

WMTA Newsletter

Printable Version - May 2019

The full color version of the newsletter is available to view on the WMTA website at wisconsinmusicteachers.com. Additional details about the organization, upcoming events, and leadership contact information have been removed from the original document and can also be referenced on the website.

Calendar of Events

- May 2019
Badger Keyboard
- June 7, 2019
Executive Board Meeting and Administrative Council in Waunakee, WI
- September 1, 2019
WMTA State Conference Exhibitor Registration Deadline
- September 25, 2019
WMTA State Conference Attendee Registration Deadline
- October 18-19, 2019
WMTA State Conference in Eau Claire, WI

Letter from the President

Dear WMTA Members,

I hope you all are having a wonderful spring. One of the highlights of my spring was attending the MTNA conference in Spokane Washington. It was great to get to hear wonderful presentations, especially by our Wisconsin members, hear finalists in the competitions, learn of what is going on throughout MTNA, and spend time with fellow studio teachers from around the country. I know that it still eleven months away but I would love for each of you to join me at the 2020 MTNA conference for the following reasons:

- 1) It is in Chicago. This is CLOSE! You can take car, train, public transit, or plane to attend this one from Wisconsin.
- 2) Hear Anton Nel and the 2020 U.S. Chopin winner in recital.
- 3) Learn from innovative teachers from around the country. I always come back with ideas for every student.
- 4) Spend time with your fellow members from Wisconsin. Conference is a great time to get to know people better and as a state we will have dinner at least once together.

Start planning now to attend. I am aware that costs can be prohibitive, but now is the time to find roommates, create a carpool, and start saving. I know that you will not regret the investment you are making to attend.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fritz, WMTA President

District Auditions

Thank you to ALL the WMTA teachers and their students that participated in the District Auditions this season. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Emily Schultz for maintaining the repertoire database. I'd also like to give my heartfelt thanks to all the District Chairs who have spent numerous hours to ensure that all ran as smooth as possible in every district. We had a number of new DC's this year and am excited to welcome more new DC's over the next few years. They really do want what is best for our students and their teachers. If you are interested in serving as a DC in your area, please let your current DC or myself know!

Information for the 2020 auditions (dates, deadlines and locations) will be gathered over the summer and will be posted on the WMTA website in the fall. My goal is to have all dates secured by October 1st.

Please be sure to submit your WMTA dues when you receive your renewal notice this spring. This will ensure a smooth transition to next year's audition season. Renewals must be recorded by WMTA no later than October 15 in order to enter students in the 2020 auditions. So, please pay early.

As you look ahead to the 2020 auditions, please remember that teachers who enter students in the WMTA auditions are required to work as a volunteer the entire day at the auditions. Just put your audition date in your calendar and enjoy the day serving our students!

Best wishes to all teachers and their students that will be participating in the upcoming Badger Competitions that will be held across the state in May!

I hope to see everyone at the WMTA Conference in Eau Claire (my hometown) this fall! I'd love to meet many of you!

Sandra Statz, NCTM, WMTA District Auditions Chair
Sandra@statzmusic.com

2019 State Conference

We have been working on the conference line-up and I am excited to have what looks like a very exciting conference which will hopefully encourage and inspire lots of discussion. Also, if you or somebody you know is interested in exhibiting during the Conference this year, you can reference further information and the registration form online or on pages 14-15 of this newsletter.

I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

Session Lineup

- Carolyn True—Featured Artist
- Tricia Marton—The 80% and Above Club: Demystifying Music Theory for Students
- Jessica Johnson—Artistic Pedaling Techniques for the Developing Pianist
- Dr. Ivan Konev—Stanislavsky Method and Concert Preparation

- Lisa Bastien—The Bastien Family: A Tribute to Jane and Jim Bastien
- Janet Tschida—Pedagogy 3-Ps: Prepare Present Practice
- Janet Tschida—Rhythmic Revolution
- Justin Krueger—Smartphones, Tablets, and Chocolate Cake
- William Whipple—Multi-dimensional Teaching: Are you "Prepared to change your "Vision" about student learning?
- Adam Shelton—Creating Safe Spaces in our Teaching Studios
- Vanessa Cornett-Murtada—Nailing Jell-O to a Tree: Centering the Distracted Musician
- Sandra Statz—Making Sense of District Auditions

Kayme Henkel, NCTM

Vice President - Conferences

Badger Vocal/Instrumental

The Badger Vocal/Instrumental State is right around the corner. We have the following registrations: 21 Vocal student, 15 String students, 3 Woodwinds and a Brass registration. Our adjudicators are Amy Hartsough (Vocal), Rena Blazek (String), Woodwind/Brass (Gabriela Ruiz). We're looking forward to the big day!

