

# WMTA NEWSLETTER

December 2020

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## About Our Organization

Since 1910, Wisconsin Music Teachers Association has continued in its goal to develop, maintain, and recognize high standards of music instruction and performance in Wisconsin.

We accomplish this by supporting students and educators with events, resources and a powerful network of like-minded individuals.

By providing structure and activities at local, state, divisional, and national levels, we work together to accomplish goals which couldn't be achieved by working alone.

The first official meeting of the WMTA was held on June 22, 1910 in Appleton Wisconsin under the direction of the first president, Dean William Harper.

Our state now has 14 active local associations which provide regular meetings, student programs, teacher development, membership networking and so much more.

As an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association, we share common objectives and values with musicians and musical educators in all 50 states.

MTNA was founded in 1876 and is the oldest professional nonprofit music teachers association in the United States.

We actively endorse

the MTNA mission "to advance the value of music study and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers".

*Our mission is to advance the value of music study and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers.*

## Calendar of Events

- March 1, 2021  
Aural Tracking & Theory Tests Provided
- March 17, 2021  
Theory Test Due Date
- Feb. & March 2021  
District Auditions Deadline
- March & April 2021  
District Auditions
- April 20, 2021  
Badger V/I Deadline



Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

Part of Music Teachers National Association

# Letter From The President

Dear WMTA Members,

How are you doing? Is this getting exhausting to you? Are you tired of teaching virtually? Are you ready for it to all be over? Maybe you have been in this place for a while? I am tired of teaching with restrictions. However I recently found myself realizing that there have been some wonderful lessons that I would have never learned as well if it were not for COVID. I thought that I would share them with you:

I would not know every student's home instrument. This was enlightening. To get to hear/see every home instrument with all every strength and weakness. I used to ask students to take pictures and show me their instruments. Now I get to experience it every week. It has helped my understanding.

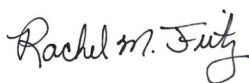
I would not know every member of the family. Via zoom I have met siblings and parents that I never saw previously due to scheduling. I can proudly say that I also know the names of every pet and know which ones like/dislike lesson time.

I would not have been able to see all the ways that my students are trying to make this work. As teachers we know that we have lots of adjustments to make for the virtual lesson but I had not thought through everything that my students were doing to make lessons possible. In April I opened a meeting room for Zoom a few minutes early, the student had already logged in and was in the waiting room, I admitted them with a note in the chat that I would be back at their lesson time. But I did not leave as I was watching the set up for the lesson. Mom was adjusting the lights to make sure that the glare would not be too much, the student was working on camera angles to make sure that his hands and feet were in the shot. This room was being used for multiple virtual activities and found the instrument had been moved a little at some point and they needed to make more adjustments. A wash of gratitude spilled over me as I witnessed this student's dedication to his piano lesson. This virtual lesson was not easy for him. I commented to him that I appreciated all of the effort that he and his mom put forth to make his piano lesson work. His reply: "It is just what needs to be done so that I can have a piano lesson." I knew this student was dedicated but this was over the top. It was not a simple move from one room to another, this was an event to get this space ready for a piano lesson. Showing up for a lesson more challenging than before.

I would not have become a better teacher. This is going to be the longest, most valuable gift from teaching virtually. I have learned how to teach phrasing, trills, scales, and even started a beginning student via zoom. I still do not have a full grasp on how my teaching will be in the future in-person. I am only confident that it will have improved.

Maybe you have experienced some of these? Maybe you have others? Yes this journey has been hard and long and is not over yet. But maybe if I keep thinking of it as a learning opportunity I will not miss the lessons on the way.

Sincerely,



Rachel Fritz, WMTA President



# WMTA Leadership

## Executive Board

**PRESIDENT:** Rachel Fritz [rachelfritz@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelfritz@yahoo.com)

**IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:** Nicholas Phillips, NCTM [phillins@uwec.edu](mailto:phillins@uwec.edu)

**1ST VP-CONFERENCE:** Kayme Henkel, NCTM [kaymehenkel@yahoo.com](mailto:kaymehenkel@yahoo.com)

**2ND VP-MEMBERSHIP:** Justin Krueger, NCTM [justind.krueger@gmail.com](mailto:justind.krueger@gmail.com)

**TREASURER:** Sydney Alexander [sydneyalexander94@gmail.com](mailto:sydneyalexander94@gmail.com)

**ARTS AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY:** Teresa Drews [tdrews@wcmusic.org](mailto:tdrews@wcmusic.org)

**BADGER KEYBOARD:** Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM [maolvera@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:maolvera@baldwin-telecom.net)

