 2026 at Coe College

Chair: Dr. Melinda Westphalen

Adjudicators: Alan Huckleberry, Marian Lee, Nicole Messerschmitt

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Simon Clark** (*Amy Linville*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Isaac Cheney** (*Amy Linville*)

Alternate: **Cora Clark** (*Amy Linville*)

Honorable Mention: **Samantha Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)

Honorable Mention: **Riley Redenbaugh** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Sofia Cunningham** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

Winner: **Fletcher Sams** (*Amy Linville*)

1st Alternate: **Matthew Bostwick** (*Amy Linville*)

2nd Alternate: **Margaret Tomlinson** (*Otto Getz*)

Honorable Mention: **Lucy Kasper** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)

Honorable Mention: **Adley McFarland** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

Honorable Mention: **Evan Mitchell** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Sapphire Gibbins** (*Amy Linville*)

Winner: **Caspian Patten** (*Leah Anderson*)

1st Alternate: **Azariah Sanner** (*Otto Getz*)

2nd Alternate: **Rebecca Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)

Honorable Mention: **Hayley Morris** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

Honorable Mention: **Sally Owens** (*Sarah Drollette*)

Honorable Mention: **Lauren Riester** (*Otto Getz*)

Honorable Mention: **Matthew Sisson** (*Otto Getz*)

Honorable Mention: **Remy Walker** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Nicholas Lowe** (*Amy Linville*)

Winner: **Elias Marshall** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

Winner: **Ava Ryon** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)

1st Alternate: **Myles Adolphs** (*Leah Anderson*)

2nd Alternate: **Daniel Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)

3rd Alternate: **John Paul Kuefler** (*Otto Getz*)

Honorable Mention: **Claire Gladish** (*Leah Anderson*)

Honorable Mention: **Henry Higdon** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Wren Rediger** (*Amy Linville*)

1st Alternate: **Jonathan Sisson** (*Otto Getz*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

LEVEL A:

92% **Simon Clark** (*Amy Linville*)

LEVEL B:

100% **Samantha Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)

96% **Isaac Cheney** (*Amy Linville*)

LEVEL C:

100% **Fletcher Sams** (*Amy Linville*)

100% **Margaret Tomlinson** (*Otto Getz*)

96% **Sofia Cunningham** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

96% **Addy Hollenbeck** (*Theresa Mickelson*)

96% **Adley McFarland** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

94% **Elise Mitchell** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

94% **Evan Mitchell** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

94% **Rishi Movva** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

92% **Michael Newton** (*Sarah Drollette*)

LEVEL D:

100% **Rebecca Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)

98% **Lauren Riester** (*Otto Getz*)

96% **Azariah Sanner** (*Otto Getz*)

96% **Matthew Sisson** (*Otto Getz*)

94% **Sapphire Gibbins** (*Amy Linville*)

94% **Simeon Junk** (*Otto Getz*)

94% **Sally Owens** (*Sarah Drollette*)

92% **Caspian Patten** (*Leah Anderson*)

90% **Hayley Morris** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

LEVEL E:

100% **Myles Adolphs** (*Leah Anderson*)

100% **Daniel Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)

98% **Jessica Ribble** (*Otto Getz*)

94% **John Paul Kuefler** (*Otto Getz*)

94% **Elias Marshall** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

94% **Ezra Sanner** (*Otto Getz*)

92% **Ava Ryon** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)

90% **Calissa Fruin** (*Sarah Drollette*)

90% **Henry Higdon** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

LEVEL F Results:

100% **Wren Rediger** (*Amy Linville*)

98% **Michael Worden** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)

96% **Jonathan Sisson** (*Otto Getz*)

92% **Caden Messenger** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

90% **Lilly Womersley** (*Otto Getz*)

Ames

IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

February 14, 2026 at Iowa State University

Chair: Paula Forrest

Adjudicators: Dr. Melinda Westphalen and Allison Chenoweth McGurn

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Claire Zhou** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Alternate: **Chloe Shih** (*Cindy Lin*)

Honorable Mention: **William Jiang** (*Cindy Lin*)

Honorable Mention: **Alaina Lang** (*Janci Bronson*)

Honorable Mention: **Bryan Luo** (*Paula Forrest*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Lucas McCarley** (*Janci Bronson*)

Alternate: **Hanshu Zhang** (*Paula Forrest*)

Honorable Mention: **Shawn Ji** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Honorable Mention: **Azra McKilligan** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Sophia Li** (*Cindy Lin*)

Alternate: **Ian Wang** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Honorable Mention: **Michael Nie** (*Janci Bronson*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Cece Fulton** (*Paula Forrest*)

Winner: **Rhea Rudrapatna** (*Paula Forrest*)

1st Alternate: **Jennifer Ji** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

2nd Alternate: **Eli Tang** (*Janci Bronson*)

Honorable Mention: **James Huang** (*Paula Forrest*)