Dates:

UW-Whitewater May 11th. Performances will be in the Greenhill Center of the Arts, 950 W. Main St., Whitewater, WI 53190. Directions: <http://www.uww.edu/campus-info/map-and-directions>

Opala Bilhorn

opalas.music.studio@gmail.com / 262-745-1063

Commissioned Composer

Madison-based composer Nolan Veldey will be the WMTA Commissioned Composer for 2019. His new piece for solo piano will be premiered by Michael Mizrahi at the annual conference in Eau Claire in October. Nolan Veldey received his B.Mus. in theory and composition from Lawrence University in 2013, and his M.M. in composition from the University of Maryland. His composition teachers have included Mark Wilson, Joanne Metcalf, Asha Srinivasan, and Giovanni Verrando. He frequently composes for piano, and often incorporates elements of improvisation in his music.

Nolan's music has been described as having "exceptional artistry, imagination and skill," and "consistently connecting with audiences." His recent projects have included a song cycle using text from Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*, a commission for the Levels Quintet, and a string quartet, which was read by the JACK Quartet in February, 2017.

2018 commissioned composer Yvonne Wu will have her WMTA-commissioned piece *Threaded*

Spaces featured at the Festival of New American Music in Sacramento, California in November 2019.

Michael Mizrahi

IMTF Article

IMTF is looking for one more submission for 2019. Please contact Mickey Lytle at musicbymickey@gmail.com if you would like to submit an article or have a recommendation. Thank you!

Using Portable Video Recorders with Built-in Professional-quality Microphones to Boost Artistry in Your Studio

As musicians, it is hard to deny that we need another set of eyes and ears to prepare for performances. Whether you are recording a video for your students or conducting Skype lessons, it is beneficial to have proper recording equipment. With booming web platforms such as YouTube, it has now become easy to upload and share video files with students and their parents. With a little bit of effort to get to know what is available, we can stay up to date and connect more easily with the younger generation.

However, choosing the best device for the studio is not an easy task, with so many devices on the market with different features. To simplify matters, I will introduce several professional portable video recording devices on the market with built-in studio-quality microphones that are easy to use. These video recorders are affordable and do not require a computer mixing program. Having some knowledge of basic recording principles that create a professional video will save us the expense of hiring a recording engineer. These recorders are, by the way, different from camcorders that do not have professional microphones attached.

Advantages of using portable video recording devices:

Some people might prefer using their smartphones and attach extra microphones. However, when you use your computer for playback, you will realize the screen does not fit in the computer or TV monitor. It will still have the phone screen-shape making it appear as if you are looking at a phone screen. On top of that, portable recorders have quite a few advantages over smartphones, including higher quality built-in microphones and longer battery life with exchangeable SD cards to expand capacity on demand.

The Manufacturers “Sony” and “Olympus” used to make video recorders with high-quality microphones, but several years ago they discontinued making those cameras. On the other hand, the audio recorder company Zoom started incorporating cameras into their audio recorders about ten years ago, and now they are dominating this market.

Zoom Q2n. Price \$150

Zoom Q4n. Price \$250

Zoom Q8. Price \$350

They have a 130°-160° wide-angle lens, which means that, given a particular camera position, the recorded scene looks further away than it otherwise would. For recording piano performances, which do not need a wide angle, the camera needs to be as close as 3 to 6 feet away or it will not capture the finger movements or delicate nuance of the sound. Q2n requires two AA Batteries and the other two devices have re-chargable batteries. Running time is about 1-2 hours, but with the power jack hooked to a usb port in a computer or a portable external battery, it can run longer.

As the model number goes up the quality of video and audio improves significantly. Many of my students who tried Zoom Q8 were impressed by its ease of use and the sound quality of recordings. However, the video image does not seem as vivid. Personally, the exceedingly good sound quality and the ease of use outweighs its diminished video quality, especially if you consider how complicated it is to set up separate microphones and do the mixing work afterwards with a computer program.