**BADGER VOCAL/INSTRUMENTAL:** Opala Bilhorn [opalas.music.studio@gmail.com](mailto:opalas.music.studio@gmail.com)

**COLLEGE FACULTY REP:** Jessica Johnson, NCTM [jgjohnson@wisc.edu](mailto:jgjohnson@wisc.edu)

**DISTRICT AUDITIONS:** Sandra Statz, NCTM [sandra@statzmusic.com](mailto:sandra@statzmusic.com)

**INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM:** Mickey Lytle, NCTM [musicbymickey@gmail.com](mailto:musicbymickey@gmail.com)

**LOCAL ASSOCIATION CHAIR:** Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM [maolvera@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:maolvera@baldwin-telecom.net)

## Administrative Council

**COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE FORUM:** Kirstin Ihde [ihdek@uwosh.edu](mailto:ihdek@uwosh.edu)

**MEDIA CHAIR:** Katie Nelson [katharyn.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:katharyn.nelson@gmail.com)

**MTNA CERTIFICATION:** Gail Heywood NCTM [gailheywood0@gmail.com](mailto:gailheywood0@gmail.com)

**MTNA COMPETITIONS COORDINATOR:** Vacant

**MTNA COMPOSER COMMISSIONING:** Michael Mizrahi [michael.d.mizrahi@lawrence.edu](mailto:michael.d.mizrahi@lawrence.edu)

**MTNA FOUNDATION:** William Whipple [williampphipple@gmail.com](mailto:williampphipple@gmail.com)

**MTNA STUDENT COMPOSITION COMPETITION:** Kaju Lee, NCTM [leekaj@uwplatt.edu](mailto:leekaj@uwplatt.edu)

**MTNA JR. /SR. COMPETITIONS:** Bethany Hartlaub [bjhartlaub@ghartlaub.com](mailto:bjhartlaub@ghartlaub.com)

**MTNA YOUNG ARTIST/CHAMBER MUSIC:** Ashley Jehn [hankeashl32@gmail.com](mailto:hankeashl32@gmail.com)

**TEACHER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:** Drew Donica [drewdonica@outlook.com](mailto:drewdonica@outlook.com)

**THEORY:** Sydney Alexander [sydneyalexander94@gmail.com](mailto:sydneyalexander94@gmail.com)

**WELLNESS FORUM CHAIR:** Jessica Johnson, NCTM [jgjohnson@wisc.edu](mailto:jgjohnson@wisc.edu)

**WMTA STUDENT COMPOSITIONS:** Sam Ecoff [sam@samecoff.com](mailto:sam@samecoff.com)



# Local Association Presidents

[CVMTA Chippewa Valley Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Esther Pedigo, [esther.pedigo@gmail.com](mailto:esther.pedigo@gmail.com)

[FVMTA Fox Valley Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Stacey Kraus, [skraus2@gmail.com](mailto:skraus2@gmail.com)

[GMC WMTA Greater Milwaukee Chapter](#)

President: Chrissy Deal, [chrissy.deal@gmail.com](mailto:chrissy.deal@gmail.com)

[KRMATA Kenosha Racine Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Deborah Masloski, [dmasloski@gmail.com](mailto:dmasloski@gmail.com)

Co-President: Judy Ballard, [jballard10@wi.rr.com](mailto:jballard10@wi.rr.com)

[LAMTA La Crosse Area Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Reene Sampson, [reene.ann.sampson@gmail.com](mailto:reene.ann.sampson@gmail.com)

[MAME Madison Area Music Educators](#)

President: Denise Taylor, [dtaylorpiano@gmail.com](mailto:dtaylorpiano@gmail.com)

[MAMTA Marshfield Area Music Teachers Association](#)

Contact: Janet Wolf, [revjanet@tzn.net](mailto:revjanet@tzn.net)

[MMTA Michibago Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Louise Mann, [louisemannpiano@gmail.com](mailto:louisemannpiano@gmail.com)

[OAMTA Oshkosh Area Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Madison McCarney, [madison.mccarney@gmail.com](mailto:madison.mccarney@gmail.com)

[RRMTA Rock River Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Julie Hildebrandt, [davidh53@frontier.com](mailto:davidh53@frontier.com)

[SAMTA Superior Area Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Roberta Grube, [grube4@centurytel.net](mailto:grube4@centurytel.net)

[SCVMTA St. Croix Valley Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM, [maryanneolvera@gmail.com](mailto:maryanneolvera@gmail.com)

[SPAMTA Stevens Point Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Gail Heywood, NCTM, [gailheywood0@gmail.com](mailto:gailheywood0@gmail.com)

[WAMTA Wausau Area Music Teachers Association](#)