Honorable Mention: **Masha Kovnir** (*Paula Forrest*)

Honorable Mention: **Rachel Powers** (*Janci Bronson*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Chloe Lu** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Alternate: **Drake Wang** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Honorable Mention: **Iris Wang** (*Paula Forrest*)

LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Minerva Cao** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

Winner: **Laura Chen** (*Mei-Hsuan Huang*)

1st Alternate: **Evelyn Skeffington** (*Mei-Hsuan Huang*)

2nd Alternate: **Amelia Luo** (*Janci Bronson*)

Honorable Mention: **Lynda Sun** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

LEVEL A:

100% **Amos Sheaffer** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

96% **Beck Smith** (*Donita McCoy*)

94% **Claire Zhou** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

LEVEL B:

100% **Shawn Ji** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

98% **Hanshu Zhang** (*Paula Forrest*)

96% **Any Basak** (*Paula Forrest*)

96% **Lucas McCarley** (*Janci Bronson*)

94% **Azra McKilligan** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

90% **Rayansh Das** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

LEVEL C:

98% **Michael Nie** (*Janci Bronson*)

92% **Sophia Li** (*Cindy Lin*)

LEVEL D:

100% **Cece Fulton** (*Paula Forrest*)

98% **James Huang** (*Paula Forrest*)

96% **Masha Kovnir** (*Paula Forrest*)

96% **Rhea Rudrapatna** (*Paula Forrest*)

92% **Jennifer Ji** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

LEVEL E:

96% **Drake Wang** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

90% **Chloe Lu** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

LEVEL F:

100% **Minerva Cao** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

100% **Laura Chen** (*Mei-Hsuan Huang*)

100% **Amelia Luo** (*Janci Bronson*)

100% **Lynda Sun** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

98% **Evelyn Skeffington** (*Mei-Hsuan Huang*)

