



Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

State Affiliate of Music Teachers National Association

May 2023

Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We say it every year: How did it get to be May already?! It's kind of like what people tell parents of young kids: "The days go slow but the years go fast."

May is often my December. I look back on the academic year and my students' progress, taking note of my own personal and professional goals and accomplishments. Where did I succeed? Where did I fall short? Where did I surprise myself? I also like to re-evaluate the commitments that are taking up my time and decide if these commitments are still bringing peace and purpose to my life. Do you do this, too?

*WMTA has a full summer ahead of us. If you haven't done so already, be sure to check out the changes to the **Young Composer Festival** and encourage some of your students to take the summer to compose. They now have until mid-August to finish their compositions (what a fun summer studio project!) and there is also a non-competitive (comments only) option to appeal to every type of budding young composer.*

*We are working to bring awareness to **National Certification** with mentor groups and additional information for those who are considering earning their NCTM at some point. Our Administrative Council, District Chairs, and Local Association Presidents are gathering in mid-June not only for our regular June meetings, but also to engage in mindfulness and positive leadership as we learn to apply techniques in our **WMTA volunteer roles** and in our personal and professional lives.*

Letter from the President (continued)

The District and State auditions chairs and their committees have some hours ahead of them as we enter the backlog of data from our database changeover and train ourselves in using the new system. We also have a committee evaluating the first- year changes to some of our new auditions and our current judging rubric.

*Our conference committee will be working all summer to bring you a fantastic Annual Fall Conference in La Crosse – **do you have October 20-21 on your calendar yet?***

When I gave my report on the “state” of Wisconsin at the East Central Division meeting in Reno at the MTNA National Conference, I concluded that WMTA is anything but stagnant. Our group of members and teaching colleagues is constantly working to improve the organization and we have multiple ongoing projects.

To ALL of our volunteers: *The time you are willing to give is valuable, and we exist and progress because of you. Thank you for all you do. If you would like to **volunteer with WMTA** and you aren’t currently, please reach out to your local association president, or email me directly; we’ll do our best to match your interests and talents with the service that is needed.*

Yours sincerely,

Michelle “Mickey” Lytle, NCTM

President, Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

Nick Phillips, Margaret Burton, Carl Osorio, & Mickey Lytle at the 2023 National Conference, Reno, NV





Membership update

By Justin Krueger, NCTM

As something new this year, I wanted to offer an opportunity for our members to share their reasons for being a part of WMTA. For this month, we have Stacey Kraus, NCTM - President of FVMTA who shares the following:



"Being a member of the Music Teachers National Association has been incredibly rewarding. Through it, I have had the opportunity to meet some of the most amazing teachers, composers, and musicians in our industry, some of which have become dear friends. They inspire and challenge me to continue excelling at my craft, whether it is a new way of teaching a concept or improving my own skills."

In an industry where an independent teacher can often feel isolated, I love the personal connection of attending local chapter meetings and state conferences. It was difficult when these were online during the pandemic. The online sessions were well done but did not replace the live experience. Our local chapter has mentoring sessions regularly, where we can talk about questions, concerns, or successes in our studios. In a time when there is so much enrichment available online, the significance of these personal connections is priceless."

Membership in MTNA is also validating, in that it shows we are committed to continuing our education, and providing quality music education to our community. I recently completed my national certification, allowing me to place NCTM after my name. I love that at a glance it shows my knowledge and dedication to music education."

If you would like to share a bit of your own membership story, please do not hesitate to reach out. I think this is a great opportunity to get to know our members and our organization just a little bit better!





Looking forward to the fall conference

By Hector Landa, VP- Conference

We are excited to be providing a great conference for you on October 19-21, 2023 at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse, WI. We look forward to providing you with an exciting conference artist and some fantastic session presenters to re-energize your music educator experience as we head into the winter season. This great opportunity to connect with others in your field, experience new music of all ages and abilities and be entertained by some performances. Spouses or friends are welcome to join our evening performance if you'd like to make it a getaway weekend. Watch your email in early June for lots of information and more specific details on the conference.

Hotel Reservations

Feel free to make your hotel reservation now for this event. Hotel reservation details and the conference promo code can be found on our [website](#). We will be having a new member breakfast for those who have joined this year and look forward to meeting everyone.

Advertising for the Conference

If you would like to advertise or know a company that would be interested, information can be found [here](#). We offer lots of opportunities including running an advertisement in our program, adding to a goodie bag, or being a conference exhibitor. If you have questions, or suggestions for advertisers you'd like to see, contact wisconsinmtna@gmail.com.