President: Not Presently Filled



# Welcome to New Members in 2020

Frank Almond	Milwaukee	Zachary Preucil	Madison
Jeanette Baumgarn	Holmen	Christina Reed*	Watertown
Laura Blumer*	Watertown	Mary Skop	Kenosha
Chloe Braynen*	Garnet Valley	Janaya Stakston*	Madison
Hannah Foote*	Appleton	Sarah Stoffregen	Oshkosh
Amy Hartsough	Stoughton	Sarah Trachte*	Winneconne
Lydia Jessee*	Waterford	Christina Trowbridge*	Watertown
Katherine Larson*	Green Bay	Eliza Wilson*	Superior
Heidi Lueck	Green Bay	Alastair Wright	Eau Claire
Buffy Luostari	Maple	Jason Xue*	Madison
Nicole Moritz	Slinger	Xuejia Zhang*	Madison
Hazel Musto*	Appleton		

\*Denotes Collegiate Member

## Website Membership Database

The Find-A-Teacher database is available to all WMTA members. This feature allows each of you to control information that is posted and seen by the public. You can also promote yourselves with new profile options such as choosing multiple areas of expertise, adding a description of your studio, your photos, contact information and links to outside sites. The office is frequently contacted about recommendations for music teachers in a specific area. In the future, we will be sending all requests to this page to help them find the information they need.

To create a WMTA online teaching profile, click on the link below, then follow the instructions on the screen. The processes should only take a few minutes. Once complete, you will be able to access and change all of the information at any time. For questions, feel free to contact the central office by emailing [wisconsinmta@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinmta@gmail.com).

**[Find-A-Teacher Database](#)**



# District Auditions

Conference, although virtual, was amazing. This year has brought so much change to the way we all DO things. But I've been SO impressed by WMTA, our local association and all teachers throughout the state! Thank you for being a "light" amongst the darkness at this time! Here are some points of interest as you prepare your students for the upcoming auditions:

First and foremost: I want to thank all who have put in countless hours to bring WMTA auditions to you virtually for 2021. I encourage you to take advantage of the flexibility this year in being able to audition online. We will have judges for piano, flute, oboe, vocal, string, and brass for solos and duets. If you have an instrument that is outside of these, we WELCOME your students but please let me know asap if this is the case so that we can set up a judge and the virtual audition platform for all participants!

You will be receiving communication DIRECTLY from me from time to time via our Thursday newsletters. I hope these are helpful for you as we work together for a positive audition season to come. For all your questions, please reach out to your local [District Chairs](#). They are prepared to help you succeed in the upcoming auditions. They are also all working closely with me so if they don't know an answer, they will be able to reach out to me.

As for the 2021 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](mailto: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](mailto:wmtacompositionhotline@gmail.com).

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# District Auditions

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Additionally, you will be required to upload your students' music to the performance platform. In order to do that your music will also need a SYNC license. This allows you to upload the music. WMTA has a list of publishers in which we have secured these licenses for you. However, we cannot cover all of them. If you are using a publisher that we have not listed on the website, please feel free to use the provided guidance sheet to contact the publishers directly and secure the sync license for your student.

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. Aural Tracks and Theory tests will be provided to you by March 1. Your students' tests must be IN HAND by the end of the day on March 17 via email. More info will be forthcoming.

All applications must be completed by the Application Due Date for YOUR home district. This is also the POST MARK deadline for your payments! Performances will need to be uploaded to the performance platform between March 11-17. Your results will be posted to Ovation by April 11. To get your results at that time, go to Ovation and then to "Records" and "Student History".

Theory Study Guides: Both the Comprehensive Study Sheet AND individual study sheets are available on the WMTA website for your use/choice.

We use [www.ovation.net](http://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.

**Great resources to learn more:**

[www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com](http://www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com)

The Newsletters via the link on the WMTA website

Your Local District Chair

Myself: [Sandra@statzmusic.com](mailto:Sandra@statzmusic.com)

Respectfully submitted by  
Sandra Statz, NCTM, WMTA State District Chair  
[info@statzmusic.com](mailto:info@statzmusic.com)



DISTRICT	SITE	AUDITIONS DATE	ENTRY DEADLINE
Appleton	Lawrence University	3/20/2021	2/20/2021
Eau Claire	UW-Eau Claire	4/17/2021	3/19/2021
Kenosha	UW-Parkside		
La Crosse	Viterbo University		
Madison	UW-Mead Witter School of Music	3/14/2021	2/16/2021
Merrill	Our Savior's Lutheran	3/6/2021	2/6/2021
Oshkosh	UW-Oshkosh	3/13/2021	2/20/2021
River Falls	UW-River Falls	3/27/2021	2/17/2021
Sheboygan, West Bend	Lakeland University	3/6/2021	2/6/2021
Stevens Point	UW-Stevens Point	3/20/2021	2/19/2021
Superior	UW-Superior	3/7/21 (Sun)	2/8/2021
Waukesha, Milwaukee	UW-Milwaukee	3/20/2021	
Wausau	Wausau Conservatory	3/13/2021	2/22/2021
Whitewater	UW-Whitewater		

