

WMTA Newsletter

Printable Version - December 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

· April 20, 2020

Badger Keyboard and Badger V/I Deadlines

· May 2020

Badger Keyboard and Badger V/I Dates

· October 23-24, 2020

Annual State

Conference

Letter from the President

Dear WMTA Members,

Happy December to all of you. As we end our year I want to share with you some of our Wisconsin Music Teachers Association stats from this last year.

Members: 485

Increase in membership: 3.5%

Certified members: 68

New members: 51

Student members: 60

Teachers participating in auditions: 238

Students participating in auditions and competitions: 2,257

Conference attendees: 97

Number of local associations: 14

District location sites: 14

Badger audition sites: 3

Thank you for the wonderful year. It is truly my joy to get to serve you. We have a wonderful year ahead of us. Things that I am looking forward to are: the MTNA conference in our neighboring state of Illinois, state conference in Pewaukee, district auditions and the ongoing work that I am doing on NCTM certification (If you want to join me on this journey you are still able to!)

Sincerely,

Rachel Fritz, WMTA President

Membership Report

These first few months of the position have been both busy and energizing. From attending the WMTA State Conference in Eau Claire, to connecting with members who may have needed a nudge to renew and hearing some really neat stories of teaching, and from working on the member database to be shared with district chairs, to presenting for the GMC Chapter, it has truly been such fun connecting with so many of you as colleagues!

We have so many neat opportunities throughout the state as well as such wonderful colleagues to share in those opportunities with! Our state membership continues to thrive, as noted at the recent business meeting at the state conference. This is thanks to each of you for your dedication to our profession!

I would encourage you in these weeks as we approach the holiday season and the start of a new year to think of your own membership story. How has being active in WMTA helped you as a musician, as a teacher, as a person? Share your story with your colleagues. Ask them about their membership story as well. Then, if you have the courage, share that story with someone who isn't a member. Perhaps you know of a teacher who doesn't yet have a connection to MTNA. Tell them about your own experience. Be sincere! Be sincere!

As we embark upon the year 2020, I would ask you to share your stories with me also. I hope to feature your membership stories over the course of 2020 to show a clear vision (20/20) for engaging those who have yet to join as well as celebrating our accomplishments.

Wishing each one of you a great holiday season and a fantastic start to 2020 as we Dream Big for ourselves, our students, our communities, and our organization.

Musically,
Justin Krueger DMA, NCTM

Badger Keyboard

As your new Badger Keyboard Chair, I am proud and excited to serve WMTA in this capacity. My leadership experience includes five years serving as president of St. Croix Valley Music Teachers Association, a position I currently hold and will retain, and two years serving as WMTA Local Association Chair. I will be vacating this position. I have multiple years of experience serving as Badger NW Site Chair, and I very much look forward to working with all of you in sites around the state.

Here is the critical Badger Keyboard 2020 Information:

SITES and DATES:

NORTHEAST: Saturday May 16, 2020, UW-Stevens Point
Duets and Adults will also be at this site

NORTHWEST: Saturday May 16, 2020, UW-Eau Claire

SOUTH: Sunday, May 17, 2020, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music

DEADLINE:

April 20, 2020 for online entry

April 20, 2020 postmark deadline for all fees

Mail your check for entries to **Mary Anne Olvera at 664 Louise Lane, Hudson, WI 54016**

Updates for Badger Keyboard will be posted on the WMTA website as they become available.

CONTACT:

Any questions, please contact Mary Anne Olvera at maolvera@baldwin-telecom.net

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM

Badger Vocal/Instrumental

Please mark your calendars for the 2020 Badger Vocal/Instrumental Competition on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at UW-Steven's Point. We need you to get the word out about this great opportunity for qualifying vocal, string, woodwind, brass (etc.) students! Share these dates with your students and their parents so they can mark their calendars as well. Also, share with other teachers of vocal, string, woodwind, brass (etc.) instruments about this opportunity to have their students start planning on participating in the 2020 Auditions and being able to take advantage of the Badger State experience.