ECMTA Iowa City**IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO
AUDITIONS RESULTS****February 8, 2026 at University of Iowa, Voxman Hall, Iowa City****Chair: Tina Chapman****Adjudicators: Rebecca Nickles, Joan Trapp, Tim LaFleur, Allison Chenoweth McGurn****LEVEL A Results:**Winner: **Hannah Chen** (*Canlin Qiu*)Alternate: **Eva West** (*Nancy Cree*)Honorable Mention: **Caroline Kemp** (*Nancy Cree*)**LEVEL B Results:**Winner: **Sarah H. Chang** (*Minji Kwon*)Winner: **Hridaya Sainju** (*Tina Chapman*)1st Alternate: **Kaspar Zhao** (*Lauree Christman*)2nd Alternate: **Alice Qian** (*Dasha Wemmie*)Honorable Mention: **Cora Marek** (*Nancy Cree*)Honorable Mention: **Nathan Yoon** (*Minji Kwon*)**LEVEL C Results:**Winner: **Austin Gilchrist** (*Nancy Cree*)Winner: **Liam Tucker** (*Nancy Cree*)1st Alternate: **Haoyue Mu** (*Canlin Qiu*)2nd Alternate: **Charlotte Barwacz** (*Tina Chapman*)Honorable Mention: **Evan Cao** (*Canlin Qiu*)Honorable Mention: **Gemma Fuortes** (*Nicole Messerschmitt*)Honorable Mention: **Hanover He-Yu** (*Alan Huckleberry*)Honorable Mention: **Ellie Hong** (*Minji Kwon*)**LEVEL D Results:**Winner: **James Ackerson** (*Lauree Christman*)Winner: **Andrew Xu** (*Alan Huckleberry*)Winner: **Natalie Yoon** (*Minji Kwon*)1st Alternate: **Kate Qian** (*Dasha Wemmie*)2nd Alternate: **Mason Bany** (*Mary Dieker*)3rd Alternate: **Hannah Kim** (*Minji Kwon*)Honorable Mention: **Noah Liu** (*Adin Herr*)**LEVEL E Results:**Winner: **Samuel Banaszek** (*Jason Sifford*)Winner: **Kaoru Heitzman** (*Chiaki Kubota*)Winner: **Matthew Lu** (*Lauree Christman*)Winner: **Noah Wiechert** (*Lauree Christman*)1st Alternate: **Khloc Zhao** (*Lauree Christman*)2nd Alternate: **Victor Yao** (*Chiaki Kubota*)3rd Alternate: **Maximilian Hing** (*Jason Sifford*)4th Alternate: **Davi Donato** (*Jason Sifford*)Honorable Mention: **Abigail Chen** (*Chiaki Kubota*)**LEVEL F Results:**Winner: **Claire Huang** (*Rene Lecuona*)Winner: **Youan Lee** (*Minji Kwon*)1st Alternate: **Iulia Fang-Kawamuro** (*Chiaki Kubota*)2nd Alternate: **Jessica Huang** (*Rene Lecuona*)Honorable Mention: **Spencer Wu** (*Nancy Cree*)**THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS****LEVEL A:**100% **Caroline Kemp** (*Nancy Cree*)96% **Isaiah Bengtson** (*Mina Jerome*)94% **Hannah Chen** (*Canlin Qiu*)94% **Eva West** (*Nancy Cree*)90% **Elaine Yu** (*Canlin Qiu*)**LEVEL B:**98% **Sarah H. Chang** (*Minji Kwon*)98% **Isabelle Lu** (*Lauree Christman*)98% **Nathan Yoon** (*Minji Kwon*)96% **Cora Marek** (*Nancy Cree*)94% **Alice Qian** (*Dasha Wemmie*)94% **Hridaya Sainju** (*Tina Chapman*)94% **Kaspar Zhao** (*Lauree Christman*)90% **Audrey Maples** (*Nancy Cree*)**LEVEL C:**100% **Evan Cao** (*Canlin Qiu*)100% **Hanover He-Yu** (*Alan Huckleberry*)98% **Charlotte Barwacz** (*Tina Chapman*)98% **Austin Gilchrist** (*Nancy Cree*)98% **Ellie Hong** (*Minji Kwon*)96% **Henry Erdahl** (*Nancy Cree*)96% **Charlie LaBrecque** (*Nancy Cree*)96% **Nolan Murphy** (*Jason Sifford*)96% **Liam Tucker** (*Nancy Cree*)94% **Gemma Fuortes** (*Nicole Messerschmitt*)92% **Grace Autio** (*Lauree Christman*)92% **Haoyue Mu** (*Canlin Qiu*)92% **Mannat Otgontuya** (*Mina Jerome*)**LEVEL D:**100% **Mason Bany** (*Mary Dieker*)98% **James Ackerson** (*Lauree Christman*)98% **Niklos Polyak** (*Nancy Cree*)98% **Kate Qian** (*Dasha Wemmie*)96% **Mert Ince** (*Jason Sifford*)96% **Sephora Whalen** (*Nicole Messerschmitt*)96% **Natalie Yoon** (*Minji Kwon*)94% **Hannah Kim** (*Minji Kwon*)92% **Jackson LaBrecque** (*Nancy Cree*)92% **Andrew Liu** (*Jason Sifford*)90% **Noah Liu** (*Adin Herr*)**LEVEL E:**100% **Emily Ding** (*Lauree Christman*)100% **Matthew Lu** (*Lauree Christman*)98% **Abigail Chen** (*Chiaki Kubota*)98% **Victor Yao** (*Chiaki Kubota*)96% **Kaoru Heitzman** (*Chiaki Kubota*)94% **Samuel Banaszek** (*Jason Sifford*)94% **Clark Erdahl** (*Nancy Cree*)94% **Khloc Zhao** (*Lauree Christman*)92% **Olga Tenev** (*Nancy Cree*)92% **Oceana Zhang** (*Rene Lecuona*)90% **Ethan Ding** (*Tina Chapman*)90% **Noah Wiechert** (*Lauree Christman*)**LEVEL F:**100% **Iulia Fang-Kawamuro** (*Chiaki Kubota*)100% **Claire Huang** (*Rene Lecuona*)100% **Jessica Huang** (*Rene Lecuona*)100% **Spencer Wu** (*Nancy Cree*)98% **Youan Lee** (*Minji Kwon*)96% **Gabriel Bales** (*Jason Sifford*)92% **Theo Williams** (*Nancy Cree*)

Lamoni/Osceola

IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

February 14, 2026 at Graceland University, Lamoni

Chair: Sarah Hostetler

Adjudicator: Mary Beth Shaffer

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Nora Yoder** (*Sarah Hostetler*)
Alternate: **Collins McConnell** (*Lois Selby*)
Honorable Mention: **Calvin Brown** (*Catherine Bryan*)
Honorable Mention: **Noah Cirligel** (*Lois Selby*)
Honorable Mention: **Everett Noethe** (*Lois Selby*)
Honorable Mention: **Michael Yoder** (*Sarah Hostetler*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Lark Heater** (*Catherine Bryan*)
Alternate: **Lucy Brown** (*Catherine Bryan*)
Honorable Mention: **Kelsey Gingerich** (*Sarah Hostetler*)
Honorable Mention: **Fiona Henson** (*Catherine Bryan*)
Honorable Mention: **Gracie Ling** (*Catherine Bryan*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Chanelle Yoder** (*Sarah Hostetler*)
Alternate: **Lola Brown** (*Catherine Bryan*)
Honorable Mention: **Evangeline Embree** (*Catherine Bryan*)
Honorable Mention: **Aubrey Johnson** (*Catherine Bryan*)
Honorable Mention: **Reece Sheriff** (*Catherine Bryan*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Ada Burns** (*Catherine Bryan*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Owen Heaston** (*Catherine Bryan*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

LEVEL A:

94% **Collins McConnell** (*Lois Selby*)

LEVEL B:

