



THE IOWA MUSIC TEACHER

LXXXVIII no. 3
Winter 2026



WESTmusic

We are proud to offer
**IOWA'S FINEST
SELECTION**
of Steinway & Sons
and Yamaha pianos
supported by the
dependable sales
staff and service
of West Music.



STEINWAY & SONS



YAMAHA

Boston
PIANO

DESIGNED BY STEINWAY & SONS®

Essex PIANO

DESIGNED BY STEINWAY & SONS®



CEDAR FALLS
CEDAR RAPIDS
CORALVILLE
QUAD CITIES

westmusic.com

THE EDITOR'S DESK

Out With the Old, In With the New

This season has been one of reflection, gratitude, and—if I'm being honest—more adventure than I quite anticipated. I spent the Thanksgiving season in Greece with my dear friend Marilou, an energetic and inspiring piano teacher from Maryland. Together, we explored remarkable places steeped in history and beauty. One of my favorites was the charming town of **Nafplio**, with its winding streets, seaside views, and timeless pace of life—all in the midst of a seemingly peaceful port filled with amazing yachts and potential millionaire parties. The town in itself captured my heart so completely that I've already vowed to return.

I returned home on December 3 and jumped right back into teaching, gearing up students for the upcoming competition season. Unfortunately, I also returned with a cold that eventually turned into the flu—despite having taken every precautionary shot before traveling. Life, it seems, has a way of reminding us that preparation does not always guarantee immunity.

In the midst of all this, my husband Carroll and I celebrated a milestone that still feels a bit unbelievable: our 50th wedding anniversary. It felt only right to give ourselves extra grace and unstructured time, especially as we enjoyed meaningful moments with friends and family throughout the Christmas season. Eventually, however, reality returned in the form of a refrigerator overflowing with leftovers, sweets, and temptations—cleaning it out became less of a chore and more of a necessity. We won't even discuss the glaring presence of my Christmas décor!



IMTA Information Editor

Cyndie Caruth, NCTM
magazine@iamta.org

As the New Year approached, I knew I was already behind schedule with my students and fully prepared to dig in and catch up. Then, during the final days of break, while rushing the garbage to the curb, I darted back into the house and pivoted on one foot to lock the side door—only to

Continued on page 9

WHAT'S INSIDE

3	The Editor's Desk
4	Iowa Music Teacher's Association Statements
5	IMTA President's Message
7	Mark Your Calendar
8	West Central Division Update
10	Treasurer's Talk Technology Today
11	Competition Results
12	Auditions News
14	From the Past
17	Repertoire Review
18	In the Spotlight with <i>Diane Smith</i>
20	Certification News
23	MTNA Conference Registration
24	Reeves' Reviews
26	Membership Updates
27	Scholarship News
34	Foundation News



THE IOWA MUSIC TEACHER

Vol LXXXVIII no.3 Winter 2026

Membership Dues

IMTA/MTNA membership year:
July 1 through June 30.

Active MTNA National
membership dues: \$104.00

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 Senior dues

70 years or older: \$78.00

IMTA Senior dues 70 or older: \$20.00

MTNA Collegiate Student
membership dues are \$19.00

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.

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

Advertising contact:

imtaadvertising@gmail.com

Submit articles and photos to

imtamagazine@gmail.com

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.

REFLECTING ON 2025 & LOOKING AHEAD TO A THRIVING 2026

Snowy greetings from Cedar Rapids! I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful landscapes and avoiding the cold wind and temperatures as much as possible.

December is such a busy time for musicians, and especially teachers. Holiday performances, student concerts, IMTA festivals, holiday celebrations, and so much more. It often feels like a marathon race to get through the month.

As you prepare your students for auditions in the coming months, please remember to double-check all your entries. If you have a concern about a piece, reach out to your local auditions chair so that the entry can be checked on their end as well.

As many of you know, the 2026 MTNA National Conference will be held in Chicago, right on the Magnificent Mile. This will be a spectacular conference, with MTNA celebrating their 150-year anniversary! The keynote speaker on Sunday features American conductor Scott Yoo. He is the host and executive producer of the Emmy-nominated PBS series *Now Hear This*. With the location being so close to home, I hope many of you will consider attending. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to attend, this is a great chance to go.

Saturday's opening session evening concert will be a real treat with jazz and adult contemporary vocalist Jane Monheit, a passionate performer of the *Great American Songbook*.

You won't want to miss the Tuesday evening concert with pianist Angela Hewitt, who's latest project, "*The Mozart Odyssey*," features the composer's complete piano concertos.

You can check out the complete schedule on the MTNA website. With the conference being just a few hours away, this is a great learning opportunity for all of us!

I hope you will also save the date for our annual IMTA State Conference, held this year at the University of Iowa in Iowa City from June 7-9. This year, IMTA will be celebrating 140 years as an organization.

Looking back on 2025, I hope you'll take some time to reflect on the successes and celebrations in your studios, as well in other parts of your musical life. Even though the calendar fills up quickly with obligations, I feel that we are fortunate to be able to create and enjoy music every day. I wish you all a very happy holiday season, and a Happy New Year! Cheers to 2026!



Iowa MTNA President

Allison Chenoweth McGurn
president@iamta.org

Experience a classroom of one.



- At Drake University, you will work one-on-one with dedicated professors who are world renowned musicians. You will have the opportunity to tour regionally, nationally, and internationally. Follow your passion at Drake University and collaborate with professors who strive for the success of their students in the realm of performance.

**Department of Music
Audition Days**

February 6, 2026

February 13, 2026

Fine Arts Scholarships
available for majors,
minors, & non-major
participants

Drake
UNIVERSITY

Department
of Music

drake.edu/music



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Deadline: *Young Professional* MTNA Conference Registration

February 6, 2026

Chicago, IL

Special 150th Year Rate: \$150 for ages 30 or under by March 31, 2026, MTNA membership required

Deadline for IMTA Spring magazine submissions

March 1, 2026

IMTA State Auditions for winning students at district levels

March 14, 2026

University of Northern Iowa

MTNA 150th Anniversary National Conference

March 21–25, 2026

Chicago, Illinois

Registration for Active Members: Open now at MTNA.org

Deadline to register for IMTA scholarship

May 15, 2026

Register at iamta.org

Summer IMTA Magazine Deadline

June 1, 2026

IMTA State Conference

June 7–9, 2026

University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

MTNA 2026 Conference Registration Information March 21–25, 2026 • Register at mtna.org

	On or before 2/5/26*	After 2/5/26*	Single-Day Registration
Members	\$495	\$545	\$225
Collegiate Members	\$120	\$135	\$60
Nonmembers	\$695	\$745	\$295
Collegiate Nonmembers	\$160	\$175	\$95
Collegiate Monitor	\$0	Not available	Not available

*Rates will change after 12:00 Midnight Eastern Time

MTNA WEST CENTRAL DIVISION FINALISTS

We are pleased to recognize the following students and teachers who have been named MTNA West Central Division Finalists. Their accomplishments reflect the highest standards of musical artistry and dedication. Congratulations to each finalist and their teachers on this significant achievement.