Call for Collegiate Presenters

By Nicholas Phillips, NCTM College Faculty Representative

WMTA Collegiate members are encouraged to submit for the State Conference. There are two opportunities for collegiate members to submit their research for a poster session, or can propose a 20-minute accelerated session, in the same manner of the MTNA tracks at the National Conference. These can be pedagogical in nature, relate to interesting literature, wellness, etc. In order to be considered, please email a title, abstract (no more than 250 words), and format preference (poster, presentation) to Nicholas Phillips (phillins@uwec.edu) by June 1.





Note from the Immediate Past President

By Rachel Fritz, Immediate Past-President

Thank you for your cooperation as we have navigated the University of Wisconsin security protocols for several locations. As expected, every location has been different and they are learning as well. We will continue to work with every site to comply with their protocols.

Cadence continues to move. We had some backend set up that needed to happen with WMTA's email systems to make it possible for Cadence to send out email logins. We are now working on a timeline for login information to go out.

WMTA Young Composer Festival

By Amber Bruns, NCTM and Mickey Lytle, NCTM

The WMTA Young Composer Festival provides a chance for students in Wisconsin to create their own original works and receive feedback from a composition teacher.

What's NEW for this year's revamped Young Composer Festival?

- ❖ Your choice to enter as either Competitive (the judge awards 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each age division) or Non-Competitive (comments only)
- ❖ Three Age Divisions: Elementary (Age 8-10), Junior (age 11-14), and Senior (Age 15-18)
- ❖ Your application and entry fee is due July 1, but your submission isn't due until August 15, so you have **ALL SUMMER** to work on your composition!

Please see the Young Composer Festival page [\(here\)](#) on the WMTA website for more details, including information on how to include music composition in your teaching as well as a [rubric](#) for this year's festival.

Application: [This online form](#) is due before midnight, July 1, 2023

Entry Details: One check per teacher must be postmarked by July 1, 2023, mailed to: WMTA, PO Box 46203, Madison, WI 53744 PDFs/MP3s Must be submitted via email before midnight, August 15, 2023 .

Contact the WMTA Young Composer Festival Chair, Amber Bruns, NCTM, amber@bluemaplemusic.com with any questions.





WMTA Teacher Award of Excellence

By Sandra Statz, NCTM

It is my pleasure to accept the chair of this program. While students earn bars and plaques throughout their WMTA auditions experience, TEACHERS also can receive recognition for all their hard work! We would LOVE to honor YOU at the WMTA Conference Banquet on October 20 by presenting you with a certificate, plaque or bar. The WMTA Teacher Award of Excellence awards are presented to teachers based on participation of their students in WMTA auditions.

One point is given to the teacher for each award their students earn through WMTA for each plaque and bar a student receives. An award certificate is earned at the following milestones: 10, 50, and 75 points. A plaque is earned at 100 points. Bars are earned in 25-point increments following the plaque. Submitting Points for Awards I encourage YOU to reach out to me and claim YOUR AWARD! Submit a list of your qualifying students and the bars and plaques they have won to me by October 1 (sooner is great): Sandra.statz2@gmail.com.

Competitions and Auditions Updates

DISTRICT AUDITIONS 2023!

By Sandra Statz, NCTM WMTA State District Chair


The 2023 District Audition season is a wrap. This season's wrap up is bittersweet. This June 1 marks the passing of the WMTA State District Chair torch to Roberta Grube as our NEW Chair! My 20-year tenure as the Eau Claire District Chair overlapped a couple of my 6 years as State Chair. It feels strange to be stepping down but I am stepping back into the Teacher Award of Excellence chair and look forward to serving you in that way.

What I have learned in my 24 years in leadership, I can only say that the Wisconsin Music Teachers are some of the MOST AMAZING people ever! We have super talented STUDENTS and supportive parents! And, our leaders could not do our jobs without all the many hours invested by our 14 District Chairs. I have come to know them well through weekly zoom meetings as well as 1:1 time. Your leaders are amazing humans! Please continue to help them as much as you can.

Congratulations to all who have qualified to compete at the Regional Piano and State Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Competitions – Good Luck!

(continued)





Please mark the WMTA Conference and make plans to attend in October (see that part of this newsletter).

Thank you to all for bearing with us as we are coming closer to rolling out the Cadence computer system! Please stay tuned for updates as they become available. I'm guessing there may be some bumps but that is to be expected anytime something new rolls out. Please keep an eye on your emails for updates and roll out information for Cadence.

Please remember to renew your MTNA/WMTA/local memberships this summer. All renewals must be recorded by WMTA before October 15, 2023 in order to enter students in the 2024 District Auditions.