DISTRICT	CHAIRPERSON(S)	EMAIL	PHONE
STATE CHAIRPERSON	Sandra Statz	<a href="mailto:sandra@statzmusic.com">sandra@statzmusic.com</a>	715-379-0418
Appleton	Catherine Walby	<a href="mailto:catherine.walby@lawrence.edu">catherine.walby@lawrence.edu</a>	920-832-7448
Eau Claire	Abby Patchet	<a href="mailto:abbypatchet@gmail.com">abbypatchet@gmail.com</a>	715-864-5298
Kenosha	Anna Kojovic-Frodl	<a href="mailto:skojoovic@aol.com">skojoovic@aol.com</a>	262-880-8586
La Crosse	Lisa Freedlund Lori Lawson Carol Lombard	<a href="mailto:lisafreedlund@yahoo.com">lisafreedlund@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:lajtlax@yahoo.com">lajtlax@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:pianopanoramastudio@gmail.com">pianopanoramastudio@gmail.com</a>	608-790-7377 (Lisa) 608-788-1874 (Lori) 608-526-9726 (Carol)
Madison	Emily Schultz	<a href="mailto:emilypianostudio@gmail.com">emilypianostudio@gmail.com</a>	608-345-1134
Merrill	Katie Livingston Carolyn O'Brien	<a href="mailto:katzpianostudio@msn.com">katzpianostudio@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:cobrienpiano@gmail.com">cobrienpiano@gmail.com</a>	715-218-6894/715-536-4054 715-966-2592
Oshkosh	Dr. Kirstin Ihde Annemarie Birschbach	<a href="mailto:ihdek@uwosh.edu">ihdek@uwosh.edu</a> <a href="mailto:ajbach@att.net">ajbach@att.net</a>	319-830-3264 (Kirstin) 920-379-1968 (Annemarie)
River Falls	Deanna Roen Teresa Lindahl	<a href="mailto:kroen@centurytel.net">kroen@centurytel.net</a> <a href="mailto:btbjg@somtel.net">btbjg@somtel.net</a>	715-262-5904 715-247-4522
Sheboygan, West Bend	Louise Mann Beverly Mark	<a href="mailto:louisemannpiano@gmail.com">louisemannpiano@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:bevbeemark@gmail.com">bevbeemark@gmail.com</a>	920-912-2106 (Louise) 920-242-7318 (Beverly)
Stevens Point	Mary Lou Hofer and Ann Marie Novak	<a href="mailto:mhofer@uwsp.edu">mhofer@uwsp.edu</a> <a href="mailto:anovak@uwsp.edu">anovak@uwsp.edu</a>	715-340-2221 (MaryLou) 715-572-1935 (Ann Marie)
Superior	Roberta Grube	<a href="mailto:grube4@centurytel.net">grube4@centurytel.net</a>	715-364-2537/218-349-6419
Waukesha, Milwaukee		-	
Wausau	Mona Grote	<a href="mailto:monagrote@yahoo.com">monagrote@yahoo.com</a>	715-432-1728
Whitewater	Bethany Hartlaub	<a href="mailto:bjoyful90@outlook.com">bjoyful90@outlook.com</a>	262-215-5495

# Badger Vocal Instrumental

Dear WMTA Teachers,

I'm pleased to be able to share that 2021 Badger State Vocal/Instrumental Competition is proceeding virtually. This has required much teamwork already and even more as we move forward. Below is the process for participating in the 2021 Badger State V/I Competition.

1. Have students participate in District Auditions to qualify for the Badger V/I Competition.
2. April 20, 2021 Badger V/I Registration deadline  
Payments should be mailed to Opala Bilhorn/508 Campus St./Suite 3/Milton, WI. 53563 and postmarked by April 20th. (\$25 for each student or each duet team). Make sure to include your summary form printed out from Ovation.
3. April 29<sup>th</sup>-May 5<sup>th</sup> Video Submission  
Students need to submit the video recording of their performance during this time frame.
4. Results will be available by May 22, 2021

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Opala Bilhorn, NCTM

## WMTA 990

Every year as a non profit organization WMTA files a 990 EZ form with the IRS. Here is a link for you to see the document.

[Link for WMTA 990 EZ Form](#)



# Local Association Report

Local association End of Year Reports have been received and moved on to MTNA. Presidents report little change in membership numbers, and according to their reported numbers, most associations remained static in membership, one showed a 2 member growth (SCVMTA), and one lost 5 members (WAMTA).