Junior Division

Junior Piano

Sarah Fernandes – Nebraska

Teacher: Washington Garcia

Junior Strings

Josie Snaza – Minnesota

Teacher: Aaron Janse

Junior Woodwinds

Aidan Zhao – Colorado

Teacher: Sergei Govorov

Junior Composition

Emma Lu – Minnesota

Teacher: Sarah Miller, NCTM

Senior Division

Senior Piano

Noah Greenstein-Sheppard – Minnesota

Teacher: Paul Wirth

Piano Duet

Lanie Deng & Xiaowei Wang – Missouri

Teacher: Hye-Jung Hong

Senior Strings

Taryn Geiger – Nebraska

Teacher: Ruth Meints

Senior Woodwinds

Silas Gollnick – Iowa

Teacher: Jae-Hyun Ryoo

Senior Composition

Coby Kassner – Colorado

Teacher: Aaron Stampfl

Young Artist Division

Young Artist Piano

Tang-Hsing Lien – Colorado

Teacher: Stephanie Cheng

Young Artist Strings

Vladimir Tsiper – Minnesota

Teacher: Sergiu Schwartz

Young Artist Voice

Emily Jurzyk – Iowa

Teacher: Leanne Freeman-Miller

Cadence Lowery-Hart – Iowa

Teacher: Leanne Freeman-Miller

Olivia Tice – Iowa

Teacher: Leanne Freeman-Miller

Leah Mendelin – Iowa

Teacher: Leanne Freeman-Miller

Gabriel McKee – Iowa

Teacher: Alyssa Becker

Young Artist Woodwinds

Chris Hunley – Iowa

Teacher: Kenneth Tse

Young Artist Composition

Andreas Hiram Landstedt – Missouri

Teacher: Sean Chen

Elementary Composition

Faith Eugenia Villar-Cordova Scott – Iowa

Teacher: Rosa Scott

IMTA congratulates all finalists and their teachers for representing our state and region with distinction. We commend their commitment to excellence and wish them continued success in their musical pursuits.



West Central Division Director

Cyndie Caruth, NCTM
magazine@iamta.org

Continued from page 3

completely miss three steps and land hard on the cement. With no cars in the garage, there was absolutely nothing to break my fall. After about 45 minutes of intense pain and numerous attempts to figure out how to move off the cement (and with Carroll begging to call an ambulance), I finally managed a very weak one-foot hobble into the house. I slept as well as one might expect, then spent most of January 3 in urgent care, x-rays, a transfer to Mercy West, more waiting, and still more x-rays—only to learn I would be staying, despite there being no bed available. The next day, I was transferred to MercyOne Downtown for hip replacement surgery, then returned that evening to Mercy West, where I was finally greeted by a most welcome hospital room. I've been home for a while now and have learned an important lesson: there is no such thing as "catching up." There are only apologies for being late—and gratitude for patience extended.

So, as I welcome 2026, I'm embracing the phrase "**out with the old, in with the new**"—quite literally, as it applies to my new hip. I am healing, grateful, and reminded once again how resilient we must be, both as musicians and as humans.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago for our 150th year celebration at the MTNA conference. I am so grateful to be on the MTNA board during this exciting time and even more excited for our local association, Des Moines Music Teachers Association, which will receive accolades as "MTNA Local Affiliate of 2026"! Please join us in Chicago as we congratulate everyone in DMMTA who pulled together to make this a rewarding year with memorable programs, amazing community outreach, and huge efforts in fundraising and recruiting. We have only just begun!

May your New Year be filled with music, joy, and far fewer bumps than mine has been so far!

WINTER TREASURER'S REPORT

It's the most wonderful time of the year! I know this won't be read until after Christmas but I'm writing during the Christmas season and I'm up to my ears in Christmas music for my students, for accompaniments for choirs and soloists and, of course, for myself to play my favorites (Mannheim Steamroller, if you haven't heard of this artist you have to check out their piano books!) But, as always happens at the end of a year, I have a "to do" sitting in the back of my mind threatening to drag down my holiday joy... "don't forget to start working on your records for your taxes". Ack! When you read this we will definitely be in the throws of tax season so here's my bit of tax advice for 2026. Ready for it?

Go to the National Conference and the State Conference! And then do a tax write off on all your expenses. Yay for tax write offs! Your registration fees can be reported as "professional development". Your travel costs, whether you fly or drive, can be reported. Keep your receipts or track your mileage for a per mile deduction.

Winter 2026

Your lodging is deductible so enjoy your stay and think of the taxes you won't pay. Your purchases at the conferences are deductible as supplies for your business and many vendors offer conference discounts. Double win. Even 50% of your food while you are at conference is deductible. Woohoo!

So, cut down on those self-employment taxes, keep your receipts, be fastidious with your records and reap the benefits all while enjoying an incredible experience in Chicago followed by a fun and engaging experience with me and all your other Iowa friends in Iowa City.

Bank Balances

Account	Balance as of 12/1/25
Checking; general fund	\$12,083
CD	\$43,053
Total Balance	\$55,136



IMTA Treasurer

Carlene Albrechtsen

finance@iamta.org

MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS RESULTS

The MTNA performance competitions were held Oct. 18-19, 2025 at Central College in Pella. The coordinators are: State Competition Chair: Diane Smith, NCTM; Junior Co-ordinator: Galina Jarrell; Senior Co-ordinator: Susan Kuyper; Young Artist Co-ordinator: Sarah Reeves and Local Co-ordinator was Dr. Sean Stephenson.

There was one elementary composition registration submitted by Faith Eugenia Scott, a student of Rosa Scott. She will go on to represent Iowa at the Division level and the National level. She is the 9- year old daughter of Dr. Marion and Rosa Scott of Johnston. The entire Iowa music community proudly celebrates this achievement and extends its warmest congratulations and best wishes as Faith embarks on this exciting journey to the 150th MTNA National Conference.

There were 8 junior piano entries, 4 junior string entries, 13 senior piano entries, 3 senior winds, 2 senior strings, 3 young artist piano entries, and 2 young artist woodwind entries. The winners of the state competition go on to represent Iowa in the West Central Division competition. The Division competition is held by sending in a digital copy of the performance.

The piano judges were Dr. Fanny Head, Missouri Western State University, Kansas City, MO; Dr. Kaju Lee, University of Wisconsin, Platteville, WI and Dr. Nok Ng, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO.

The woodwind judge was Dr. Ann Bradfield, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA.

The string judge was Dr. Noah Ryder, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

The composition judge was Jason Sifford, Iowa City.

The MTNA performance competitions are for students at the junior level (ages 11-14); senior level (ages 15-18), and young artist level (ages 19-26) in the areas of brass, piano, strings, and woodwind. The voice competition is for senior and young artist levels, and students enter by registering and submitting a tape at the Division level. There is also a senior piano competition. We hope it's a wonderful growing experience for students through their preparation, performance, and comments they receive from fine judges, and we encourage more young people in the various categories to register. The registration deadline is early September, and the Iowa state competition takes place in late October or early November.



