

# WMTA Newsletter

## Printable Version – January 2020

The full color version of the newsletter is available to view on the WMTA website at [wisconsinmusicteachers.com](http://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
- June 16, 2020  
Composer Competition Entry Deadline
- October 23-24, 2020  
Annual State Conference

### Letter from the President

Dear WMTA Members,

As you read this article you will already be a month through the new year. At this point in the year I usually look at my New Year's goals and face the reality of which ones I will actually be able to say that I will accomplish. Some years this is very disheartening as I realize that none of the will be attainable, however as of the day of sending this off, I was happy to see that I am on track with most of my goals (Maybe I am getting more realistic in goal setting each year...) The goals are varied: one is exercise related, 11,000 steps and 20 flights of stairs a day, some are financial, others are work related, but there is one that is related to WMTA and MTNA. It has been a goal of my presidency to become MTNA certified. This is the year that I will complete the project. I am currently practicing daily in preparation for the performance portion, I have been working on my studio policies, and I have the permissions in place to create teaching videos. As I look at the goal of certification, I realize that there are many activities that will go into accomplishing the goal, but that each of them will make me a better teacher. MTNA certification is precisely what MTNA exists to do: Support the professionalism of music teachers.

Thank you to all of the WMTA members who have taken the steps to complete certification. For anyone that is interested come and join the certification journey.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Fritz, WMTA President

### Membership Report

Hello WMTA Members! It is hard to believe we are halfway through January of 2020. Each year, time seems to go a bit faster (or I procrastinate just a bit longer). As we begin a new year, consider making plans to attend the national conference in March, as it is just to our neighbor in the south - Chicago! Lots of good programming, plus a city with many great places to eat and explore also! I would encourage you to consider a few of the following ideas personally, or as local associations recently shared by Lynette Zelis, our Director-Elect on ways to recruit members:

1. Have teachers bring in music - extra books and sheet music, no longer wanted but in good shape, for new teachers to use. Make this free for new teachers or charge a nominal fee that will go to scholarships or other fund. Use this as an outreach event.

2. Advertise MTNA webinars that are free for members and nonmembers to enjoy anytime. Here's a link:  
[https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Webinars/2019\\_Webinars.aspx](https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Webinars/2019_Webinars.aspx)

3. Remind members and alert new members of all the benefits of membership - including discounts, legal resources, teaching resources, ect. Actively advertise these discounts. And include links!

4. Other random ideas that have been successful at the local level:

Sponsor recitals - at the movies? Get tickets to share? Get your name on the Marque? Have students usher at local events? Host a silent auction for music - to raise funds.

5. Check this out for amazing ideas:

<https://www.tucsonmusicteachers.org/student-info/>

<https://www.tucsonmusicteachers.org/about-us/member-benefits/>

Great website - easy to follow and engage!

6. Check your websites, are they up to date? Do they engage new members? Look at all of the local websites.

7. Make area teachers aware that we all need to be continually educating ourselves - MTNA is great for this with the conference, magazine, webinars and e-content on website.

8. Actively encourage 6 month trial memberships. Especially to new, young and collegiate music teachers. These are the ones we need to reach first - stress that MTNA is the best organization for them to join, how community is important, stress certification, leadership roles available, opportunities for their students to compete and perform.

9. Possibly ask local associations to make one spring meeting open to non-members specifically.

10. Publicize competitions, festivals and recitals - through Facebook, twitter, Instagram for free!

As we journey through 2020, let's consider the many contributions that colleagues we have met through WMTA and our other musical associations have influenced our own teaching, and help spread the love around as we continue to grow and thrive!

Best wishes on your musical 2020!

Justin Krueger, NCTM

## **WMTA Young Composer Competition**

Happy New Year!

With lessons getting started again after the Winter break, this is the perfect time to start talking to your students about the WMTA Young Composers Competition. Integrating composition into lessons not only gives students an excellent creative outlet, but it also gives students an opportunity to apply their knowledge of music theory.

The Young Composers Competition is a super opportunity for students, because there are no limits on the size of the ensemble students can write for, and no limits on the duration of pieces students can write. Last year's submissions included everything from works for solo instruments to full symphonic scores and everything in between. While some composition contests limit the duration of the works students can submit, YCC has no such limits.

With excellent free resources such as [www.musescore.com](http://www.musescore.com) and [flat.io](http://flat.io), students can produce beautifully notated scores without making a significant investment in a notation software package. Both Musescore and Flat also allow students to hear multiple parts played back simultaneously, which eliminates one of the challenges to students when writing for ensembles.

The deadline for this year's Young Composers Competition is June 16th, 2020. More information can be found on the WMTA website at <https://www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com/student-events/competition-for-young-composers>. Now it's time to get your students going creating some great new music!