No doubt owing to the unusual nature of the year, only seven local associations will be honoring Members of the Year for 2020. While they would receive special recognition at the annual conference, we will instead post special recognition and bios in our Newsletter. Those honorees are:

ESTHER PEDIGO, CVMTA  
MARY ANNE OLVERA, SCVMTA  
JUSTIN KRUEGER, FVMTA  
SHELBA DeMASTER, MMTA  
BUFFY LUOSTARI, SAMTA  
CYNTHIA STEPHAN, MAME  
JUDY BALLARD, KRMTA

Because of the nature of 2020, after March many associations did cut back, by necessity, with their usual roster of presentations, and adapted to Zoom presentations on topics reflective of the current conditions. Even in this climate, associations did report a lot of positive activity, and a lot of attempt to find new ways to grow the organizations and try new ways of being effective. In many associations, there was a more purposeful attempt to increase connectedness among members, and to 'check in' on members to share resources. In many instances, the meetings that did take place in associations proved to be roundtable discussions, brainstorming best practice for virtual lessons, and how to retain studio numbers.

Aside from the challenges of life in the age of Covid, the perennial concern for most associations is volunteerism, succession of leadership, growing the association, retaining members, and creating a meaningful 'tribe' with connection among current members, while outreaching to non-member teachers. We will, no doubt, continue to work with these topics while trying new ways to grow strong associations.

Respectfully submitted,  
***Mary Anne Olvera***

President, St. Croix Valley Music Teachers Association  
Nationally Certified Teacher of Music  
WMTA Local Association Chair  
WMTA Badger Keyboard Chair



# Local Association Member of the Year Bios

***Our 14 Local Associations are the heartbeat of Wisconsin Music Teachers Association, and these Members of the Year are acknowledged for their selfless, energized contributions that make their locals vibrant!***

## KRMTA – JUDY BALLARD

Judy has been an active member of KRMTA and its predecessor, KMTA, since the 1980's. She has held the positions of president, co-president, vice president, webmaster and treasurer over the years. Her recent work as president/co-president has been instrumental in merging KMTA with the Racine Music Teachers Association, resulting in the new name of the group (KRMTA).

Judy earned her degree in Music Education from UW Madison, graduating in 1976. She has taught an active private studio ever since. Over the years she learned to enjoy working in bands playing popular music, resulting in a teaching style that focused on improvisation and chord training. Judy has had a strong commitment to her students and the music community which have helped preserve and support the KRMTA organization for decades.

Congratulations, Judy, you are valued!

## CVMTA – ESTHER PEDIGO

CVMTA's choice for Member of the Year was incredibly easy this time! In the midst of a most unusual and often difficult year, no one has done more to help our local teachers than our president, Esther Pedigo.

Esther has hosted weekly web meetings and used the situation to set a positive tribe theme for our group. She has been open to the voices of members by soliciting feedback. She has vision and knows how to accomplish it. As one member said, "Esther's excitement about our profession is contagious, and I always come away from CVMTA meetings and events energized to stay committed to our colleagues and students". This decision was unanimous and enthusiastic.

Congratulations, Esther, this is an honor!

## SAMTA – BUFFY LUOSTARI

Superior Area Music Teachers Association (SAMTA) nominates Buffy Luostari as our Member of the Year.

Buffy Luostari is a new member to SAMTA. She was instrumental in organizing our first ever accompanist workshop. She shared practical tips with the students and had an excellent rapport with them. This event brought in students from the area to work with our collegiate members.

Congratulations Buffy, what a wonderful contribution for a new member!

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# Local Association Member of the Year Bios

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## FVMTA – JUSTIN KRUEGER, NCTM

Justin Krueger, NCTM, serves as director of liturgy and worship at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Neenah, WI. In addition he maintains an independent studio and teaches in the piano area at St. Norbert College.

Justin is a nationally certified teacher of music and an active member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Wisconsin Music Teachers Association (WMTA). He served as the president of the Fox Valley Music Teachers Association (FVMTA) for the past three years. Krueger is active as a performer, adjudicator and a collaborative pianist, who has previously served as the FVMTA President and VP of Programming. He is currently the Vice President of Membership for WMTA.

Justin has presented at various local, state and national conferences and workshops, including the 2019 WMTA Conference in Eau Claire, WI, the 2019 MTNA Conference in Spokane, Wash., and the 2016 National Conference on Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy at Oberlin College. His article, "Smartphones, Tablets, and Chocolate Cake, was published in AMT Magazine in 2019 along with several book and music reviews in 2019 and 2020 issues of AMT. In 2020, he had a setting of Psalm 45 published by GIA/WLP Publications.

He loves spending time with his wife and 4 year old son Elliott, and is excited to be welcoming a new little one in January.

Congratulations Justin, this is a well-deserved acknowledgement!

## MAME – CYNTHIA STEPHAN

Cynthia started teaching piano lessons when she was 17 because her piano teacher was over-booked, and inquired whether she would like to be mentored teaching beginning students. Having ventured into the world of music instruction, Cynthia found she loved it, and also became a church pianist, choir director, grade school music teacher, and praise team leader.