Iowa MTNA Competitions Chair

Diane Smith, NCTM
imtamtchair@gmail.com

Elementary Composition



Faith Eugenia Villar-Cordova Scott
Winner
Rosa Scott
Johnston

Junior String



Jason Dong
Winner
Laura Shaw
Iowa City



Marianne Rose Scott
Alternate
Marion Scott
Johnston



Akiho Sugiyama
Honorable Mention
Scott Conklin
Iowa City



Emily Hong
Honorable Mention
Laura Shaw
Iowa City

Junior Piano



Julia Fang-Kawamuro
Winner
Chiaki Kubota
Iowa City



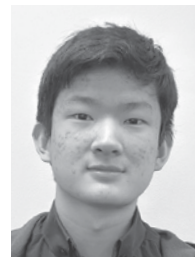
Duy Duong
Alternate
Cyndie Caruth
Ankeny



Lucas Du
Honorable Mention
Larisa Kanevski
Fremont, CA



William Glasnapp
Honorable Mention
Marion Scott
Ames



Nathen Chen
Winner
Violin
Dawn Marino-Ohmes
Iowa City



Sean Lee
Alternate
Violin
Linda Swanson
Ames

Senior Piano



Kento Sugiyama
Winner
Jack Winerock/
Felin Lin-Murray
Iowa City



Gwenyth Franczyk
Alternate
Cyndie Caruth
Urbandale



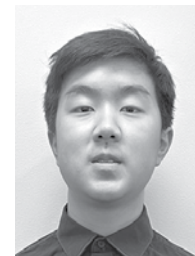
Timothy Lee
Honorable Mention
Michiyo Nakatani
Ames



Silas Gollnick
Winner
Saxophone
Jae-Hyun Ryoo
Iowa City



Camden Neff
Alternate
Saxophone
Ryan Smith
Cedar Rapids



Noah Shin
Honorable Mention
Clarinet
LuAnn Ewan
Ames

Senior Woodwind

Young Artist Piano

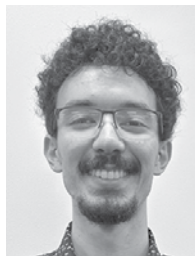


Jonathan Bass
Winner
Ksenia Nosikova
Iowa City



Jonathan Stoker
Alternate
Mei-Hsuan Huang
Ames

Young Artist Woodwind



Chris Hunley
Winner
Saxophone
Kenneth Tse
Iowa City



Courtney Joiner
Alternate
Clarinet
Beverly Gibson
Orange City

IMTA STATE AUDITIONS: INFORMATION & REMINDERS

Greetings IMTA members! As we are in this busy season of preparing for auditions, I want to make you aware (or remind you) of a few items.

Please take note of the new State Auditions Chair email: auditions@iamta.org

For District Chairs:

- To access your center's registrations, you must log in with your district chair and password (not your own personal one), which I sent to each of you. If you can't find that email or don't remember, please let me know, and I'll resend it to you.
- Please send me the names of your hired judges so I can add them to our website.
- Please see the "District Auditions Chair Checklist" under Forms and Resources for a complete list of things you need to do, and in what order. There are also templates you can print out for your auditions day signs, instructions for workers, judges, etc.
- Remind teachers to delete entries from last year – sometimes they forget! That will alleviate confusion for the chairs.
- Please check your center's information on the website and let me know if there are any changes or corrections that need to be made. They are also included in this magazine.

For all teachers entering students in auditions:

A reminder to delete old entries from your registrations, to avoid confusion.

If you have a student(s) that wins at your District Auditions, please plan on being at State Auditions to help. State Auditions cannot run smoothly unless we have enough help and hands on board.

**State Auditions; Saturday, March 14,
University of Northern Iowa**

Many thanks to Andrea Johnson for being

our liaison.

Reminder about new District Auditions rules and other information:

Repeated repertoire: *Students participating in the IMTA auditions may not perform the same repertoire as submitted in any previous audition year (by the same student). This rule applies to all pieces, including those listed at multiple levels, and those included on the open level F repertoire list.*

Time limits: Please be aware of the new time limits for levels C and D for the 2025-2026 auditions rules and regulations:

- Level A: 6 minutes
- Level B: 8 minutes
- Level C: Increased to 10 minutes
- Level D: Decreased to 12 minutes
- Level E: 18 minutes
- Level F: 25 minutes

Piano Proficiency Guidelines: Please read the following information to ensure clarity and accuracy for all things regarding piano proficiency requirements;

Keyboard Proficiency Guidelines to marking satisfactory or unsatisfactory:

• Re-starts:

- Students are allowed to start again.
- The judge may ask for the students to repeat a specific portion of the keyboard proficiency. If they still play it incorrectly on the 2nd try, it is unsatisfactory.

• Performing more or less than specified for the level:

- The judge should ask the student to re-play the portion (scale or arpeggio) with the correct number of specified octaves. If they again play with the incorrect number of octaves, it is unsatisfactory.
- The judge should ask the student to re-play the chord progression with the specified Roman numerals. If they again play with too many or too few chords, it is unsatisfactory.



IMTA State Auditions Chair

Dr. Melinda Westphalen
auditions@iamta.org

- **Fingerings:** Accurate fingerings should create a fluent and clean performance.
 - Alternative scale and arpeggio fingerings are allowed, as technique books can present different approaches.
- **Unsatisfactory markings:**
 - The judge should provide a reason why they marked unsatisfactory, e.g., scale fingerings incorrect, played minor instead of major, etc.
 - An unsatisfactory keyboard proficiency does not automatically constitute a II rating. A student with an unsatisfactory keyboard proficiency cannot be named a winner or alternate.

Thank you all, and I wish you the best in all upcoming musical endeavors. Let me know if you have any questions!



State Auditions take place on Saturday, March 14 at the University of Iowa in Cedar Falls.



St. Ambrose University

Music

Guaranteed Fine Arts Scholarship, Piano Camp, All-State and Marching Band Award

B.A. Music and Music Ed (Instrumental, Piano, or Vocal)
Add a Music Minor to any SAU major

Choir Chamber Singers Vocal Jazz Ensemble
Symphonic Band Jazz Ensemble Marching Band Pep Band

2025-26 Scholarship Auditions
by appointment or video submission

To schedule your **Music Scholarship Audition** contact:
music@sau.edu or 563-333-6148





From the Past



IMTA Archivist/Historian

Timothy LaFleur

timothydlafleur@gmail.com

Amateur Sleuths and Researchers Needed

Dr. Thostenson reports that there are certain lacunae in his research of the early history of IMTA. What he does, is to locate newspaper accounts of IMTA meetings, particularly conventions, and zeroes them. Anyone wishing to assist him in obtaining information concerning the following will be doing a great favor:

- 1887 - Convention of May 4 to 6 in Grinnell. The source will probably be The Grinnell Herald or its predecessor. Most likely to be found in the Grinnell Public Library.
- 1902 - Convention of June 23 - 25 in Dubuque (or during the fourth week of June). The Dubuque Public Library should have The Dubuque Telegraph Herald for that date.
- 1903 - Convention of late June in Ottumwa. The Ottumwa Daily Courier ought to be found in the Public Library.
- 1908 - We have no information whatsoever on this convention. The date would probably have been late June.
- 1913 - Convention of late June, in Cedar Falls. Look for the Cedar Falls Gazette in the Public Library.
- 1919 - Convention was presumably May 27 - 29 in Cedar Rapids, but there is no account of it in the Cedar Rapids Gazette of that date. Perhaps the place or date was changed.

Our Centennial Year is approaching in only a couple more years. We would like very much to have as much of this material in hand as possible to present an historical background. Of course, programs, pictures, articles, board meeting minutes, and news items of any kind will help fill out the picture. There must be lots of material out there sleeping in your files and treasure chests!



Scarlatti's Workshop

Continued from Page 5

K. 34. The very attractive *Minuet in Bb*, K. 440 features scales, an extended arpeggio at the final cadence and the Scotch snap rhythm that Haydn was to use later so effectively. This work should be as popular with the young musician as the *Capriccio* which follows it.

In summary, this is an outstanding collection, displaying exemplary care, taste and scholarship in the selection of sonatas and their editing. The essay which prefaces the edition, serves as an excellent digest of the stylistic and interpretive practices of Scarlatti's age and will certainly benefit all students who read it carefully.