98% **Lark Heater** (*Catherine Bryan*)
98% **Fiona Henson** (*Catherine Bryan*)

LEVEL C:

96% **Evangeline Embree** (*Catherine Bryan*)
90% **Aubrey Johnson** (*Catherine Bryan*)
90% **Reece Sheriff** (*Catherine Bryan*)

LEVEL D:

94% **Ada Burns** (*Catherine Bryan*)

LEVEL F:

94% **Owen Heaston** (*Catherine Bryan*)

SLAMTA STORM LAKE

IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

January 31, 2026 at St. John Lutheran, Storm Lake

Chair: Jeanette Hinkeldey

Adjudicator: Dianne Lawson

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Edessa Santamaria** (*Suzanne Winterhof*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Eliza Bumstead** (*Suzanne Winterhof*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Zachary Renner** (*Suzanne Winterhof*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

LEVEL B:

96% **Collin Wirtz** (*Marilee Kleespies*)
94% **Eliza Bumstead** (*Suzanne Winterhof*)
92% **Will Phillips** (*Marilee Kleespies*)

LEVEL C:

90% **Alivia Glienke** (*Jeanette Hinkeldey*)

Mason City

IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

February 7, 2026 at NIACC, Mason City

Chair: **Gail Morris**

Adjudicators: **Deb Ausborn, Linda Benson**

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Maddie Petree** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

Alternate: **LeeAnn Friedrich** (*Gail Morris*)

Honorable Mention: **Luke Meyer** (*Christie Haacke*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Margaret Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

Alternate: **Joe Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

Honorable Mention: **Quinn Smith** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **John Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

Alternate: **Nora Carlsson** (*Melissa Phillips*)

Honorable Mention: **Nova Arnold** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

Honorable Mention: **Marie Friedrich** (*Gail Morris*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Grant Forsberg** (*Melissa Phillips*)

Alternate: **Elena O'Keefe** (*Gail Morris*)

Honorable Mention: **Charlotte Smith** (*Gail Morris*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Arman Nikoueiha** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

Alternate: **Finnigan Hinderaker** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

LEVEL A :

90% **Henry Neubauer** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

LEVEL B:

98% **Daphne Miller** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

96% **Joe Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

94% **Margaret Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

90% **Sophia Starr** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

LEVEL C:

100% **Nora Carlsson** (*Melissa Phillips*)

100% **Hana Miller** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

98% **John Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

96% **Piper Steiner** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

90% **Nova Arnold** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

90% **Gram Nelson** (*Christie Haacke*)

90% **Rosilyn O'Keefe** (*Gail Morris*)

90% **Laynie Severson** (*Natasha Church*)

LEVEL D:

100% **Grant Forsberg** (*Melissa Phillips*)

98% **Mayella Miller** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

94% **Elena O'Keefe** (*Gail Morris*)

LEVEL E:

100% **Finnigan Hinderaker** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

94% **Arman Nikoueiha** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

QCMTA Quad Cities IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

February 7, 2026 at St. Ambrose University

Chair: Roberta Quist, Charlie Schmidt

Adjudicators: Dr. Du Huang, Dr. Xiao Hu, Allison Chenoweth McGurn

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Joyce Jiang** (*Roberta Quist*)
1st Alternate: **Deacon Peterson** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
Honorable Mention: **Abigail Albrechtsen** (*Carlene Albrechtsen*)
Honorable Mention: **Max Liu** (*Roberta Quist*)
Honorable Mention: **Hazel Romaniello** (*Kinza Maclin*)
Honorable Mention: **Mia Wang** (*Roberta Quist*)
Honorable Mention: **June Westberg** (*Richard Sessler*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Malia Saito** (*Nora Reiter*)
Winner: **Anneliese Tarpey** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
1st Alternate: **Grace Haas** (*Nora Reiter*)
2nd Alternate: **Vivian Kahler** (*Nora Reiter*)
Honorable Mention: **Angela Benhart** (*Nora Reiter*)
Honorable Mention: **Zariah Lara** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
Honorable Mention: **Anderson Richards** (*Roberta Quist*)
Honorable Mention: **Kevin Turner** (*Carlene Albrechtsen*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Marguerite Babin** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
Winner: **Jocelyn Jiang** (*Roberta Quist*)
1st Alternate: **Harry Richards** (*Roberta Quist*)
2nd Alternate: **Henry Jewell** (*Roberta Quist*)
Honorable Mention: **Evie Beach** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
Honorable Mention: **Hannah Hochgesang** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
Honorable Mention: **Brayden Isaacson** (*Roberta Quist*)
Honorable Mention: **Kairon Saito** (*Nora Reiter*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Jovin Binto** (*Roberta Quist*)
Winner: **Lucas Rodgers** (*Anne Johnson*)
1st Alternate: **Stella Jackson** (*Carlene Albrechtsen*)
2nd Alternate: **Anders Sommer** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
Honorable Mention: **Emma Isaacson** (*Roberta Quist*)
Honorable Mention: **Rebecca Rodriguez** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
Honorable Mention: **Mason Vervaecke** (*Olivia Gonzalez*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Eugene Chan** (*Marian Lee*)
Winner: **Bethany Priaulx** (*Kim Priaulx*)
1st Alternate: **Carter Luszczyk** (*Roberta Quist*)
2nd Alternate: **Camille Hayes** (*Richard Sessler*)
Honorable Mention: **Jeremiah Rodgers** (*Anne Johnson*)
Honorable Mention: **Joseph Tavernier** (*Colin Evers*)

LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Jonathan Rice** (*Marian Lee*)
1st Alternate: **Zach McMann** (*Roberta Quist*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

LEVEL A:

98% **Joyce Jiang** (*Roberta Quist*)
98% **Hazel Romaniello** (*Kinza Maclin*)
98% **Mia Wang** (*Roberta Quist*)
96% **Deacon Peterson** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
94% **Abigail Albrechtsen** (*Carlene Albrechtsen*)
94% **Max Liu** (*Roberta Quist*)

LEVEL B:

100% **Malia Saito** (*Nora Reiter*)
98% **Abigail Geyer** (*Anne Johnson*)
98% **Anderson Richards** (*Roberta Quist*)
98% **Kevin Turner** (*Carlene Albrechtsen*)
96% **Evelyn Johnson** (*Roberta Quist*)
96% **Grace Lin** (*Marian Lee*)
96% **Anneliese Tarpey** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
92% **Angela Benhart** (*Nora Reiter*)
90% **Grace Haas** (*Nora Reiter*)
90% **Vivian Kahler** (*Nora Reiter*)

LEVEL C:

100% **Jocelyn Jiang** (*Roberta Quist*)
100% **Harry Richards** (*Roberta Quist*)
98% **Meghan Graybill** (*Anne Johnson*)
98% **Denny Vandala** (*Roberta Quist*)
98% **Iris Wang** (*Roberta Quist*)
96% **Brayden Isaacson** (*Roberta Quist*)
96% **Parker Luszczyk** (*Roberta Quist*)
96% **Kairon Saito** (*Nora Reiter*)
94% **Marguerite Babin** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
92% **Evie Beach** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
92% **Sophie Johnson** (*Roberta Quist*)
90% **Hannah Hochgesang** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

LEVEL D:

100% **Jovin Binto** (*Roberta Quist*)
98% **Anders Sommer** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)
96% **Stella Jackson** (*Carlene Albrechtsen*)
92% **Lucas Rodgers** (*Anne Johnson*)
90% **Emma Isaacson** (*Roberta Quist*)
90% **Paige McMann** (*Roberta Quist*)

LEVEL E:

100% **Joseph Tavernier** (*Colin Evers*)
96% **Carter Luszczyk** (*Roberta Quist*)
96% **Bethany Priaulx** (*Kim Priaulx*)
96% **Jeremiah Rodgers** (*Anne Johnson*)

LEVEL F:

100% **Zach McMann** (*Roberta Quist*)
98% **Jonathan Rice** (*Marian Lee*)

NAMTA IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

January 31, 2026 at Wartburg College

Chair: Chandar Boyle and Nicole Green

Adjudicators: Cyndie Caruth, NCTM, Allison Chenoweth McGurn

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Dell Brummel** (*Linda Martin*)

1st Alternate: **Oliver McGohan** (*Linda Martin*)

Honorable Mention: **Nell Clapham** (*Nicole Green*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Thomas Haile** (*Andrea Johnson*)

1st Alternate: **Lorena Boyle** (*Nicole Green*)

Honorable Mention: **Anna Du** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

Honorable Mention: **James Treinen** (*Chandar Boyle*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Megan Cheng** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

1st Alternate: **Madelyn Driver** (*Lydia Watkins*)

Honorable Mention: **Reis Berger** (*Nicole Green*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Charlotte Green** (*Ted Reuter*)

1st Alternate: **Anika Tandon** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

Honorable Mention: **Hamilton Hasselbrook** (*Andrea Johnson*)

Honorable Mention: **Jackson Withers** (*Ted Reuter*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Thomas Aguilar** (*Ann Barry*)

1st Alternate: **Maggie VerDught** (*Ann Barry*)

Honorable Mention: **Delia Morgan** (*Ted Reuter*)

LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Kevin Du** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

Winner: **Helen Peng** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

1st Alternate: **Miguel Maldonado** (*Ted Reuter*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

LEVEL A:

98% **Jaide Berger** (*Nicole Green*)

94% **Nathan Haedike** (*Laurie Biedermann*)

LEVEL B:

100% **Alina Pruckler** (*Chandar Boyle*)

98% **Anna Du** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

94% **Thomas Haile** (*Andrea Johnson*)

92% **Lorena Boyle** (*Nicole Green*)