When Cynthia moved to Madison, she found mentors in MAPTA (the forerunner of MAME) who were highly skilled and incredibly willing to share every aspect of setting up a piano studio in the Madison area. Cynthia feels it has been a blessing to be a board member of MAME and especially an executive board member as Treasurer. Cynthia feels her experiences in the many positions she has held have helped her grow as a musician and teacher.

Congratulations Cynthia, and thanks so much for your contributions!

Continues on Next Page

# Local Association Member of the Year Bios

Continued from Previous Page

## MMTA – SHELBA DeMASTER

Shelba DeMaster has been a member of Michibago for many years. But it was in 2016 when she began teaching more in a private setting as opposed to a school setting, allowing her to really participate in MMTA.

At that time, Shelba took over as Festival Committee Chair and has been instrumental in re-organizing our events. We have a Fall Festival, Spring Festival and a Young Musical Stars concert. Shelba is in charge of the Fall Festival and keeps tabs on the other two events. She also served as Secretary for a year, and steps in when needed in that position.

Shelba is very generous in sharing her knowledge with others. She has been very welcoming to new members and has served as a mentor to new teachers. Thank you, Shelba, for all you have done to promote professionalism in teaching and quality student performance opportunities in MMTA.

Congratulation Shelba, for stepping above and beyond!

## SCVMTA – MARY ANNE OLVERA, NCTM

Mary Anne has been an active member of SCVMTA since she moved to Hudson in 2011. She initially served in the position of Vice President, and soon thereafter took on the President position, where she is currently serving.

Mary Anne has consistently taken on a number of critical tasks in service to SCVMTA, such as the initial development and upkeep of the association's website. She has kept an eye to filling gaps wherever needed; working tirelessly to organize and facilitate successful concert and audition events, and serving as an advocate for both students and membership. She has researched and implemented a music educator's book club. Believing that community builds strong associations, Mary Anne has focused on building networking opportunity with the membership by creating dialogue around pedagogical topics of interest, posed to the membership in a discussion forum. These served as enrichment for the solo educator, and built community within the association.

She has served as adjudicator, as district chair for Badger Competition, and as chair for events such as district auditions, recital events and bi-annual Monster Concerts. She is currently serving at the state level as Local Associations Chair, and as Badger Keyboard Chair.

In addition to maintaining a private studio, Mary Anne remains a lifelong learner, continues private study, and has previously completed coursework for certification with Royal Conservatory of Music.

Congratulations, Mary Anne, your service to your association is appreciated!

# WMTA Young Composer Competition

Now that we've made it past the 2020 WMTA Young Composers Competition, you might think that students have a long time until they have to get started on their next composition. Nothing could be farther from the truth! It turns out that WMTA's YCC is just one of many awesome opportunities for students in our state who compose.

Having multiple opportunities each year can provide students with incentive to compose new works, or perhaps to use the excellent comments they received from participating in this year's Young Composers Competition to make their composition even better for the next contest. Either way, you won't want to miss out on some of the excellent composition contest opportunities coming up in the next year.

As someone who chairs multiple composition contests and enters students into even more, I've begun to notice something; you see many of the same students entering various contests throughout the state, sometimes with the same compositions, sometimes with different compositions. One of the best things I've noticed is that it's rare that the same students win multiple contests. I think this is due to the subjective nature of composition. I also think it is a really positive thing since more students are recognized for their excellence and hard work in the field of composition. So, if your students enjoyed entering WMTA's Young Composers Competition, please consider talking to them about some of these other awesome opportunities!

Sam Ecoff

## Wisconsin School Music Association Student Composition Project

**Deadline:** January 29, 2021

**Entry Fee:** \$20 Comments only, \$26 Comments and Competition per composition entered

**Awards:** In each category, judges will name 1st, 2nd, 3rd, place and honorable mentions. First place winners will be eligible for the division (middle school and high school) winner award. Winners of each division receive \$200 which may be used towards additional composition lessons.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be grades 4-12 students at a WSMA member school and will need their school music teacher to either supply the schools WSMA member ID, or enter them.

**What to Submit:** Score as a PDF, recording as an mp3

**What's unique about it:** This is the only composition I'm aware of in which students can enter multiple compositions in a single year. It is also the only composition contest where students can collaborate on a composition and enter it. Entrants are divided by age, but also by the category of instruments they're writing for. WSMA has the following categories: Instrumental Solo, Instrumental Ensemble, Concert Band/Orchestra, Instrumental Jazz, Piano Solo, Piano Ensemble, Vocal Solo, Vocal Ensemble, Vocal Jazz, Miscellaneous, Arrangement, Electronic Notation, Rap/Hip Hop. The last three categories are new this year. Students can enter each category only once, but can enter multiple categories in a single year.