* Domenico Scarlatti, Ralph Kirkpatrick, Princeton University Press, 1953, A 394

Iowa's Complete Music Store

- Band Instruments
- Guitars & Banjos
- Mandolins
- Sheet Music
- Method Books
- Accessories
- Music Boxes
- Musical Gifts
- Leslie Cabinets





KAWAI

Thomas

Sohmer

HAMMOND

Warrant
reproducing piano

Kincaid

Universal

Kohler & Campbell

S. SABATHIL & SON LTD.
MAKERS OF FINE TAPPING HORNS



Kawai Grows with you



Whiting's Music
Inc.

Pianos ————— Organs

WE BELIEVE . . . IN MUSIC

Merle Hay Mall Des Moines



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

MORNINGSIDE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

MUSIC DEGREE PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Music Education

Bachelor of Science in Music Management



Up to \$5,000
renewable
performing arts
scholarships

CHORAL MUSIC ENSEMBLES

The Morningside Choir • Cantabile • Camerata

Morningside Symphonic Chorus • Musical & Lyric Theatre Productions

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

The Morningside Symphonic Winds • The Morningside Big Band

The Morningside All-America Band

THEATRE

4 annual mainstage productions • Annual Musical/Lyric Theatre

ATHLETIC ENSEMBLES

The Pride of Morningside Marching Band

Morningside Color Guard • Fever Pep Band



MORNINGSIDE
UNIVERSITY

The Morningside University experience cultivates a passion for **lifelong learning** and a dedication to **ethical leadership** and **civic responsibility**.

Sioux City, Iowa 712-274-5210

COMPOSER PROFILES: MARGARET BONDS

MTNA will be celebrating its 150th anniversary this year in Chicago. While Chicago has been home to countless wonderful composers, artists, and musicians, few can compare to two women who helped celebrate the 1933 World's Fair (A Century of Progress), Florence Price and Margaret Bonds. While much has been shared about Price in the last decade, Bonds has, unfortunately, been too often forgotten.

Margaret Bonds, born in 1913 in Chicago, was the daughter of a physician, activist, and author. As a child, Bonds studied at the Coleridge Taylor School of Music, where she trained and won scholarships to the Chicago Musical College at age 8 (a division of Roosevelt University). As a child, Margaret studied with prominent African-American musicians, including Florence Price. She earned both a BM (1933) and MM (1934) in piano and composition from Northwestern at only the age of 21. Bonds was one of the few black students at Northwestern who were not allowed to live on campus, practice, swim, or use the library. Bonds attended Juilliard, taking composition lessons from Roy Harris, Robert Starer, and Emerson Harper.

After her studies, Bonds worked extensively in New York City, editing music and collaborating with numerous popular musicians, including Glenn Miller. While living in Harlem, she established the Margaret Bonds Chamber Society and Cultural Community Center, both organizations primarily serving black musicians.

Bonds spent much of her life supporting the Civil Rights movement with her music. She was a close friend of Langston Hughes and set many of his poems to art songs. She has an extensive library of choral and orchestral music,

including *The Ballad of the Brown King* (a cantata), *Montgomery Variations* (dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.), and her "Credo," her civil rights manifesto set to poetry by W.E.B. Du Bois.

Despite her success as a pianist, Bonds wrote few works for solo piano. Most of her output is highly influenced by jazz harmonies and form.

Her works include the "Spiritual Suite," a setting of three spirituals in concert fantasies; "Tangamerican," a short, jazzy tango; and "Fugal Dance," a virtuoso jazz/folk-inspired take on a double fugue. However, new Bonds works are regularly being found and published. Keep an eye out for the 2026 list to contain works from a new Bond collection being released this January! Her works are available via Hildegard Press, Theodore Presser, and Classical Vocal Reprints.

Bonds would relocate to Los Angeles, where she served as Music Director at the Los Angeles Inner City Institute. She unexpectedly died shortly before her 59th birthday. I encourage you to look up her piano music - all the works listed here are fantastic. But she also has many, many wonderful art songs and choral/orchestra music. If you would like an easy introduction to her popular style, listen to "Songs of the Seasons," 4 jazzy art songs invoking the feelings of each season. If you're looking for music yourself or for your advanced student, please consider the works of Margaret Bonds, one of Chicago (and America's) greatest composers. If you would like more information, please consider reading "Margaret Bonds," a critical portrait of Bonds released this year by John Michael Cooper.

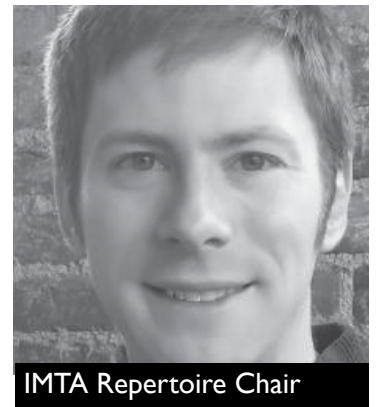


Margaret Bonds

SPIRITUAL SUITE



TROUBLED WATER



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.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

with Diane Smith, NCTM

From North Dakota Farm to National Stage: A Remarkable Journey

Diane Smith, NCTM, has been teaching piano for an extraordinary 64 years and proudly marks 50 years as a member of MTNA. Her musical journey began on a farm near a small town in North Dakota, where she discovered early on that the piano was not just an interest—it was a calling. Her parents, recognizing her passion, drove her 30 miles each way so she could study with an excellent teacher.

Growing up in a small community proved to be a remarkable advantage; with no other pianists around, Diane quickly became the go-to musician. By 8th grade she was already teaching a few students, serving as her church organist, and accompanying choirs and soloists at school. Those early responsibilities sparked a deep motivation to continue pursuing her piano studies. She often reflects that students today rarely receive those kinds of real-world opportunities, especially in larger cities where accompanists are frequently hired. For Diane, those experiences built both skill and confidence at a formative age.

After graduating from Moorhead State University in Minnesota, Diane briefly taught general music in two Michigan elementary schools. Though she enjoyed it, piano was always her first love, and that love has shaped her entire career.

Diane joined MTNA in 1976, and the organization quickly became a vital extension of her professional life. Through meetings, national seminars, and countless conversations with colleagues, she absorbed ideas, refined her teaching, and formed friendships that have lasted decades. Over the years she has been an

MTNA member in three states, serving on state boards in two of them. Since moving to Iowa in 1987, she has been deeply involved in IMTA, holding numerous positions including state president, secretary, foundation chair, conference chair, archivist, and for the past 25 years, MTNA Performance Competition Chair—first for the West Central Division, and later for the state of Iowa. These roles not only strengthened her leadership skills but deepened her appreciation for the power of a supportive professional community.

Diane often says she cannot imagine teaching without MTNA and IMTA. Through seminars, masterclasses, and networking with colleagues, she continues to grow, adapt, and stay inspired. The camaraderie—especially at national conferences where groups of Iowa teachers would travel and room together—made learning genuinely enjoyable. Iowa Music Teachers Association has honored her dedication with the Teacher of the Year Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and recognition as an MTNA Foundation Fellow.

Wherever Diane lived, the church quickly discovered her musical gifts. She has served as accompanist and choir director, planned Christmas programs and Vacation Bible School music, and currently conducts the handbell choir at her present church. For her, music ministry has always been a joyful extension of her teaching life—a way to serve through something she loves deeply.

Diane has also been active in the Iowa Federation of Music Clubs (IFMC) and the National Guild Piano Auditions, holding

offices at local and state levels and serving as a judge for IMTA, IFMC, and the Guild.