92% **Vivienne Johnson** (*Andrea Johnson*)

90% **Royal Biedermann** (*Linda Martin*)

90% **James Treinen** (*Chandar Boyle*)

LEVEL C:

96% **Megan Cheng** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

LEVEL D:

98% **Rishika Shettigar** (*Ann Barry*)

LEVEL E:

100% **Thomas Aguilar** (*Ann Barry*)

96% **Maggie VerDught** (*Ann Barry*)

92% **Rishika Shettigar** (*Ann Barry*)

LEVEL F:

98% **Kevin Du** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

96% **Miguel Maldonado** (*Ted Reuter*)

Fort Dodge/Humboldt IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

January 31, 2026 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge

Chair: Deb Ausborn

Adjudicator: Lois Vander Zee

LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Thomas Vinsand** (*Tiffany Mayall*)

Alternate: **Maria Zimmerman** (*Jennifer Zimmerman*)

Honorable Mention: **Elaina Brinkman** (*Karen Hopkins*)

Honorable Mention: **Brynn Crawford** (*Karen Hopkins*)

Honorable Mention: **Donald Lee** (*Nancy Blair*)

LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Noah Peterson** (*Linda Benson*)

Alternate: **Grant Nostrom** (*Tiffany Mayall*)

Honorable Mention: **Henry Lee** (*Nancy Blair*)

LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Jhea Castareda** (*Mavis Chen*)

Alternate: **Rene Schroeder** (*Linda Benson*)

LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Connor Witt** (*Linda Benson*)

LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Joel Schroeder** (*Linda Benson*)

Alternate: **Reba Moffitt** (*Mavis Chen*)

THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

LEVEL A:

94% **Brynn Crawford** (*Karen Hopkins*)

92% **Elaina Brinkman** (*Karen Hopkins*)

92% **Thomas Vinsand** (*Tiffany Mayall*)

90% **Maria Zimmerman** (*Jennifer Zimmerman*)

LEVEL B:

100% **Noah Peterson** (*Linda Benson*)

98% **Charlie Deal** (*Linda Benson*)

98% **Jonathon Vinsand** (*Tiffany Mayall*)

96% **Makayla Luedtke** (*Karen Hopkins*)

92% **Colby Cochrane** (*Mavis Chen*)

92% **Henry Lee** (*Nancy Blair*)

LEVEL C:

98% **Rene Schroeder** (*Linda Benson*)

94% **Aidan Deal** (*Linda Benson*)

94% **Addison Potter** (*Mavis Chen*)

90% **Jhea Castareda** (*Mavis Chen*)

LEVEL D:

92% **Clara Brown** (*Mavis Chen*)

LEVEL E:

98% **Joel Schroeder** (*Linda Benson*)

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Music and Theatre

IOWA STATE MUSIC

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

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Keyboard Performance | Keyboard Education
- Bachelor of Arts in Music**
- Minor in Music**
- Lessons for non-majors**

FACULTY MEMBERS

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

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music.iastate.edu | musicinfo@iastate.edu | 515-294-3831 **Music Major Auditions: February 13-15, 2025**





The Iowa crew at the 2026 MTNA Conference in Chicago



Cyndie Caruth leading WCD meeting



New member breakfast



World's largest Starbucks—many visited all 5 floors



Scott Yoo, Keynote Address



MTNA Honor Roll on display



Peter Mack presenting at intermediate masterclass



Former Iowan Chiu-ling Lin with Cyndie Caruth



Sherri Lauritsen and Patrice Ewoldt



MTNA directors recognized



Jacob Wang, former student of Cyndie Caruth wins the MTNA Stecher and Horowitz \$10,000 Power of Innovation Award presented at the awards breakfast Spring 2026



MTNA Gala

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The Morningside All-America Band

THEATRE

4 annual mainstage productions • Annual Musical/Lyric Theatre

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The Pride of Morningside Marching Band

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Sioux City, Iowa 712-274-5210

FESTIVAL RESULTS: **BY THE NUMBERS**

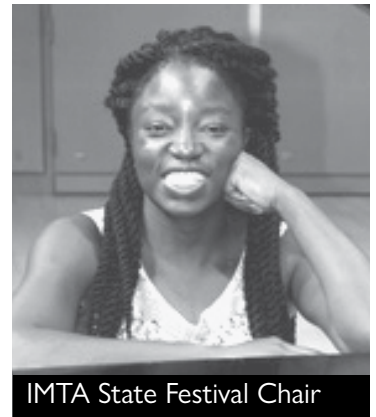
Shoutout to all of the centers who held festivals this year! Also thank you all for bearing with me with issues with the website we were having.

We hope you will continue to take advantage of our festivals as a friendly space for students who aren't participating in auditions, or as a stepping stone to your annual auditions. Please contact me if you would like to open a new center!

Below is a table of the centers who held festivals. The total profit for festivals this year was \$1157.39.