Sam Ecoff  
WMTA Young Composers Competition Chair

## **Badger Vocal/Instrumental Competition**

The stage is set for a super Badger State Vocal/Instrumental competition!

Date: Saturday, May 16th

Location: UW-Steven's Point (Noel Fine Arts Center)

This is an exciting chance for students to challenge themselves in a positive yet competitive environment. Last year we had many outstanding students participate and heard much positive feedback about the experience from students, parents and teachers. Be sure to share the State V/I date and location with any students who will possibly qualify!

Submitted,  
Opala Bilhorn, NCTM  
Badger V/I Chair

## **Badger Keyboard**

Here is everything you need to know regarding the 2020 Badger Keyboard events:

### **SITES and DATES:**

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

**NORTHWEST:** Saturday May 16, 2020, UW-Eau Claire, Kleinpell Fine Arts Bldg.

**SOUTH:** Sunday, May 17, 2020, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, 1584 N. Prospect, Milwaukee

### **DEADLINE:**

April 20, 2020 for online entry

April 20, 2020 postmark deadline for all fees.....(there's poetry in this date.....!)

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

1. Students must participate in District Auditions and receive qualifying scores to advance to the Badger Competition.
2. Registration for Badger is completed in the online OVATION system (Events > Badger Registration > Add Registration) by April 20 deadline. Be certain to choose the correct site.
3. Where applicable, do not forget to coordinate siblings on OVATION (Menu > Events > Manage Student Coordinations)
4. Mail your summary form (found at WMTA website > State Badger Competition > For Teachers) and fees for **entries to Badger Keyboard** (\$25 per student or each duet team) to Mary Anne Olvera, 664 Louise Lane, Hudson, WI 54016.  
**POSTMARK DEADLINE = APRIL 20**

### **VOLUNTEERING**

Teachers with participating students are required to work. A Volunteer Sign-up will be sent to teachers via email. There will be a deadline for sign-up, and any teacher who does not sign up will be assigned a job.

If the teacher cannot work, they are expected to secure a sub for their duties.

If the teacher refuses to work, their students will not be assigned performance times and the teacher will be assessed a fine, as outlined in the Audition Handbook.

This is a powerfully motivating experience for our students. Thanks for taking part in the Badger Keyboard event, and for moving students forward in their musical development.

Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM  
Badger Keyboard Chair

## District Auditions

As the 2020 Auditions commence, I want to wish the best of good preparations to all your students. The benefit of the auditions lies in the journey of preparation. As you finish preparing your students for your upcoming audition date, here are a couple of “helps” and “reminders” to help you guide your students through the auditions journey:

Check out the newly UPDATED WMTA website: <https://www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com/district-auditions>

Don't forget to read the “District Auditions” section of the quarterly [newsletters](#).

Questions: Contact your awesome [District Chair](#). I'm grateful that there are new teachers stepping into the DC role throughout the state...thank you! District Chairs enjoy serving the teachers in their areas, attending meetings twice a year and learning together in a Google group. If you have a desire to help them, please reach out and extend the offer.

### A couple of details that I want to point out:

All State (Badger) and District 3 entries must include at least ONE piece from the [Eligible Baroque and Classical Composers list](#) of composers.

If legally downloaded music is used, it MUST be accompanied by the [Copyright Representation and Indemnification Agreement Form](#). Questions about the copyright law? Click [HERE](#).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandra Statz, NCTM  
WMTA District Chair

## 2020 State Conference

Plans for the 2020 conference are underway and I am looking forward to gradually sharing with you the information about all our presenters. This year's guest artist Mara Gibson will be coming from Louisiana to speak to us about composition and building collaborations across disciplines.

### Mara Gibson Biography

Composer Mara Gibson is originally from Charlottesville, VA, graduated from [Bennington College](#) and completed her Ph.D. at [SUNY Buffalo](#). She also attended London College of Music as well as L'École des Beaux-Arts in Fontainebleau, France and the International Music Institute at Darmstadt, Germany. She has earned grants and honors from the American Composer's Forum; the Banff Center; Louisiana Division of the Arts; Arts KC; Meet the Composer; the Kansas Arts Commission National Endowment for the Arts; the International Bass Society; ASCAP, the John Hendrick Memorial Foundation; Virginia Center for the Arts; and Yale University. Recently, she enjoyed a residency at the MacDowell Colony. Internationally renowned ensembles and soloists perform her music throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Australia, Asia, and Europe.