**Website:** [https://wsmamusic.org/composition\\_project/](https://wsmamusic.org/composition_project/)

**Contact:** Victoria Donahue ([donahuev@wsmamusic.org](mailto:donahuev@wsmamusic.org))



# WMTA Certification



## As a music teacher, do you want to:

- Improve through self-study and planning?
- Achieve a higher level of competency and effectiveness?
- Be encouraged to set a goal for personal professional achievement?
- Increase your potential for earning power?
- Improve your level of professionalism?
- Be recognized by your colleagues and the public as competent?

## MTNA:

- Fosters excellence in music education through the development of criteria, standards, and guidelines for assessing educational competencies in performance, music theory, music history/literature, and pedagogy/teacher education.
- Assures the educational community, the general public, and other agencies or organizations that the MTNA Professional Certification Program for music teachers has been clearly defined with appropriate standards.
- Provides a national forum for the discussion and consideration of concerns relevant to the preservation and advancement of standards in the field of music and music education.
- Develops a national unity and strength for the purpose of maintaining the position of music study in the family of fine arts and humanities and providing qualified teachers to guide that study.
- Sets a uniform national minimum standard of achievement without restricting the development of new ideas, experimentation, or the expansion of personal standards.

## Certification Philosophy:

Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients, and peers that which the individual knows and can do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice. In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for personal professional achievement, and validates expertise for the individual and to those outside the field.

The MTNA Professional Certification program exists for teachers who teach music to students of any age level in private or group settings. Upon fulfillment of a set of standards which defines what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do, applicants are granted the MTNA Professional Certification credential with the designation, Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM). To maintain the MTNA Professional Certification credential and designation, NCTM must continue fulfilling the program's standards through the renewal process.

The credential and designation are granted without bias, discrimination, or favoritism between MTNA members and/or nonmembers or any other arbitrary differentiation. The MTNA Professional Certification program is objectively administered in a uniform manner to ensure fairness, accuracy, validity, and integrity. Due process for reconsideration and reinstatement is included in the program for certification candidates, renewal candidates, and for those who already hold the MTNA Professional Certification credential.

In future WMTA newsletters, I will discuss the various stages of the MTNA Certification process. If you have any questions, feel free to send me a message.

Gail A. Heywood, NCTM, WMTA Certification Chair

# Wisconsin MTNA Competition Results

This year the competition was virtual. Students submitted videos for adjudication. Winners and Representatives will move on to the East Central Division Competition. This level will also be virtual. Winners at the Division level will then compete at the MTNA National Competition.

Junior Piano – Stefanie Jacob, Adjudicator  
State Representative – Sophia Jiang, Student of William Lutes

Junior Strings – Talia Pavia, Adjudicator  
Winner – Henry Auxenfans, Student of Frank Almond  
Alternate – Jane Story, Student of Anna Cromwell

Senior Piano – Stefanie Jacob, Adjudicator  
Winner – Jessica Jiang, Student of William Lutes  
Alternate – Antonio Wu, Student of Karen Boe

Senior Voice – Dr. Alisa Jordheim, Adjudicator  
Representative – Emma Dorshorst, Student of Mary Hofer

Young Artist Piano – Dr. Catalin Iacob, Stefanie Jacob, Dr. Elias-Axel Pettersson, Adjudicators  
Winner – Jonathan Bass, Student of Michael Mizrahi  
Alternate – Ami Hatori, Student of Catherine Kautsky  
Honorable Mention – Henry Giles, Student of Michael Mizrahi

Young Artist String  
Representative – Havilah Vang, Student of Anna Cromwell

Young Artist Woodwind – Steven Leffue, Adjudicator  
Winner – Joshua Roberts, Student of Drew Whiting  
Alternate – Jonathan Viegut, Student of Alastair Wright

Congratulations to all students and teachers.

## Member Shout Outs

- **Sandra Statz** for her work to get WMTA auditions going for 2021 in their virtual format.
- **Mary Anne Olvera** for work with publishers for sync licenses for 2021 auditions.
- **Sam Ecoff** for connecting WMTA with publishers.
- **Mickey Lytle** for connecting WMTA with CSMusic, the auditions platform that will be used for 2021 auditions.
- **Louise Mann** and **Anna Kojovic-Frodl** for their work on the Auditions committee.
- **Sydney Alexander** for her work on online theory testing.





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## **'WOMEN COMPOSERS in MUSIC'**

*A Virtual Experience  
November 22, 2020*

Women composers, arrangers, and performers, have been underrepresented throughout history, but most certainly not for lack of presence!

In celebration of the female contribution to music, the St. Croix Valley Music Teachers Association presented a very successful virtual recital, including all female composers.

The program, presented as a YouTube Premiere event, was wonderfully diverse in selection, style, level, and medium.