2026 Festivals

Center	Number of teachers	Number of students	Total income	Expense total	Profit/loss
Forest City	4	15	\$570.00	\$480.72	\$89.28
Caruth Studio	1	18	\$615.00	\$491.50	\$123.50
Des Moines Suburbs	12	35	\$1,290.00	\$1220.63	\$69.38
Ames	3	9	\$380	\$421.82	-\$41.82
Cedar Rapids	6	28	\$1,240.00	\$1,080.72	\$157.30
Cedar Falls	4	19	\$785.00	\$625.90	\$159.10
Dyerville	2	7	\$205.00	\$156.00	\$49.00
Dubuque	2	10	\$395.00	\$290.75	\$104.25
Iowa City-Coralville	6	27	\$995.00	\$730.50	\$264.50
SITMA	3	14	\$545.00	\$415.00	\$130.00
Quad Cities	8	30	\$1,130.00	\$1,077.10	\$52.90



IMTA State Festival Chair

Kinza Maclin

festivals@iamta.org

Annual Local Association Breakfast at IMTA Conference – Join Us!

Registration is now open for the IMTA Conference, so make sure to sign up for the annual **local association breakfast on Monday, June 8, at 7:30 a.m.!** All conference attendees are welcome!

Enjoy a delicious breakfast along with lively and engaging conversation to start your morning before the opening session and keynote! Back by popular demand, conference attendees will have an opportunity, either by email to imtalocal@gmail.com or on site at conference registration, to submit discussion topics for the breakfast!

Better together through music,

Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM
IMTA VP for Local Associations



DMMTA CELEBRATES A LANDMARK YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT AND RECOGNITION



Pictured from left to right (back) Brian Shepard, Patrice Ewoltd, Bonnie Strong, Sarah Reeves, and Cyndie Caruth (Front left) Sarah Richards, DMMTA President, Mary Beth Shaffer, Zoe Abrahamson, Glenda Kernen, and Diane Smith, DMMTA President-elect, Sherri Lauritsen, and MTNA President, Kevin Chance



President Mary Beth Shaffer displaying the award!

The award was presented at the annual MTNA business meeting by CEO Brian Shepard and MTNA President Kevin Chance. DMMTA President Mary Beth Shaffer accepted the honor on behalf of the organization, joined

by a strong contingent of members who traveled to Chicago to participate in the conference and celebrate this achievement. For several DMMTA attendees, it was their first experience at a national conference; for all, it proved to be an energizing and meaningful opportunity for professional growth and connection.

DMMTA's 50th anniversary season continues this fall with a signature event at Drake University. A highlight of the celebration will be the premiere of *Groovin' in Gold*, a newly commissioned work by composer Wynn-Anne Rossi. Conducted by the composer herself, the piece will anchor a large-scale multi-piano and instrumental collaborative concert featuring performances by Drake University students, DMMTA teachers, and their students. It will be a fitting tribute to the organization's legacy of mentorship, artistry, and community.

This milestone year reflects not only DMMTA's history, but its ongoing commitment to excellence in music education. With national recognition and ambitious programming, the organization stands as a model of what a vibrant, engaged local association can achieve.



The Des Moines Music Teachers Association (DMMTA) has every reason to celebrate in 2026. Marking its 50th anniversary, the organization is enjoying a year defined not only by reflection and pride, but also by remarkable national recognition and artistic collaboration.

At the MTNA National Conference in Chicago—held during MTNA's historic 150th anniversary celebration—DMMTA was honored as the MTNA Local Chapter of the Year (2026). This prestigious distinction is awarded based on measurable excellence in membership growth, program development, student and teacher engagement, community outreach, and fundraising initiatives. DMMTA's selection reflects sustained strength across all of these areas, underscoring both the vitality of its membership and the clarity of its mission.



IMTA State Local Associations Chair

Mary Beth Shaffer
imtalocal@gmail.com

VIRTUAL LOCAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Eighteen IMTA members from throughout Iowa met online on February 20th to discuss the formation of an IMTA virtual local association, with an additional thirteen members expressing interest who were not able to attend. Following a detailed and engaging discussion as to the purpose and benefits involved and why each member in attendance was interested, plans are moving forward to launch the IMTA virtual local association on July 1, 2026, pending application approval from the IMTA board and MTNA!

The first order of business is establishing the bylaws of the association, and a committee has been formed to draft them, consisting of Lois VanderZee, Cheryl Corbett, Cyndie Caruth and Mary Beth Shaffer. A board of three members was agreed upon, consisting of President, Program Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Sarah Richards offered to serve as program chair, and Carlene Albrechtsen as secretary/treasurer. The position of president is yet to be determined at this time.

What is the purpose of establishing a virtual association?

To better serve our music teachers in rural communities as well as our members throughout Iowa, especially those who hold IMTA/MTNA membership but are not currently connected with a local

association.

What are the benefits of joining?