Her passion for early childhood music education led her to found the Music and Movement Center in 1989. Fully trained and certified in all levels of Kindermusik and Music Garden, Diane built the Center into the largest early childhood music school in the United States, enrolling over 400 students and employing 10 teachers. She takes great pride in the fact that every child who completed the Young Child program could sing on pitch, keep a steady beat, and develop the listening skills that form the foundation of true musical artistry. After 15 years, she sold the Center to devote more time to private and group piano instruction.

Through every chapter of her career, MTNA and IMTA have remained central influences—sources of education, professional

enrichment, and lifelong friendships. Diane often says she feels profoundly blessed to be part of both organizations.

Now we celebrate not only her remarkable 64 years of teaching, but also her milestone recognition of 50 years as an MTNA member, honored at the MTNA National Conference in Chicago—a fitting tribute to a life dedicated to IMTA, music, education, and community.

Find your voice.

Choose your AND at Waldorf University.



Experience the Warrior Way:

- // Tour our beautiful, close-knit campus*
- // Meet music professors dedicated to YOU and your success*
- // Find your community, where friends become family*
- // Choose a major in music and pursue all your passions*
- // Generous scholarships in music available to ALL majors*



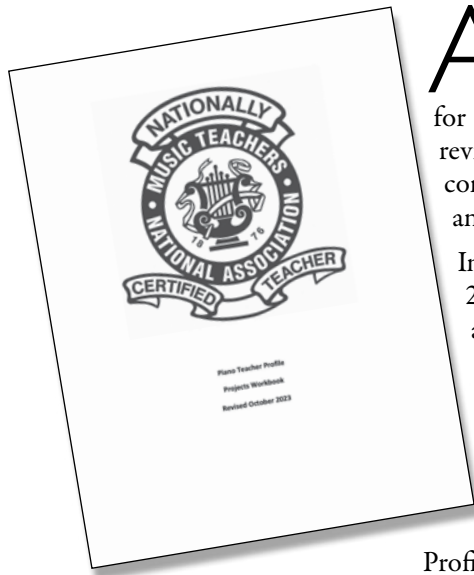
**WALDORF
UNIVERSITY**

106 S. 6th St. Forest City, IA
waldorf.edu/music // 800.292.1903



Schedule your visit today at waldorf.edu/visit

NAVIGATING THE PATH TO MTNA CERTIFICATION



As we enter one of the busiest musical seasons of the year, it is very wise to schedule time for reflection, contemplation, and reviewing all the activities and work you completed in 2025! You deserve to rest and celebrate all of your hard work!

In looking forward to the New Year of 2026, there is a sense of excitement and anticipation of a fresh start, with goals and resolutions coming before us. I could think of no better way to start off the New Year than with setting realistic goals for completing your NCTM Certification through the Teacher

Profile Projects!

In the last edition, I spoke of perhaps a way that may help you look at each of the five projects without feeling overwhelmed, but instead confident. When I completed my certification, I did not first complete the application and pay the fee, as I didn't want the pressure of the one-year deadline clock ticking in my ear.

Instead, what I did first was plan out Project 3. In Project 3, you need to identify a student that is starting a new piece and then work with their family to schedule a timeline of recording 3 phases of the piece: the introduction to the piece; the progress of the piece, perhaps a few weeks/months later; the completion of the piece, perhaps a few weeks/months after that. Between each of the recording sessions, you can complete the written portion while it is still fresh in your mind.

And another suggestion, between each of the recording sessions, you can also fulfill the last portion of Project 3 by recording yourself playing a piece, as well as begin Projects 1, 4, and 5. Ideally, by the time you finish your final recording with your student, you would have four of the five projects done, and then you can

begin to prepare your submission to MTNA.

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

Next quarter, I will share my best practices for completing Projects 1 and 4. In the meantime, may you all have a blessed Advent and Christmastide!



Cate Bryan, NCTM
imtacertification@gmail.com

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!



Music Major Auditions:
February 13-15, 2025

music.iastate.edu
musicinfo@iastate.edu
515-294-3831



IOWA STATE MUSIC

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Bachelor of Music Degree
Keyboard Performance | Keyboard Education

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Minor in Music

Lessons for non-majors

FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Mei-Hsuan Huang (*Piano Performance*)

Dr. Janci Bronson (*Piano Pedagogy*)

Dr. Tin-Shi Tam (*Carillon*)

Dr. Miriam Zach (*Organ and Harpsichord*)

PERFORMANCE AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Solo, Chamber Music, Piano Studio Seminars, General Recitals, Master Classes, Choral and Instrumental Ensembles and Piano Teacher Training

Small studios. Individual attention at a large university. Students pursuing music degrees may audition for talent scholarships.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Music and Theatre



2026 TERRACE HILL PIANO COMPETITION

Junior & Senior Level
Saturday, April 11, 2026

*To be televised by Iowa PBS from Terrace Hill

*February 9, 9:00 am CT
Application form opens

*February 23, 11:59 pm CT
Deadline to submit application form & entry fee

*March 6
Notification of selected students



Application forms and detailed information may be found at:
terracehill.iowa.gov/thema

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Chicago, Illinois
March 21-25, 2026

Use one form per registrant. All sections on this form must be completed to process registration.

INFORMATION

Preferred Name On Badge _____

Name _____ MTNA Member

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City/State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Studio/Institution/Company _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number _____

Check here if this is your first MTNA Conference.

Check here if you are a new member.

FEES

Rates will change after 12:00 MIDNIGHT Eastern Time

Conference Registration

	On or before 12/15/25	After 12/15/25 and on or before 2/5/26	After 2/5/26	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Active MTNA Member	\$445	\$495	\$545	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> MTNA Collegiate Member	\$105	\$120	\$135	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Collegiate Volunteer (must serve as volunteer for 6 hours; deadline 1/30/26--collegiate members only)	\$ 0	\$ 0	Not Available	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonmember (includes registration and 2026-2027 active membership-new members only)	\$645	\$695	\$745	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Collegiate Nonmember (includes registration and 2026-2027 collegiate membership-new members only)	\$145	\$160	\$175	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a Collegiate Member	\$105	\$120	\$135	\$

Single-Day Registration

	Member	Nonmember	Collegiate	Nonmember	Collegiate	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> One-day registration	\$225	\$295	\$60	\$95	\$	\$

Specify day for single-day registration: _____

Pre-Conference Workshop (Workshop fee and minimum single-day conference registration required.)

	Fee	Amount
Pedagogy Saturday (Fee includes attendance at any/all tracks)	Saturday, March 21	\$145 \$
Pedagogy Saturday/Collegiate Member (Fee includes attendance at any/all tracks)	Saturday, March 21	\$ 60 \$

Events (Admission to evening recitals is complimentary.)

	Fee	Quantity	Amount
Conference Gala	Monday, March 23 (ticket required)	\$150	\$
MTNA Awards Brunch	Wednesday, March 25 (ticket required)	\$ 75	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you have specific dietary needs for the events you have purchased.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> Vegan <input type="checkbox"/> Gluten-free <input type="checkbox"/> Seafood/Shellfish allergy <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
Commemorative MTNA Competition Program Book (Includes competitors names and photos)		\$ 20	\$

Total Fees Enclosed* (U.S. Dollars) **\$**

Check (Payable to MTNA in U.S. funds) Master Card Visa American Express

Number _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____ (3-4 digit code on front or back of card)

Billing Information: (if different than above)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Register online at www.mtna.org or mail this entire form with your payment to:
MTNA, Attn: National Conference, 600 Vine St., Ste. 1710, Cincinnati, OH 45202 Phone: (888) 512-5278.