Maria, violinist, introduced us to Claribel Charlotte Barnard, a 19thC English ballad composer whose work was beautifully rendered as a violin solo.

Kyle, vocalist, shared a beautiful rendition of a Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel work, in German. We are reminded that Fanny Mendelssohn was a brilliant composer and performer in her own right, and was not allowed to take her rightful place in music, publishing her music under her famous brother Felix's name.

Zoe, pianist, gave the most stunning performance of a most stunning Eugenie Rocherolle work. Rocherolle is a contemporary American pianist and composer, former student of Nadia Boulanger, writing in a beautifully romantic style.

We had a multitude of delightful sibling duets, piano duets, piano/violin duet, where students show how well they have learned the concept of sharing a melodic line, and sharing the piano bench!

We also had 2 young women composers, who presented their work to us and described what their method of composition was, and what their focus was as they wrote their pieces. Adria wrote a lovely work called Wintertide, and gave credit to her mother for encouraging her to continue to write 'those moody' pieces. It was lovely! We also had contribution from Evelyn, who has recently won a composition competition with the MN Music Teachers Association. Her work, Mother's Moments, was inspired by the strong women in her life,

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and dedicated to her mom. It was a muscular, tender, lovely work, and a beautiful tribute to the women that have impacted her.

And perhaps the most wonderful part of this concert was the contribution that contemporary female composers made to our recital. Seven composers, Andrea Dow, Melody Bober, Jennifer Eklund, Wendy Stevens, Catherine Rollin, Wynn-Anne Rossi, and Joyce Grill, prepared video statements of support, inspiration, and encouragement to all of these young musicians. Melody Bober spoke to her inspiration, living in rural MN, and her processes in music making, stressing that music is a 'lifetime sport', and Chelsea immediately played Teddy Turtle's Two Step! And Wynn-Anne Rossi spoke to what moves her in creating music, encouraging students to be themselves and love what they are doing, while Darlene sang a lovely O Daisy, with simply gorgeous text. Every composer that spoke understood that they were addressing young musicians, and left them with inspiring words of encouragement and support.

It cannot be understated the impact that these living, engaged contemporary female musicians had on our students throughout this recital. How much more exciting could it be for students than to be studying a work of the composer who then speaks to composition and a life in music!

This was a remarkably successful recital, and we believe it will remain in the hearts and minds of our students for a long time. We loved shining a bright light on the contributions of women in music.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM  
President, St. Croix Valley Music Teachers Association

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### FVMTA Young Artist Festival

Fox Valley Music Teachers Association Young Artist Festival announces a change to complete virtual competitions! FVMTA YAF will consist of adjudicated performances in piano, strings, voice, brass, woodwind, and ensembles (including duets) with cash prizes and a virtual Winners Recital (no clinic this year.)

The FVMTA YAF is open to students in Grades 6-12 from the following eight NE Wisconsin counties: Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca and Winnebago.

Submission deadline of recorded performances will be Thursday, Feb. 11. The virtual Winners Recital is scheduled for 1:30 pm Saturday, Feb. 20.

See complete rules at [FVMTA/Programs/Fox Valley Young Artist Festival](#).



# Membership Reminders

## Have You Moved?

All membership changes, including renewals and address changes, should be made on the MTNA website by updating your member profile. [www.MTNA.org](http://www.MTNA.org)

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## PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT LINE

MTNA provides free counsel for members. Contact the MTNA National Headquarters with any business or pedagogical questions.

(888) 512-5278 -or- [professionalsupport@mtna.org](mailto:professionalsupport@mtna.org)

They will gladly assist you in areas such as business plans, contracts, copyright concerns, legal standards, property acquisition, zoning laws, partnerships, grants, acoustic building standards, ASCAP matters, certification, teacher development, group affiliations, music supplies, equipment purchasing, lesson plans, customer fees, health insurance and teacher networking.

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## Advertise Here

The WMTA Newsletter is published four times a year during the months of February, May, August and December. The deadline for sending submissions is the 1st of the month before the issue publishes. Please contact our central office to learn more about the requirements and opportunities for advertising in this and other WMTA publications.

Full Page Ad (8.5" x 11") \$100

Half Page Ad (8.5 x 5.5") \$50

Quarter Page Ad (4.25" x 5.5") \$25

Eighth Page Ad (4.25" x 2.75") \$15

## Member Submissions

All WMTA members may submit relevant announcements or articles to be published in the newsletter. All submissions should be submitted 2 to 4 weeks in advance and must be received by the 15th day of the month prior to issue date or they will not be included and are subject to space availability.

To propose information, please email the central office with potential text and pictures. All text should be concise and edited for content, spelling and grammar. Photos should be clear, high resolution and ready for publication. Please do not send pdf documents. All content is subject to edit and approval before it can be included.



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