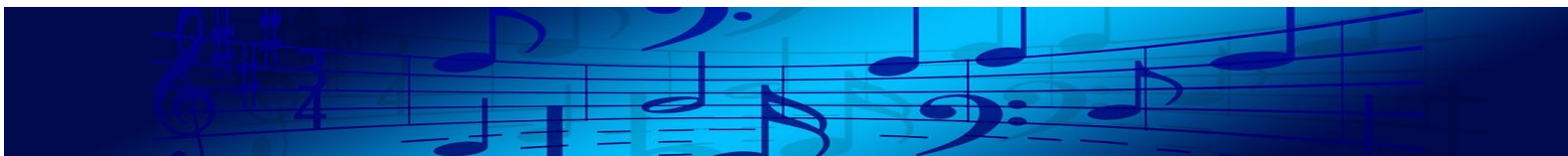
WMTA State Vocal/ Instrumental/ Ensemble Competition

By Opala Bilhorn, NCTM

Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Chair

The 2023 State Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Competition will be held at UW-Oshkosh on May 25, 2023. In 2023, the WMTA Auditions began offering an Ensemble Track. Several different Districts had ensembles participate in this opportunity. One Ensemble is participating at the State Competition in May, in addition to competitors in Voice, String and Woodwind.

Thank you for YOUR role in providing the opportunity for your students to participate in the State WMTA Competition.





2023 REGIONAL (formerly Badger) KEYBOARD COMPETITION

DATES AND VENUES

By Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM State Keyboard Chair

South - Regional (formerly Badger) Keyboard Competition

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, 1584 N. Prospect Ave.

NE - Regional (formerly Badger) Keyboard Competition

Saturday, May 13, 2023

University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh, 1001 Elmwood Ave, Oshkosh, WI
THIS IS ALSO THE STATE EVENT FOR ADULTS, KEYBOARD, DUETS

NW - Regional (formerly Badger) Keyboard Competition

Saturday, May 13, 2023

University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, 234 Lowe Center for the Arts, LaCrosse, WI

WMTA TRUE STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION

By Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM State Keyboard Chair

Saturday, May 20, 2023

University of Stevens Point, WI Noel Fine Arts Center
1800 Portage St., Stevens Point, WI

Registration Deadline Tuesday, May 16, 2023
Registration fee = \$40, payable to WMTA

Mail Registration Fee and Fee Summary to:
Mary Anne Olvera 664 Louise Lane Hudson, WI 54016





FAQ's ABOUT THE NEW COMPETITION

WILL THIS BE LIKE A LARGE RECITAL, WHERE WE GET TO SEE ALL THE FINALISTS? Yes, this competition is unlike any of the other events. All performances are on the recital hall stage. Admission (day passes) will be charged @\$10 adult, \$5 non performing student, under 5yo, free.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE? This competition is open to the grade 7-12 Regional winners @S, NE, NW, totaling 18 participants.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REGIONAL WINNER DOESN'T WANT TO/CAN'T PARTICIPATE? If this occurs at any region, the opportunity to perform falls to the Runner-Up at that grade level. If the Runner-Up can't participate, or there was no designated Runner-Up, there is a default at the grade level in that Region.


WILL THERE BE ONLY ONE JUDGE? There will be 3 judges adjudicating the same event at the same time for all grade levels. After the last grade level winner has performed, there is a 15 min. deliberation time built in for the judges to determine that grade level winner.

WHAT DOES THE SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE? The day's schedule is already determined, with a start time at 8:00, 15 min. for each participant, 15 min. deliberation, then turnover to the next grade level. Each Region will be rotated for the start position in the next grade level. This continues throughout the day, with awards ceremony at 3:45pm.

ARE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES REQUIRED TO STAY FOR THE WHOLE DAY? Students are not required to stay for the whole day, but all are strongly encouraged to attend as many performances as they can. These are students playing at the peak of their ability and this is not only highly motivating for students, but highly instructive.

WHAT WILL THE JUDGES BE LISTENING FOR AT THIS LEVEL OF COMPETITION? Every student performing has already distinguished themselves as winners in their Regional competitions. They are called on to demonstrate a higher degree of mastery of this repertoire. They need to come to this with fresh ears. Students will be evaluated on the preparedness and mastery of their pieces, not the difficulty and not the length.





Aside from precise notes and rhythms, some examples of what judges listen for are beautiful phrasing and beautiful musical statements, expressive creative dynamics, beautiful tone color, rubato well performed where needed, balanced and creative voicing, artful articulation as noted in the score.