Details:

Badger Vocal/Instrumental State 2020 Dates: May 16, 2020

Location:

UW-Steven's Point

Performances will be in the Noel Fine Art Center (1800 Portage St./Stevens Point, WI)

Deadlines:

April 20, 2020 computer system deadline

April 20, 2020 postmark deadline for mailing in checks

Application Process:

1. Have students participate in District Auditions to qualify for the Badger Competition.
2. Complete the registration for Badger in the online system OVATION by April 20th. Please make sure to check you have chosen the correct performance site.
3. Mail your check for entries (\$25 for each student or each duet team) to **Opala Bilhorn at 508 Campus St./Ste 3/Milton, WI. 53563**. Postmark deadline is April 20th. Make sure to include your summary form printed out from Ovation.

Volunteering:

All teachers submitting students are expected to volunteer. Your job assignment will be emailed to you by May 4th.

Any questions please contact Opala Bilhorn at: opalas.music.studio@gmail.com/262-745-1063

Respectfully submitted, Opala Bilhorn, NCTM

2019 Young Composer Competition Winners

WMTA is pleased to announce the award winners in the 2019 WMTA Young Composers Competition. Winners will be invited to perform their compositions at the annual conference in October.

22 students participated in this event this year, from the music studios of Drea Wagner, Sam Ecoff, Tom Yang, Emily Schultz, Anna Reiser, and Jeffrey Miller. Congratulations to these talented composers and many thanks to their dedicated teachers. The judge for the YCC event this year was Joshua Backes, MM, Lecturer in Theory & Composition at UW Milwaukee.

Peggy Otwell, Coordinator, WMTA Composer Competitions 2019

ELEMENTARY DIVISION

Winner: *Rise of the Ocean Tempest* **Composer:** Gwen Wichman, Sheboygen, WI
Teacher: Drea Wagner, Michibago District

Runner Up: *The Epic, Insane, Chaotic Battle!* **Composer:** Jacob Yates, Altoona, WI
Teacher: Jeffrey Miller, Eau Claire District

HM: *The Circus* Composer: Brianna Yang, Hartland, WI
Teacher: Sam Ecoff, Milwaukee/Waukesha District

JUNIOR DIVISION

Co-Winner: *Waves in Moonlight* Composer: Nathan Zuge, Stevens Point, WI
Teacher: Tom Yang

Co-Winner: *Disoriented* Composer: Aiden Gorr, Hartland, WI
Teacher: Sam Ecoff, Milwaukee/Waukesha District

Runner Up: *Cowboy into the West* Composer: Kieran Cook, Hartland, WI
Teacher: Sam Ecoff, Milwaukee/Waukesha District

HM: *Minuet* Composer: Helina Menzel, Hartland, WI
Teacher: Sam Ecoff, Milwaukee/Waukesha District

SENIOR DIVISION

Winner: *Contemplations* Composer: Siddharth Nadkarni, Hartland, WI
Teacher: Sam Ecoff, Milwaukee/Waukesha District

Runner Up: *Sunrise* Composer: Hope Horne, Hartland, WI
Teacher: Sam Ecoff, Milwaukee/Waukesha District

HM: *Crosswinds* Composer: Tim Wang, Hartland, WI
Teacher: Sam Ecoff, Milwaukee/Waukesha District

District Auditions

Conference was amazing and I wish to thank all who attended my session "Making Sense out of District Auditions". We are now gearing up for an incredible 2020 Audition season and we are so glad you are a part of this! Here are some points of interest as you prepare your students for the upcoming auditions:

First and foremost: The District Auditions pages of the WMTA website have been totally updated to make them more user friendly! A BIG thank you to Dr. Nick Phillips for all his work on this! There is also a printable PDF (but you'll find the website links super helpful). You will notice main links on the lower right side of each page so that you can easily navigate to the answers you need. The website is now mobile friendly, thanks to Katie, our Administrative Specialist! Thank YOU!

For all your questions, please reach out to your local District Chairs. They are prepared to help you succeed in the upcoming auditions. As for the 2019 audition season, we no longer have requirements to use certain "historical periods" across the board. Students auditioning to compete at State (Badger) must choose one piece from the Baroque/Classical list of composers. Please refer to the WMTA website for specific rules.