Gibson's music has been described as “shocking, gripping and thought-provoking... conjuring a flurry of emotions” (PARMA recordings). She is a regular cross-disciplinary collaborator, having worked with choreographers, visual artists, writers, film makers and musicians. In 2015, Gibson released her first compilation CD, Artifacts, with her second

recording, *Sky-born*, following in November 2017 through Navona/Parma Recordings. The latest presents new works including “Blackbird,” which features Cascade Quartet. The music draws inspiration from a variety of artistic mediums: “haunting and epic with visceral energy.” Her piano preludes “Conundrums” are inspired by a series of paintings by Baltimore-based artist Jim Condron and performed by Holly Roadfedlt. Pieces by long-time collaborators Michael Hall, UMKC colleagues and Megan Ihnen are also featured on the new album in “Spark” and “One Voice.” As Gramophone magazine describes, “repertoire on this recording was mostly inspired by poetry and paintings. What binds these pieces are Gibson’s concise handling of musical materials and her spectrum of sonic approaches.” *Sky-born* displays a compelling contemporary voice with a restless imagination, able to morph other forms of artistic expression into daring, musical odysseys.”

In August 2017, Gibson was the first-annual commissioned composer for the Baroque on Beaver Orchestra led by Robert Nordling. The ensemble showcased her newest piece, *Secret Sky*, music inspired by the bird migration patterns on the island. Collaboration is integral to Gibson’s process; whether through her music, collaborations or teaching, she hopes to achieve a relationship between the macro and micro.

## **Leadership Position Opportunity**

Are you possibly interested in being more involved in WMTA? Do you want to assist in the mission of the organization? Do you want to build your network of colleagues? Have you thought about a Leadership position on the WMTA board? Do you wonder how people get to be the leaders? Then take a look at the following open positions for leadership:

### **JOB DESCRIPTION – LOCAL ASSOCIATION CHAIR**

The position of Local Association Chair is one primarily of connection and facilitation. Responsibilities include:

1. Acts as conduit between MTNA Chair and all local association presidents throughout the state
2. Keeps LA presidents apprised of all national correspondence
3. Establishes a working relationship and close communication with local association presidents
4. Offers assistance as needed by local associations
5. Mentors local association presidents as needed
6. Remains responsive to requests for assistance, and researches/brainstorms positive approaches to concerns
7. Maintains positive avenues of communication
8. Attends state conferences and national conferences when possible
9. Prepares information packet for each local association president, to be disbursed at conference luncheon meeting
10. Attends state board meetings, dispensing info to presidents
11. Sends out End of Year Information report to presidents, and gathers information from all associations. This is inclusive of but not limited to a full overview of the past year activities, number of members, program offerings, student activities, teacher enrichment activities, etc. This information is sent on to MTNA national chair and provides a picture of state associations.
12. Prepares list of new Presidents and Officers and sends to WMTA President, WMTA Administrative Secretary, and MTNA national chair.
13. Encourages the affiliation of new local associations and/or collegiate chapters within the state and acts as facilitator through set-up of association
14. Periodically checks membership data to ensure connection has been made between association president and new member
15. Gathers info regarding association programs and send to LA presidents
16. Gathers Member of the Year information (bio) from associations, and prepares certificates for presentation at conference
17. Sends Member of the Year bios to Administrative Secretary for inclusion in conference booklet
18. Reminds LA presidents of deadlines for articles to be included in newsletter
19. Reminds LA presidents of availability of grants and deadlines

While it may appear that there are many bullets in this job description, this is not a labor-intensive position. It is busiest

in May when End of the Year reports are coming and being compiled, and in October in preparation for state conference.

It is, however, a very rewarding position, and affords the opportunity to see the true richness of our Wisconsin associations, and to meet the presidents that are making it happen.

## **East Central Division Elections**

A reminder to vote for East Central Division Directors for MTNA. Wisconsin is proud that our Immediate-Past President, Nicholas Phillips, is on the ballot. You can vote using the following link:

[Follow this link to learn more and to vote.](#)

## **Shout-Out To...**

- Kaju Lee for becoming a MTNA Nationally Certified Teacher of Music.
- Katie Nelson on becoming the Media Chair.
- Hector Landa for serving as MTNA Competitions Chair. Thank you!

To add a shout-out to the next newsletter, please email Katie Butler at [wisconsinmta@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinmta@gmail.com).

## **Fox Valley Music Teachers Association**

The Fox Valley Music Teachers Association hosted its 5th annual master class on January 18th, 2020 at the Appleton Public Library. FVMTA was the driving force behind the fundraising and purchase of a Yamaha grand piano for that venue in 2013. The master class is an "open lesson" for music students who have volunteered to participate. Up to six performances have an opportunity to receive twenty minutes of playing and instruction time with a teacher from the FVMTA group. Over the years, the pianists have ranged in age from 6th graders to adults. It provides not only a learning experience for the students, but also for the instructors who get to witness the different educational styles of fellow members in the organization.