- Online teacher educational programs.
- Connections with colleagues throughout Iowa as well as IMTA members residing in other states.
- Possibility in the future of online master classes

Who may join?

- Anyone who is a member of IMTA & MTNA, even if you aren't a member of a local association.
- Current members of other IMTA local associations – you may belong to both the virtual and your current local.

Can this be a replacement for my current local association?

No, it is important if you are already a member of a local association that you remain in that local as well. The virtual local association will not offer auditions and festivals.

Anyone interested in joining or who has questions about the IMTA virtual local association and/or serving as president should contact Mary Beth Shaffer at imtalocal@gmail.com.



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2026 STATE AUDITION WINNERS



A Winner
Claire Zhou
(*Nai-Ying Liao*)



A Winner
Simon Clark
(*Amy Linville*)



B Winner
Aria Smart
(*Cyndie Caruth*)



B Winner
Anneliese Tarpey
(*Laura Crumbleholme*)



C Winner
Charlotte McClure
(*Cyndie Caruth*)



C Winner
Vicky Lin
(*Cyndie Caruth*)



D Winner
Cecelia Cotran
(*Cyndie Caruth*)



D Winner
Arnav Dervesh
(*Cyndie Caruth*)



D Winner
Jennifer Ji
(*Nai-Ying Liao*)



D Winner
Sapphire Gibbins
(*Amy Linville*)



E1 Winner
Bethany Priaulx
(*Kim Priaulx*)



E1 Winner
Kaoru Heitzman
(*Chiaki Kubota*)



E2 Winner
Sebastian Gearhart
(*Marion Scott*)



E2 Winner
Matthew Lu
(*Lauree Christman*)



F Winner
Minerva Cao
(*Larisa Kanevski*)



F Winner
Laura Chen
(*Mei-Hsuan Huang*)



F Winner
**Duy Xuan Ha
Duong**
(*Cyndie Caruth*)



F Winner
Youan Lee
(*Minji Kwon*)

2026 Adjudicators

Level A: *Dr. Nicole Messerschmitt*
Level B: *Allison Chenoweth McGurn*
Level C: *Dr. Bryan Stanley*
Level D: *Dr. Kristin Jonina Taylor*

Level E1: *Dr. Du Huang*
Level E2: *Dr. Du Huang*
Level F: *Dr. Charles Schmidt*

2026 STATE AUDITION RUNNERS-UP



A Runner Up
Paige Benson
(Julie Bond)



A Runner Up
Hugo Hauta
(Sharon Jensen)



B Runner Up
Riley Klinefelter
(Cyndie Caruth)



B Runner Up
Thomas Haile
(Andrea Johnson)



C Runner Up
Sophia Li
(Cindy Lin)



C Runner Up
Megan Cheng
(Suzanne Torkelson)



D Runner Up
Andrew Xu
(Alan Huckleberry)



D Runner Up
Eli Tang
(Janci Bronson)



D Runner Up
Charlotte Green
(Ted Reuter)



D Runner Up
Ada Burns
(Catherine Bryan)



E1 Runner Up
Chloe Lu
(Nai-Ying Liao)



E1 Runner Up
Samuel Banaszek
(Jason Sifford)



E2 Runner Up
Bella De Haan
(Nicholas Roth)



E2 Runner Up
Thomas Aguilar
(Ann Barry)



F Runner Up
Claire Huang
(Rene Lecuona)



F Runner Up
Bennett Lambelet
(Kristin Taylor)



F Runner Up
Kevin Du
(Suzanne Torkelson)



F Runner Up
Chloe Liang
(Cyndie Caruth)

2026 STATE AUDITION HONORABLE MENTIONS



A Honorable Mention
Gabriella Knezevic
(Rosa Scott)



A Honorable Mention
Joyce Jiang
(Roberta Quist)



B Honorable Mention
Noah Peterson
(Linda Benson)



B Honorable Mention
Lucas McCarley
(Janci Bronson)



B Honorable Mention
Cora Clark
(Amy Linville)



B Honorable Mention
Julia Worsham
(Sharon Jensen)



B Honorable Mention
Hridaya Sainju
(Tina Chapman)



B Honorable Mention
Malia Saito
(Nora Reiter)



C Honorable Mention
Fletcher Sams
(Amy Linville)



C Honorable Mention
John Henry
(Diane Stadtlander)



D Honorable Mention
Jovin Bintu
(Roberta Quist)



D Honorable Mention
James Ackerson
(Lauree Christman)



E1 Honorable Mention
Noah Wiechert
(Lauree Christman)



E2 Honorable Mention
Arman Nikoueiha
(Sylvia Dieterichs)



F Honorable Mention
Isabelle Ryan
(Cyndie Caruth)



F Honorable Mention
Gwenyth Franczyk
(Cyndie Caruth)



F Honorable Mention
Helen Peng
(Suzanne Torkelson)



F Honorable Mention
Olivia McClure
(Cyndie Caruth)



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