General tips for using portable video recorders (The most frequently asked questions):

Set the audio recording levels correctly. All high-quality audio recorders have settings for the recording (microphone input) level. In order to get the best quality from each device, it is important to set this level correctly. If it is set a bit too low, then the microphone will not be able to pick up ambient resonance. On the other hand, if the recording level is too high then digital distortion noise will occur due to the increased sensitivity of the microphone when exposed to high sound pressure. You might have seen a recording engineer ask a performer to play the loudest part during a sound check. This is to check the input signal peak which needs to be between -12db and -6db. This is where the microphone remains sensitive enough to capture ambient color but digital distortion noise is avoided.

Find the right place to put the video camera. Most video recorders with professional quality microphones do not offer the best video recording quality. If one attempts to use the “Zoom-in” feature found on these cameras, the video quality deteriorates. Therefore, it is best to put the camera close to the instrument, which also helps the attached microphone pick up the sound in greater detail, with less noise.

Using imovie to combine files into complete performances. All video recording devices automatically record videos in short segments. Many people think that there is something wrong with their devices when they see multiple clips, since they would naturally expect to see one complete file. This is because the devices have a default file system called FAT32 which automatically divides files after they reach a size of 4 GB. (A file system provides a way of organizing a drive, specifying how data is stored there.) This can be fixed, either by using your computer to format the SD memory card with a file system called exFAT or by combining the files using imovie or an equivalent program.

These devices provide a webcam mode so livestreaming and skype lessons are possible. Remember that these are all portable and easy to carry in your bag. Music teachers who know how to utilize this recent technology will be able to provide an opportunity for students to see and hear themselves play with greater clarity through professional quality video and audio.

Kangwoo Jin completed his Bachelor of Music degree at Hanyang University in South Korea, and his Master's of Music degree and Performer's Diploma at Indiana University, where he worked as an associate instructor of piano. He is currently a DMA candidate in piano performance and pedagogy at UW-Madison, studying with Christopher Taylor and Jessica Johnson. While at UW-Madison, Jin was awarded the prestigious Collins fellowship and has won prizes in the concerto competition, Beethoven competition, and Shain Woodwind Duo competition. He serves on the piano faculty at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and UW-Madison Division of Continuing Studies.

WMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Teleconference

February 8, 2019 10:00am–12:00pm

Present: Rachel Fritz, Nicholas Phillips, Kayme Henkel, Drea Wagner, Sydney Alexander, Sandra Statz, Mickey Lytle, Mary Anne Olvera, and Katie Butler.

Call to Order/Welcome: 10:02 AM

Adoption of Agenda Approval by Consensus.

Approval of Minutes Approval by Consensus.

Reports of Officers

President, Rachel Fritz – Fritz will be working through certification with Laurie Asch this summer as part of an invitation she extended to all WMTA members. The position of Arts Advocacy vacated by Drew Donica has been filled by Teresa Drews. Forums at the National level have been changed to an all-digital format. This format allows for participation by those that are unable to attend conferences. Thank you to Nick Phillips for all of his assistance through the transition.

Immediate Past President, Nicholas Phillips, NCTM – No Report.

1st VP-Conference, Kayme Henkel, NCTM – The new Exhibitor form and policy information has been created and will be posted online. Exhibitors will pay \$50 for one exhibit table and \$20 for an additional table. Carolyn True from Trinity University has agreed to be the guest artist. She is a versatile speaker and teacher who is willing to help where needed. Henkel has already received proposal submissions and anybody with additional ideas for presenters or presentations should contact her. The board also discussed current Conference fees, but tabled the discussion until later in the meeting.

2nd VP-Membership, Drea Wagner, NCTM – As of December 31, 2018, WMTA membership stands at 465. This is a 22% increase in the number of members compared to the same time last year, due in part to the addition of the Madison local association and the new collegiate chapter at Maranatha Baptist University. A 22% increase in membership is the 2nd highest increase among all the state affiliates. With the new year, 6-month trial membership is available, and MTNA is asking teachers to reach out to their associates and encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity. Thank you to Arlyss Troge for her very thorough job as VP-Membership in the past.

Treasurer, Sydney Alexander – Income from membership dues and conference fees is \$21,655.45 and expenses from conference, grants, and auditions is \$33,573.61. The current balance is - \$11,918.16. The Checking account has \$8,974.81, the money market account has \$10,235.11 and the CD has \$137,325.17. 1099's were sent out to everybody.