I wish to address a couple of questions regarding choosing music for auditions. While Ovation (the WMTA computer program for entering students) will allow teachers to enter pieces that go over the time limit for their Grade/Track, please review and know that there are time limits listed on the "Specific Rules" pages for each instrument/grade/track. Therefore, if they go over that time limit, judges do have permission to cut the pieces. It is best to choose music that totals a total time that is 1-2 minutes less than the maximum time so that the student has time to warm up as well. Also, be sure to list, or choose, the correct titles for your piece(s) in Ovation. If you are performing only a Bach "Prelude", for example, be sure to choose that Bach "Prelude" and NOT the "Prelude and Fugue". If you choose the "Prelude and Fugue" then you must perform both pieces. If a piece is not listed, you can enter the correct piece but be sure that the piece you are looking for is not listed before creating a new entry. For assistance with Repertoire, contact: wmtacompositionhotline@gmail.com

There is a new rule in place regarding Downloaded music. WMTA has CHANGED the requirements for using downloaded music. While we still want to really encourage teachers/students to PURCHASE printed music for students to use in auditions, we also want to support LEGALLY downloaded music that follows the USA Copyright Laws. Therefore, we will be having two items in place: 1) Our rules state that by entering the auditions/competitions the students agree that they are following the copyright laws. (We have provided a link to a one page summary of the copyright laws.) AND 2) the student/parents will fill out and sign the **Copyright Representation and Indemnification Agreement Form** stating that the music they are using does in fact follow the USA Copyright laws. This statement must be printed and present with the music when the music is given to the judge at the competition. There will be no exceptions to this because WMTA cannot be liable for a Copyright infringement by a teacher/student. Preapproval of downloaded music will no longer be required. If you have questions about any specific music please email: wmtacompositionhotline@gmail.com. Aural Theory testing: As a reminder, ALL students will receive ONLY TWO hearings of the Aural Theory questions during the Audition Theory testing. This has always been the rule, therefore, we want to emphasize for our newer teachers that this may take some training on your part. FYI, intervals are played melodically going up, then down, then together...that's one hearing. If you do have questions about how the testing is done, contact your local District Chairs.

Entering students out of district: This is available but you do need to contact the out of district chair person early to seek permission to enter students in a district other than your own. If at all possible, please seek this permission by Thanksgiving as the out of district Chair does need time to be sure they have enough judges for their areas. Even if you don't ask by Thanksgiving, if you have a student who needs to audition out of your district, please ask. Please DO NOT enter students out of your district until you have permission from the out of district Chair. After you enter your students in a different district, you will not be able to see your registrations but the Chair for that area will be able to keep you posted with schedules, etc. To get your results after auditions, go to Ovation and then to "Records" and "Student History".

Theory Study guides: Both the Comprehensive Study Sheet AND individual study sheets (showing what is new for each level) will be available on the WMTA website for your use/choice.

We use www.ovation.net to enter students and to track their progress in our auditions. If you have any trouble signing in, please contact me. If you are new to WMTA or have never entered students before, please contact me as well. To sign in (after I have registered you), your user ID is your first initial and last name. Your password is your MTNA ID. I reregister all teachers on Dec 30-31 of each year so if you've had access earlier this year, you have it till then. If you are a member in good standing and have entered students before, you will be reregistered by me at that point. Please do not enter students into Ovation for the 2020 season until 2020 has arrived. If you missed the Oct 15 renewal deadline and are NOT a new teacher, to enter students in the 2020 auditions you must submit your \$100 late fee to our WMTA Treasurer and she will contact me to register you in Ovation so you can enter students in 2020. New members are allowed to enter students for auditions without paying the late fee.

New this year: Every person who attends the Auditions (students, parents, extended family) MUST check in at the Registration table. If possible, check in together.

Great resources to learn more:

www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com

The Newsletters via the link on the WMTA website

Your Local District Chair

Myself: Sandra@statzmusic.com

Respectfully submitted by

Sandra Statz, NCTM
WMTA State District Chair

2020 State Conference

Well, I survived my first conference as VP. It definitely was not a perfect conference and I learned that many things are totally out of my control. But, it was wonderful to once again hear some great insights into teaching and reconnect with friends and colleagues. Many thanks to you all for your kind words of encouragement and thoughtful ideas for next year.

Hopefully you have read the Save the Date email which went out announcing that the 2020 conference will be at the Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee on **October 23-24**. I am looking forward to it being on my home turf! I have never attended a WMTA conference in the Milwaukee area and I am hoping to show better event planning skills by just being able to walk up to the local businesses to build connections. I am open to ideas for the conference (especially to help in implementing ideas), but I do want to let you know of what we will be trying out in 2020 based on feedback.