This is a competition in search of the masterful musician, the student that understands that flawless technique is not the end game, but a tool to deliver beautiful music making.

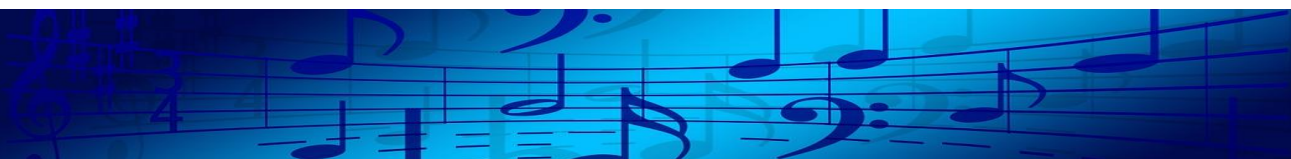
SHOULD TEACHERS MAKE CUTS TO THE SCORE IF THEIR MUSIC EXCEEDS 15 MINUTES? No, the adjudicator will respectfully cut the student off, but teachers can prep students for being cut-off when their program exceeds 15 minutes.


IF STUDENTS ARE CUT OFF, CAN YOU STILL WIN IF THE JUDGES HAVE NOT HEARD ALL THREE PIECES IN THE ENTIRETY? Yes, judges can certainly determine a winner even though all repertoire may not have been heard to completion. A winning performance is not dependent on the length of the piece, nor its difficulty. Students are evaluated on the preparedness and mastery of their pieces, not the difficulty and not the length.

IT SEEMS LIKE 15 MIN. IS TOO SHORT, ESPECIALLY FOR SOME PIECES. WHY CAN'T STUDENTS PREPARE PROGRAMS THAT GO OVER 15 MIN.? The 15 minutes time limit is in place to create equity for every single student that is playing. It is not meant to discourage students from learning larger repertoire, especially those students preparing college entrance auditions. But if a student's program does exceed 15 minutes, prepare them for the probability that they will be respectfully cut off. *(Parents and students are reminded that most college entrance auditions are capped at 10 min.)*

IF THE WINNER OR THE RUNNER-UP DO NOT PERFORM FOR THAT GRADE, THEN IS THE WINNER FROM THE REGIONALS STILL THE WINNER OF THE STATE? The grade level winner at Regionals was never the winner of the state. They were the winner of that region of the state only, either NE, NW, or S. That is what this new True State competition is all about - the opportunity for regional winners at grade level to meet the other regional winners and compete, thereby determining one true winner at grade level in the state. The Regional/Badger competitions did not do this. And that's what makes this exciting!

WHEN WILL WINNERS AND AWARDS BE ANNOUNCED? After all participants have performed, after the last participant at grade 12, and deliberations are complete, the winners will be announced. They are not announced at the end of each grade level.





We will be posting to the WMTA Facebook page.

*If there are any additional questions contact Mary Anne Olvera,
maryanneolvera@gmail.com.*

Thank you from Nick Phillips, Foundation Fellow

Dear Wisconsin MTA,

Thank you for the honor of nominating me as an MTNA Foundation Fellow, and for contributing to my Fellow Fund. I was truly humbled, and honored to be recognized in Reno at the conference.

With much gratitude,

Nick Phillips

FVMTA Young Artist Festival

By Barbara Froelich, NCTM FVMTA YAF Committee



Fox Valley Music Teachers Association sponsored its 22nd annual Young Artist Festival (YAF) Saturday, Feb. 11 at Lawrence Conservatory of Music. Sixteen students (grades 6-12) and eight teachers were involved in piano, strings and vocal competitions. Professors from St. Norbert College, Ripon College and Lawrence University served as adjudicators. First and Second place students were asked to perform for the Winners Recital at 12:15 pm in Harper Hall of LU Conservatory.

The List of Winners, Teachers, Literature and Prizes can be accessed on the [FVMTA website](#). For advance info for the 2024 event, view 2023 brochure for expected similarities. Updates will be posted [here](#).

Thanks to Larry and Nancy Rice, Heid Music and Jerry Doss for continued monetary support of the event's prizes, judges and facilities rental. After 2 years of virtual submissions, all were delighted to engage in an in-person event with live performances!





SCVMTA NEWS!

by Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM St. Croix Valley Music Teacher Association

As a reminder: On Sept 15 - 16, 2023, St. Croix Valley Music Teachers Association has the privilege of hosting Dr. Kevin Olson, Utah State University, for a series of teacher and student workshops, and a premier presentation of his newly commissioned work.

Dr. Olson has been commissioned by SCVMTA to write a suite of pieces commemorative of Deanna Roen, whom many of you know and have worked with. He will also be offering teacher and student workshops focusing on the creative process of composition.

‘CELEBRATING COMPOSITION with Dr. Kevin Olson’ is an opportunity for teachers and students to pull the curtain back on the process of composition, and to engage with and learn the tools and strategies for creative composition. While all of the details are still being fine tuned and subject to some change, a rough outline of his time with us is as follows:

- **Friday, September 15, 2023 - 4:00-6:00** - Teacher day focused on composition, all of its variables, and methods for teaching the processes

- **6:00-7:00** - Catered meal for all participants, a wonderful community opportunity and chance to engage with WMTA members

- **7:00** - Presentation of newly commissioned pieces honoring Deanna, performed by Dr. Olson

- **Saturday, September 16, 2023 - 10:00 - noon** - Student day, workshops on composition and performance of Kevin Olson works by students.

- **12:00 - 1:00 - lunch**

- **1:00 - 3:00** - More student workshops, Q/A regarding the process of composition. This will be an opportunity for students to play their own compositions, and get valuable feedback and coaching. This could also be an opportunity for students to perform Kevin Olson's pieces, and to quiz the composer on why he chose particular devices in the piece. We envision this day as being very interactive with students, helping them to understand the creative energies and the process which to some may be a bit of a Mystery.

Dr. Kevin Olson is a very active pianist and composer. He directs the piano program at Utah State University, and we are thrilled to have him working with us. We invite all WMTA members to take part in these workshops, and to celebrate Deanna Roen in the premier presentation of these newly composed pieces.

Contact Mary Anne Olvera, maryanneolvera@gmail.com, with any questions.





Minnesota Music Teachers Association Invitation

Minnesota Music Teachers Association would like to invite the WMTA members to their annual convention on June 11-13 at the Hilton- Minneapolis/St Paul Airport Hotel. Highlights of their convention include Information about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion topics, Vocal and Piano masterclasses, choral workshops, collaborative piano and concerts by Dr. Leah Claiborne, Keynote speaker. They will also be having technique, improvisation and performance strategies as well as theory teaching tips and repertoire analysis. More information can be found at <https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/mmta-annual-convention>





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www.hfconservatory.org**





Be a Judge

If you are interested in being an adjudicator for WMTA auditions, please complete this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_8IEFsVwuXAUscGVR6htN4PtJMy1_NikjBpQbq-ve8A/edit

The Leadership of WMTA

For a list of WMTA Leadership, please click here: [Leadership](#)

For a list of your Local Association Presidents, click here: [Local Associations](#)

Professional Assistance Line

MTNA understands the ever-changing demands that music teachers face. To meet those needs, a vast collection of business resources has been developed by the association. Content will continue to be added and updated to ensure MTNA members have access to resources necessary to grow thriving studios and portfolio careers. If you have any questions regarding the Business Resources section or would like to provide feedback, [click here](#) or contact the MTNA National Headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or mtnanet@mtna.org.


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

Member Submissions

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

To propose information, please email the wisconsinmta@gmail.com 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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HIGH SCHOOL PIANO

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Details

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Advertise With us

WMTA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit as a state affiliate of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). Advertising with Wisconsin Music Teachers Association will help you reach the 450+ members who are largely private music teachers, college and university instructors, and college student members across Wisconsin. Advertising must be paid for prior to the 15th of the newsletter publication date. If you have questions or if you need an invoice, please email wisconsinmta@gmail.com.

Conference Advertising (Exhibitor)

Many options exist to advertise at our conference. Please see the website for details.

Newsletter Advertising Only Options

WMTA produces a newsletter in February, May, August, and December. If you would like to submit an advertisement, an electronic submission and payment are due by the 15th of the month prior. (January 15, April 15, July 15, and November 15) [More information here](#)

- Multi-newsletter advertising: 4 ads in the consecutive February, May, August, and December Newsletters, paid in full
 - Full Page: \$300
 - Half Page: \$150
- One-time Quarterly Newsletter full page color ad- \$100
- One-time Quarterly Newsletter half page color ad- \$50
- One-time use of our postal mailing list - \$75
- One-time ad, sent via email by WMTA on your behalf to entire membership- \$75
- If you wish to advertise, use [this link](#).

Donate to MTNA

When you make a contribution to the MTNA Foundation Fund, you are helping us work for a more musical tomorrow through programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music. Young students are recognized for their pursuit of excellence in performance and composition through the MTNA Student Competitions. The foundation fund also supports local associations by awarding grants from a national level. Click [here](#).



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