By registering for the MTNA Conference, I agree that I have read, understand and will follow all of the MTNA Conference Policies as outlined at www.mtna.org/conference/conference_policies.aspx.

PIANO SAFARI & THE MUSIC OF CHEE-HWA TAN



Piano Safari co-authors Katherine Fisher and Julie Knerr Hague created a unique method to contain many rote pieces and techniques.

Recently, I have started teaching an increasing number of very young students

and/or students who have trouble with manual dexterity. Whether these problems came from excessive tension, bad posture or hypermobility, these students were becoming frustrated with even the most basic black-key reading found in most beginner method books. That's when I remembered *Piano Safari*. Songs like "Charlie Chipmunk," "Hungry Herbie Hippo," "I Like Bananas," "King of the African Drum" and the "Lion Paw" and "Zechariah Zebra" techniques can all be played with a single finger on one or both hands and they are simple rote patterns.

Co-authors Katherine Fisher and Julie Knerr Hague designed the method to contain many rote pieces and techniques, so students can fully engage with the physical act of playing and listening to the beautiful sounds they create. Having these rote pieces in my own memory gives me the option of quickly pivoting a lesson to something more interesting. My students love to sing along with me and play these cute animal-themed songs. Sometimes their siblings who are

sitting in on lessons join in the fun. To support further learning, *Piano Safari* has a YouTube channel with instructional and reminder videos students can reference throughout the week. Parents just need to know how to access the videos and be available to facilitate and monitor their child's internet access.

You can mix and match the rote pieces with other piano methods or use *Piano Safari* for its reading method as well. I highly recommend picking up a set of *Piano Safari* sight reading cards as well. Each card includes two reading exercises and a rhythm exercise, which is usually the student's favorite part. Drums, tambourines, or just clapping are great ways for students to feel the rhythms with their whole bodies. They soon start to understand that you don't just play the piano with your fingers. You need full body engagement for good technique.

In addition to putting out a great piano method, *Piano Safari* also publishes the work of some excellent composers. For several years, I have had my eye on a few books from Chee-Hwa Tan's poetry collection. These are four volumes which can be purchased as a set or individually from PianoSafari.com: *A Child's Garden of Verses*, *Through the Windowpane*, *The Lamplighter*, and *Windy Nights and Other*



Sarah Reeves



Composer and pianist-educator Chee-Hwa Tan's solo piano music is published by Piano Safari.

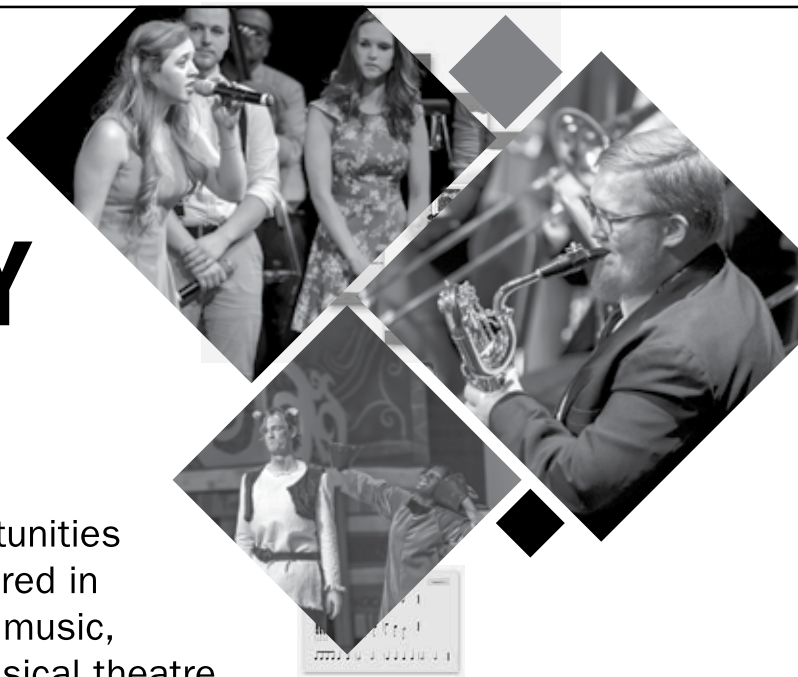
Tales. Each book contains beautiful character pieces based on the poetry of Robert Louis Stevenson. My Mom used to read us favorites from *A Child's Garden of Verses* all throughout my childhood, and I even wrote a song setting for "The Swing" for an elementary music class in college, so these pieces hold a special nostalgia for me.

The first two books I listed are on the IMTA list at A/B level, so they are perfect for young A Level students who have a bit more maturity in their playing and are looking for pieces that are artistically beautiful and give a bit of technical challenge. Conversely, they provide an elegant solution for students whose age requires them to compete at B Level, but who are not ready for some of the more difficult pieces. Every piece is patterned enough for students to learn them at least partially by rote. The composer has also outlined at least two full pages of background information on each piece: Composer Insights, Listening Tips, Learning Tips, Creative Tips, and Characteristics. The publisher also included the text of the poem which inspired the piece along with beautifully sketched illustrations by William Kimber. The cover designs were done by Elisa Lara Campos.

Whether you are looking for a new piano method, or just want to browse through the composers, I highly recommend checking out PianoSafari.com. They have a beautifully curated selection of music and an incredibly fun and effective piano method.

PERFORMING ARTS AT

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Performance opportunities and instruction offered in voice, instrumental music, jazz, opera, and musical theatre. Scholarships available!

Scan for event and ticket information.

Kirkwood
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLANNING FOR 2026

There are so many wonderful opportunities ahead for our students and us in 2026! Early in the year, many local associations will host auditions throughout January and February, offering students multiple opportunities to shine and showcase their progress. Teachers will also be guiding seniors through the busy season of college auditions—an exciting milestone for families and studios alike.

A great chance for professional growth is also right in our neighborhood this year. The 2026 National MTNA Conference, taking place March 21–25 in Chicago, promises to be a highlight. MTNA will be celebrating 150 years of excellence in music teaching, making this conference all the more meaningful. It will be a fantastic opportunity to hear distinguished performers, composers, and presenters, explore new pedagogical ideas, and return to our studios refreshed and inspired.

As we look toward the coming year, let's take advantage of these events to support our students, strengthen our teaching, and celebrate the vibrant musical community we share.

Welcome to our new members!

Sheila Doak, Rock Island, IL
Piano
Active Member

Jessica Hummel, Sioux Center
Piano
Active Member

Sarah Richards, Urbandale
Flute, Piano
Active Member

Alyssa Becker, Urbandale
Voice
Active Member

Elijah Lozano, Willmar, MN
Choral
Collegiate Member

Katelyn Stessman, Des Moines
Saxophone
Active Member



Iowa MTNA Membership Chair

Nora Reiter

imtamembers@gmail.com

Welcome new member, Sarah Richards

Sarah Richards is dedicated to helping her students accomplish hard things and grow in confidence while having a blast! With over 20 years of private flute & piano teaching experience, she is thrilled to pass on her passion to students of all ages in her hometown of Des Moines. Ms. Sarah (as she is known to students) is a certified KinderFlute Teacher and believes music lessons should be fun, with lots of games and activities to engage and teach essential skills.

Sarah has four musical children of her own, and has a unique understanding of the challenges facing students and parents today. She brings that empathy into every lesson and parent relationship. She holds a Flute Performance degree from Iowa State and enjoys playing piano and flute at church and bass flute in the Greater Des Moines Flute Choir.



Sarah Richards

Welcome new member, Jessica Hummel

Jessica Hummel's earliest experience with IMTA dates back to the late 1990s, when she mastered Lady Allyson's Minuet and won IMTA District Level A in her very first year. Each subsequent event brought with it an eager anticipation for new repertoire selections and a drive to rank higher than the familiar names that consistently topped the results year after year.

The competitive aspect proved to be a powerful motivator, keeping her focused in practice, while the diverse repertoire requirements broadened her skills across multiple genres. Today, these are the very elements that most benefit her own students. The handful of students she has preparing for the 2026 Auditions have already shown increased enthusiasm for their lessons and a more disciplined practice ethic. Several parents have also noted that their children are engaging more deeply with their pieces at home, paying closer attention to artistic elements rather than treating assignments as tasks to simply "check off" each week.

When Lois Vander Zee called this fall seeking teachers to help form SAMTA (Siouxland Area Music Teachers Association), Jessica was eager to join. As a teacher, comparing the repertoire lists to her collection of teaching materials highlighted her own tendency to favor certain musical categories—a helpful reminder to continually guide students toward studying a wide variety of music spanning centuries and styles. She has also enjoyed attending webinars and implementing fresh ideas in her studio this fall.

The benefits of student performance opportunities, along with the community of learning and collaboration among teachers both locally and across the nation, are invaluable for independent piano teachers working in an otherwise isolated profession.

Jessica Hummel is a piano teacher, church organist, and accompanist in Sioux Center, Iowa.



Jessica Hummel

MUSIC AT SIMPSON COLLEGE

Collaborate, learn and perform with people who share your passion. Make music at Simpson and share your talents with the world.



▶ **SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!**
Schedule your audition at simpson.edu/MusicAudition

SIMPSON.EDU/MUSIC

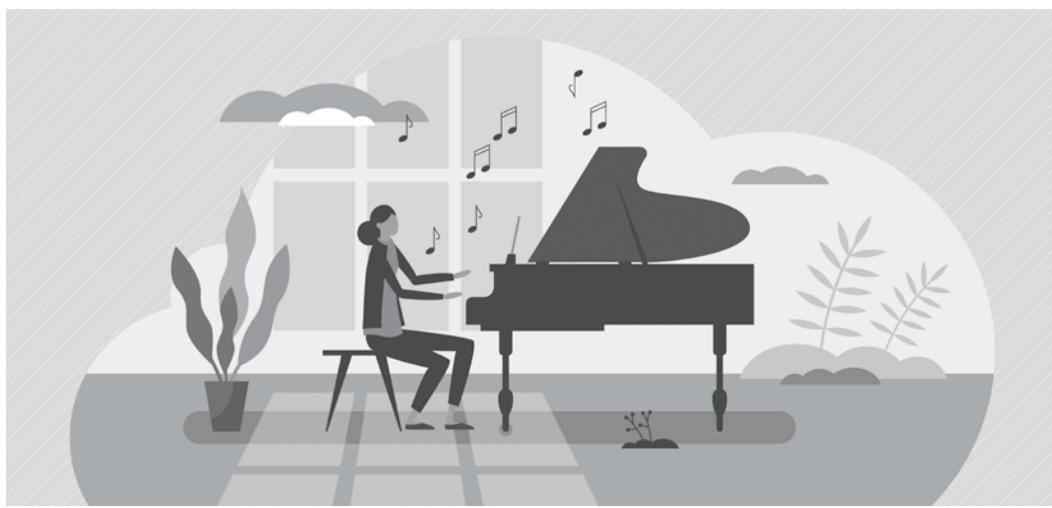
Spotlight on SOUTHERN IOWA MTA

From Bingo to Baroque:

Bachtober Fest Hits All the Right Notes for Young Musicians

Bachtober Fest was an enjoyable event for our Southern Iowa Music Teachers and elementary age students! The students were divided into groups and one group played music theory games like Bingo, musical Twister, and a note-reading spin off of Candy Land while the other group listened to a Baroque lecture. Guest Clinician Heather Gillis gave a wonderful, engaging presentation on the Baroque Period and a short history of Bach. She included musical excerpts and a worksheet for students to fill out as they listened. A highlight for students was a “Who Wore It Best?” vote in which the students decided on the best-looking wig worn by composers and dignitaries of the time. There were smiles and giggles all around and the students came away knowing and appreciating so much more about Bach and Baroque music. A mini bust of J.S. Bach (complete with his infamous wig!) was awarded to each participant at the end of the event.





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

imtascholarship@gmail.com

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

NOW ACCEPTING
VIDEO AUDITIONS!

BOTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE
AUDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

APPLY ONLINE BY FEBRUARY 1

VISIT MUSIC.UNI.EDU/APPLY
OR TEXT "UNI" TO (319) 576-3317
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

KEYBOARD FACULTY:

PROF. SEAN BOTKIN, PIANO
DR. RANDALL HARLOW, ORGAN
PROF. SERENA HOU, PIANO
DR. ANDREA JOHNSON, PIANO PEDAGOGY
DR. VAKHTANG KODANASHVILI, PIANO
DR. MARIKO MORITA, ORGAN
PROF. NATIA SHIOSHVILI, PIANO

FOR DETAILS ON UNI KEYBOARD
EVENTS, EMAIL MUSIC@UNI.EDU



IMTA INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH A VIRTUAL LOCAL ASSOCIATION

Looking for
a new way to
get connected
to a local
association?
Joining an IMTA
Virtual Local
Association may
work for you!



As VP of Local Associations, I am excited to share a new IMTA initiative that we hope to launch in 2026!

Plans are underway to establish an IMTA Virtual Local 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.

Thank you to those of you who have already contacted me about your interest! Please look for an email invitation to attend a Zoom meeting in January.

Benefits of joining:

- Online teacher educational programs!
- Connections with colleagues throughout Iowa as well as IMTA members residing in other states – no geographic barriers!

Who may join:

- Anyone who is a member of IMTA & MTNA!
- Current members of other IMTA local associations – you may join the virtual association while maintaining your current local association membership!

Interested in joining?

Email: Mary Beth Shaffer, IMTA VP of Local Associations, at imtalocal@gmail.com or mbs723@shafferstudio.net

Better together through music!



State Local Association Chair

Mary Beth Shaffer
imtalocal@gmail.com

DMMTA NAMED 2026 MTNA LOCAL ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR

The Des Moines Music Teachers Association (DMMTA) has earned one of the highest distinctions in the music teaching profession: the 2026 Local Association of the Year Award from the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

The honor was officially announced in a letter dated November 18, 2025, from MTNA Chief Executive Officer Brian Shepard to Mary Beth Shaffer, DMMTA President. The letter conveyed the Board of Directors' selection, which recognizes DMMTA's significant accomplishments and important work for its local members, the Iowa Music Teachers Association (IMTA), MTNA, and the music teaching profession at large.

The award celebrates the exceptional dedication of the DMMTA to fostering a vibrant musical community and advancing professional standards among music educators.



The award will be presented by MTNA President Kevin Chance at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association at the MTNA National Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2026, between 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

in Chicago Ballroom E at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.

Music
IS FOR EVERYONE

LUTHER COLLEGE

LUTHER.EDU/MUSIC
Generous, renewable scholarships and an abundance of performance opportunities, regardless of major.

Instagram icon | X icon
Music at Luther

Facebook icon | YouTube icon
Luther College Music



IOWA

School of Music

COMPOSE YOUR FUTURE *here!*

World-class faculty.

State-of-the-art facilities you truly have to see (and hear) to believe.

Generous assistantships for MA and DMA candidates.