Reports of Program Chairs

Arts Awareness and Advocacy, Teresa Drews – Not Present. No report.

Badger Keyboard Competition, Drew Donica – Not Present. Donica is working on securing and confirming judges. Trophies were cheaper this year. Information about site dates, locations, audition process, and volunteering were published in the February newsletter and updated on the website

Badger Vocal/Instrumental Competition – Opala Bilhorn – Badger V/I 2019 will be held at UW-Whitewater on Saturday, May 11. All of the information has been updated and is available to review on the website.

College Faculty Representative, Jessica Johnson, NCTM – Not Present. If anyone has ideas for collegiate or wellness conference sessions in either category please let Johnson know.

District Auditions, Sandra Statz, NCTM – All the information has been updated on the website. In correction to a previous listing, March 30th is the audition date for River Falls.

Independent Music Teachers Forum, Mickey Lytle, NCTM – We received very positive feedback from the 2018 IMTF newsletter articles and are now in search of others who would like to submit articles for future newsletters. Please contact Lytle at musicbymickey@gmail.com with ideas.

Local Associations, Mary Ann Olvera, NCTM – Local Association presidents met at the 2018 state Conference and had a very productive meeting. Primary discourse revolved around positive membership growth, retention, engagement of existing members, recruiting, and creating a positive presence in the community.

Standing/Special Committees

Finance Committee, Sydney Alexander – No report.

Old Business

Media Chair, Action needed, Nicholas Phillips, NCTM – The board continued its discussion on combining the Archivist and Technology Chair positions into one. The bylaws still need to be adjusted to put this change officially in place. Change of bylaws will need to be placed in the August newsletter to be voted on during the October Conference. Phillips will be working on a draft for future review.

Financial Guide Update, Catherine Walby, NCTM – An update will be coming for review during the summer board meetings.

Milwaukee Historical Society, Rachel Fritz – Fritz hasn't been able to get a hold of anybody within this organization so it has been determined to discontinue using their service.

Cash Awards/WMTA Composition Competition, Nicholas Phillips, NCTM – The board asked teachers whose students regularly participate in this completion about the cash reward and about what motivates their students to participate. Some limited information from members

on the call indicates students are motivated by the cash award as an exciting perk, but they would probably still participate. Some students also played their composition for Conference and thought it was an honor. The local area has provided limited grants so the travel isn't a burden. The finance committee hasn't met yet to report on this so the issue so it will be discussed again in June.

Conference Mailing Preferences, Katie Butler – Further discussion was made as a follow-up from the October meeting regarding how to communicate with members about Conference. Many ideas were shared for consideration. Phillips motioned to include an order form in the August newsletter for those who don't have email and only send a postcard to the membership instead of a tri-fold mailer with printed order form. Seconded by Henkel. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Conference Fees, Kayme Henkel, NCTM – 2015 was the last time the Conference fee was increased. The board discussed whether or not this is needs to be raised. This will likely need to happen in the future due to constantly increasing Conference costs, but to encourage participation in Eau Claire, it was determined this may not be the best year to raise rates.

2020 Foundation Fellow, Rachel Fritz – The fee this year is \$1500 and the foundation has already raised money towards that number. The upcoming Conference will be in Chicago so it would be a great time to send a nominee. The board discussed current nominations.

State Piano Competition, Rachel Fritz, Sandra Statz, Drew Donica – Badger V/I is currently held at one site, but the piano Badger competition is at three different sites. The idea of a true state Piano Competition was discussed. The board members considered options with a state-wide joint competition or a smaller competition with the top students from the three different sites. Often the 11th and 12th grade students are combined at one site which could complicate that idea. The board members will take some time to think about this idea for further discussion at the June meeting.

MTNA State/Local/Teachers of the Year, Rachel Fritz – Around the middle of July MTNA puts out a call for MTNA State Affiliate of the Year. Fritz has created application forms for these awards. The board discussed if we want to nominate a state affiliate each year? MTNA regularly changes how they process awards. It was determined to submit ourselves for the state or submit a LA when we have a specific reason to do so during that year.

Announcements The summer Executive Board Meeting will be Friday, June 7th, 2019 at 9:30am at the Wisconsin Music Educator Association in Waunakee WI, with lunch meetings at noon followed by the Administrative council meeting from 1:30 to 3:30. The deadline for reports will be June 1st.

Adjournment 11:18am.