- Session descriptions included in the conference booklet
- More detailed presenter and session information communicated in the months before the conference
- Return of the BINGO contest (congrats again to Roberta Grube!!!)
- Buffet style meals
- Table seating in the presentation room for easier note taking
- Local association presidents and district chairs meetings later in the day

Other ideas will be dependent upon getting fantastic teachers to submit presentation proposals (<https://www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com/state-annual-conference/session-proposals>), finding willing sponsors for goodie bags and coffee breaks and convincing exhibitors that we would love to have them participating in our conference. Any help you can give by letting your fellow teachers know that we are now accepting proposals is appreciated. If you know of any businesses who would make excellent sponsors or exhibitors, please either forward their information to me or connect them to our website for information.

Thanks again to you all and keep watching for the updates which will keep you looking forward to 2020 at the Ingleside!

Kayme Henkel, NCTM
VP-Conferences

IMTF Article

What is “Good” Pedagogy?

In the past year I have had the opportunity to teach at two vastly different schools - both serve students in preschool through eighth grade. Because of this, I have been able to observe the discipline procedures, teaching strategies and motivational techniques of approximately thirty teachers and nearly as many teaching aides. Having these glimpses into classrooms as I collect students for private lessons and piano classes has made me think about how my strategies and procedures fit in with school mission statements and philosophies. Moving beyond that, I have been attempting to assimilate what I see into my personal thoughts on pedagogy and applying what I see into how I work with my students. Here is my attempt to verbalize my observations on what makes “good” pedagogy.

My favorite teachers to watch are those do not simply teach, but those who **instill a love of learning**. At some point we all have to use extrinsic motivation tools to keep our students going. By this I mean the stickers, the medals and the trophies. I love it when my students tell me they do not need these tools but I still see learning happening. It means we have developed intrinsic motivation which comes from a love of playing our instruments and exploring new pieces.

Specifically for music, how do we achieve this? It means we introduce pieces to students with energy. We use phrases like, “I love playing this piece because this ending feels so good to play” or “I love how this piece makes me want to dance” or “The resolution of this dissonance is incredibly satisfying” or “This piece is like puzzle pieces we have to figure out how to put together”. It means that we are honest in the fact that sometimes practicing is not fun, but it IS worth

the effort because being able to play the piece will be amazing and a rewarding experience. It means that we relate our specific instruments to other instruments and ensembles and encourage exploration through active listening (active listening being actual LISTENING to music instead of putting music recordings on as background white noise).

The teachers I admire are not satisfied with a passing knowledge of a topic, but are striving to bring each student to a level of **fluency**. This fluency will be different for each student.. For example, in a beginning student one of the concepts we teach is that of intervals. We will not be satisfied with the identification of a fifth in one piece of music. Instead, we will be working with the student to make sure they are consistently able to identify intervals in their repertoire, in sight reading, in aural skills practice, in composition exercises and at the instrument before we will feel comfortable saying the student is fluent in interval identification. With a student moving towards intermediate repertoire we will not only help them technically practice an Alberti bass in their sonatina, but we will be helping them identify the chords outlined as well as non-chord tones, discussing performance practice with finger pedaling and outlining the often present counterpoint within the broken chords. We will also discuss many other elements for playing pieces from the Classical time period. The more difficult the repertoire, the more sophisticated our discussions become.

Fluency will also include being able to verbalize how they practice and identify places which need to be practiced. A fluent student (at any level) will be able to identify what they did well and what needs improvement. Ideally, they will also be able to listen to a performance by another musician (of similar difficulty, of course) and discuss what elements made that performance effective or what could be done for improvement.

Lastly, the teachers I want to emulate are **preparing students for independence**. It can be tedious for a teacher or aide to wait for four year olds to put on their own snow pants and boots. And I know we have every good intention when we rush in to help because we want to get on to the more important activity of playing in the snow. Similarly, it is easy as a teacher to simply write in a fantastic fingering we have always used in a Bach Invention. It saves time so we can move on to phrase shaping and technical practice. But, independence only comes when we allow students to learn the process and DO the process. Our job is to guide students to discovery, this way they will be able to learn and make music for THEIR lifetime, not just during their time in my studio.

As we head into our season of many auditions, recitals and competitions, I hope we all find teachers whom we can observe to inspire us in our quest for not just good, but great pedagogy.