Abundant performance opportunities each year, including hundreds of concerts and recitals, two fully-produced operas, and limitless opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, both on campus and in the community.

... All within an affordable public university, nestled in the heart of one of the best college towns in America.

NEW IN 2026:

Graduate degree program
in Collaborative Piano

Learn more at
music.uiowa.edu

FINANCES FOR LOCAL MTNA ASSOCIATIONS

By Ryan Greene,
MTNA Director of Membership Development

This article addresses common questions received by the national office of MTNA. It is not considered tax or financial advice. MTNA always recommends consulting a tax professional in your area to provide the best answers for your MTNA affiliate organization.

An Affiliate Relationship

Each State and Local organization in MTNA has an affiliate relationship with the national association. This differs from a subsidiary relationship where all branches of an association share the same tax ID, governance, and finances. Each affiliated MTNA State and Local organization is its own entity, and therefore may not use the EIN or tax status of their State or the National organization for their own activities.

Employer Identification Numbers (EINs)

An EIN serves as a tax ID (like a Social Security number) for a business or organization. It is a best practice to obtain an EIN for MTNA affiliate organizations, although it may not always be necessary. Many third-party websites provide services to obtain an EIN, but the IRS website provides a free form, available here: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/get-an-employer-identification-number>

When applying for an EIN, you must specify the type of entity your organization is. Consult a tax professional to learn about each option here. If an organization has filed articles of incorporation with its State's secretary of state, it will likely select "C corporation." If an organization intends to obtain 501(c)(3) status, select the "other" box and type in 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. This is not set in stone; for example, an organization may establish itself as a C corporation and decide to obtain 501(c)(3) status at a later date.

501(c)(3)

Many MTNA affiliate organizations operate successfully without 501(c)(3) status. In fact, only about 1 in 3 of MTNA's State and Local affiliates hold 501(c)(3) status. The most common reason to have 501(c)(3) status is to collect tax-deductible donations for an association-managed scholarship fund.

MTNA maintains a group exemption program that can easily provide 501(c)(3) status to any state or local affiliate. The group exemption program saves affiliates considerable time and money compared to applying independently through the IRS.

The following is very important: All 501(c)(3) organizations are required to file an annual 990-N, 990-EZ, or 990 return. It is usually not too complicated, but it is crucial that organizations stay on top of filing it every year. If the return is missed 3 years in a row, the organization's tax status is revoked automatically by the IRS.

Because there is a risk of losing the status for not filing the 990, MTNA advises affiliates not to pursue 501(c)(3) status just for the sake of having it. A Local affiliate may join the group exemption program and obtain 501(c)(3) status at any point in the future should a need arise.

Organization Checking Accounts

Affiliate MTNA organizations should have their own checking account. The account should be separate from leaders' personal accounts, and the account should not be used for anything except association business.

When setting up a checking account, while it may be permissible to set it up using a leader's Social Security number instead of an EIN, MTNA recommends that the account be set up with an EIN whenever possible. An EIN has the advantage of making officer transitions easier since the account will not be tied to an individual's Social Security number and keeps personal financial assets separate from association funds.

If you are a State or Local leader and have questions about your Local association, please contact me anytime at rgreene@mtna.org or (513) 421-1420, ext. 243.

Ryan Greene is Director of Membership Development for MTNA. He teaches piano at the Music Academy of Centerville. Greene holds degrees in piano performance and pedagogy from Southern Methodist University and Butler University.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCY CREE, 2026 IOWA FOUNDATION FELLOW

I M T A members and supporters have much to celebrate! Thanks to the generosity of our community, the fundraising goal of \$1,500 has been fully met, ensuring that Nancy Cree will be honored



Nancy Cree, 2026 Iowa Foundation Fellow

as the 2026 Iowa Foundation Fellow at the MTNA National Conference in Chicago, March 21–25, 2026.

Please join us in congratulating **Nancy Cree**, a longtime IMTA member whose extraordinary dedication to music education has left a lasting imprint on students, teachers, and our organization for more than five decades.

For over 50 years, Nancy Cree has shared the joy of piano study with countless students across Iowa. Her service to IMTA has been equally

remarkable. She has served as festival and audition chair, consistently supported IMTA events by entering students, and generously volunteered her time in numerous leadership and support roles.

Nancy has also made a significant contribution to music education through her partnership with West Music, helping to establish the Nancy Cree Keyboard Learning Centers. These five studios, located in Iowa City, Coralville, and Marion, provide keyboard instruction that blends time-honored teaching traditions with modern technology. Her pedagogical approach honors the knowledge of the past while embracing innovation, creativity, and forward-thinking educational practices.

Being named an Iowa Foundation Fellow is a meaningful recognition of Nancy's lifelong commitment to teaching, mentorship, and service. IMTA members who attend the MTNA National Conference are encouraged to celebrate this achievement when Nancy receives her award at the Foundation Gala during this historic year, as MTNA marks its 150th anniversary.



IMTA State Foundation Chair

Sarah Reeves

imtafoundation@gmail.com

Looking Ahead: 2027 Iowa Foundation Fellow

With the 2026 goal successfully achieved, IMTA now turns its attention to supporting the 2027 Iowa Foundation Fellow, who will be announced at the IMTA Conference in Iowa City, June 7–9.

Members who wish to contribute toward the 2027 Fellow may do so in the following ways:

1. Coordinate with your local association to make a joint donation, either by check or online.
2. Send a personal check payable to IMTA, with "Foundation Fellow: 2027" noted in the memo line, to:

Carlene Albrechtsen, IMTA Treasurer
1114 N 5th St
Clinton, IA 52732

3. Donate online at:

www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now

After entering your personal information, check "Foundation Fellow" under "Please use my gift for," and enter "Iowa Foundation Fellow 2027" in the Fellow name field.

Thank you to all who contributed to honoring Nancy Cree and to those who will continue supporting excellence in music teaching through the MTNA Foundation. Together, we ensure that Iowa's legacy of outstanding music educators continues for generations to come.



STEINWAY & SONS

REBUILT PRE-OWNED
COMPLETE STEINWAY RESTORATION

SERVICES AT YOUR HOME OR INSTITUTION

- RESTRINGING
- TUNING & VOICING
- REGULATION
- PARTS INSTALLATION

Showroom, recital hall & piano storage

Tour our restoration facility in Walker, IA



MUSIC LODGE OPENING FEBRUARY 2026

Host a music retreat.
Country acreage.
8 BR accommodating up to 18.
Steinway grand & upright pianos.



PREMIER

PIANO GALLERY

Factory: (319) 448-4113
Tom Zasadny: (319) 541-4896

info@premierpianoservice.com
www.premierpianogallery.com

Monday - Friday
9:00am - 5:00pm

Evenings & Saturday's
By Appointment

Iowa Music Teachers Association
1114 N 5th St.
Clinton, IA 52732



150 YEARS

**NATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

The graphic for the 150th anniversary features the number '150' in large, bold, orange and yellow letters. The '0' is particularly large and contains a stylized city skyline. To the left of the '150' is a Ferris wheel. The word 'YEARS' is in smaller, orange, sans-serif letters to the right of the '150'. Below this graphic, the words 'NATIONAL CONFERENCE' are written in large, white, bold, sans-serif letters.

Registration is now
open for all!

Visit mtna.org for
registration & more!

Join us for the next MTNA National Conference in
Chicago, March 21–25, 2026—a landmark occasion as
we celebrate 150 years of excellence in music teaching!

**YOU BELONG
AT MTNA**
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS • MARCH 21–25, 2026