Dr. Kayme Henkel teaches piano at the Milwaukee Montessori School and at Atonement Lutheran School. She has given masterclasses and presentations to many WMTA's local music teachers associations and is also a very active member of her local Federation club - Milwaukee Music Teachers Association. She performs often as the piano half of the piano/oboe duo The Clara Schumann Project.

Website Updates

Over the summer, I made extensive revisions to the previous District Auditions website pages, including re-organization, edits, clarifications, and simplification of where and how to find information, and removal of redundant language, etc. These changes have been added to the website by Katie Butler, and the site is now live. I hope that this will provide an easier user experience for our teachers, experienced and new alike.

Nick Phillips, Immediate Past-President

Shout-Out To...

- Dr. Kayme Henkel for her work on the 2019 conference.
- Kathleen Latzke-Daley for becoming an NCTM.
- Dr. Denise Taylor for starting the NCTM process.
- Dr. Kaju Lee for starting the NCTM process.
- Tricia Marton - for her student Gwendolyn Wichman receiving East Central Division Honorable Mention.
- Joslyn Vandermause as chosen recipient of the Jane Scheef award to attend the 2020 MTNA conference in Chicago.
- Dr. Nicholas Phillips for his work on the District Auditions Website.

Foundation Fellow

Because of your generosity, the MTNA Foundation Fund distributes more than \$150,000 in grants and awards each year, but we need your help to continue to grow and develop those important programs.

Moreover, you can use this opportunity to donate to WMTA's Fellow nominee **Deanna Roen** as your #GivingTuesday contribution!!!

If you'd like more information about this topic (including information on how to make a donation to support this year's fellow nominee) please see below or contact William Whipple at: williampwhipple@gmail.com

Sincerely,

William Whipple State Chair of the MTNA Foundation Fund
Please Show Your Support!!!

How to Contribute

To make a donation by credit card, visit the MTNA Foundation website at (<https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/>). Please write the name of the nominee (Deanna Roen) on the fellow line on the form.

To make your donation by personal check, you may print your form here (members.mtna.org/foundation_Forms/Foundation_Contribution_Form.pdf) and mail your check to the address indicated. Please click the box "Fellow" and write in the nominee name on the fellow line.

Important note from the MTNA National Office: IF NO NAME IS INCLUDED, THE CONTRIBUTION WILL NOT BE APPLIED TO THE FELLOW.

Thank you for your consideration!

2019 Foundation Fellow – Deanna Roen Biography

Behind every strong organization are the selfless contributions, presence and fortitude of diligent members. Without members such as these, the work of an organization can often remain static, falling short of its mission to further the work of music education.

Deanna Roen is the definition of selfless, tireless giving, at the service of others rather than herself, for the betterment of all, and in full service to music education.

Deanna received her BA in vocal music education from Luther College, Decorah IA in 1961. She touched the lives of students through the full spectrum of music education in the public systems of Prescott and River Falls. She has directed church choirs and community choirs for 40+ years, she has taught private piano and voice for 55+ years and she directs the English Hand Bell Choir in Prescott.

The student is vitally present at the core of her teaching, focusing their needs rather than her own, as reflected in her desire to follow special students through their high school years prior to her retirement. It has been said that Deanna was an empowered woman well before there was social awareness and acknowledgement of such. She has never shrunk from a challenge, willing to take on weighty, time consuming and labor intensive officer positions when others would not step up. She has held non-consecutive terms in the position of President of the local association, and she has been handling the intricacies – and frustrations – of District Auditions Chair with grace, patience and fortitude.

She believed she could do it, and she took it on, selflessly, for the betterment of all. Deanna is a life-long learner, actively

and passionately taking part in the association's book club discussions, in theory refresher coursework, and in mentoring.

Deanna has launched countless numbers and generations of young musicians, infusing their lives with the love of music and with an understanding of the power of music in their lives. She has furthered music education in multiple generations in families, many of whom keep in touch with her and return in thanks for her encouraging role in their lives.

She believed they could do it, and empowered her students to believe in themselves. She is an active and vital participant in her community, serving on countless committees in betterment for the whole. Deanna Roen is the consummate picture of the selfless, loving music educator, whose significant contribution to music education can be measured by the powerful presence of music in her student's lives.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM