



Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

State Affiliate of Music Teachers National Association

December 2023

Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

What a whirlwind of an autumn it has been, and a beautiful one at that! I am still stirred from our exciting fall conference, inspired after visiting with many of you, and invigorated by so many wonderful presentations. Since that weekend, I have had several conversations with music colleagues who are working on personal and collaborative projects. There really are so many creative and innovative ideas brewing among our peers—I am enthusiastic for our profession and the arts in general.

Whether you are cultivating a studio of rising 2nd grade beginning students, taking on an ambitious recording project, or considering filing the paperwork to begin your NCTM, I wish you all the drive and perseverance you need to achieve your personal goals.

“Today is your opportunity to build the tomorrow that you want.” -Ken Poirot

Happy New Year—make it a great 2024!

Yours sincerely,

Michelle “Mickey” Lytle, NCTM

President, Wisconsin Music Teachers Association





Coming soon...2024 Conference planning

By Hector Landa, VP-Conference

Watch your email in mid-January for 2024 conference information. It will include dates, location, and call for proposals. This time, we'll be looking for members to serve on the conference committee in various capacities.

2023 Conference Wrap Up

By Mickey Lytle, NCTM, President, and Hector Landa, VP-Conference

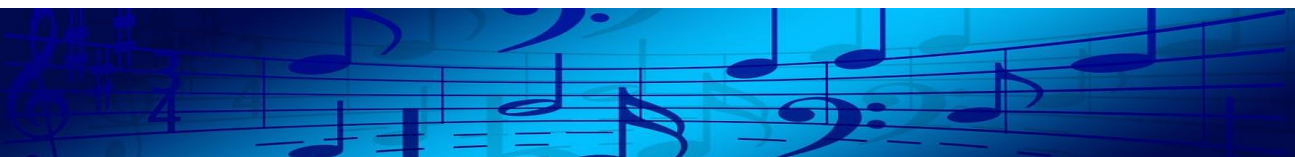
Thank you to all who had a part in making this year's conference fantastic! Make sure to check out the WMTA Facebook page for conference photos. We appreciate those who completed the after-conference survey as those comments are very important in helping the chair and committee shape and plan future conferences!

Congratulations to **La Crosse Area Music Teachers** for winning the Attendance Award at the 2023 WMTA Annual Conference!

Congratulations to **Superior Area Music Teachers** for winning the Mileage Award at the 2023 WMTA Annual Conference!

Collegiate Donations: WMTA's Annual Fall Conference had three fantastic collegiate presentations and a strong collegiate member presence in 2023! We keep the collegiate conference registration rate low and ask for donations from members to help offset the additional costs. This year, 11 individuals contributed a total of \$335 in support of our collegiate members. Thank you for your support of our collegiate conference attendees—you are ensuring our next generation of educators!

Thank You from our Conference Artist: Dr. Jonathan Sokasits sent the following thank you correspondence following the WMTA fall conference.





HastingsCollege

Music Department
Hastings College
710 N Turner Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901-7621
(402) 461-7359
jsokasits@hastings.edu
November 7, 2023

Mickey Lytle, NCTM
President, Wisconsin Music Teachers Association
mickeywmta@gmail.com

Dear Mickey:

So many thanks for a wonderful, memorable weekend!

Thank you for the invitation to serve as keynote speaker and guest artist at the recent Wisconsin Music Teachers Association State Conference in La Crosse. I was truly flattered with the honor of this invitation. The warm, supportive reception I continually received during the weekend's activities was so affirming and so appreciated! I enjoyed interacting with a number of board members, presenters, and attendees.

On a personal note, I really enjoyed getting to meet you and spend time with you. Your former teachers speak very highly of your work as a student here; the impressive biography on your website shows how much you have fulfilled the promise of your many talents.

I do not run into many Hastings College graduates in my travels outside Nebraska, but each time I do, they never fail to impress me with their industry and energy. Thank you once again for being such a compassionate, organized, thoughtful host! Please convey my gratitude to the membership of WMTA as well.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Sokasits, DMA, NCTM
Professor of Piano
Hastings College



IMTF: Teaching students with learning disabilities

By Tricia Marton, NCTM

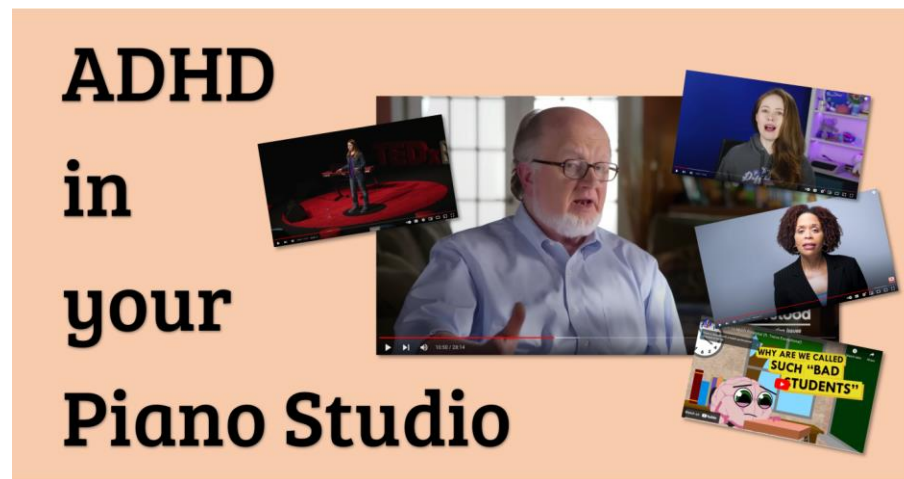
During the Ask The Teacher workshop at our 2023 State Conference, several teachers asked detailed questions about best practices for teaching students with learning disabilities. Luckily our local chapter, Michibago, has hosted a couple of presenters on this topic, but we can never have too many resources to improve our teaching.

Dr. Melissa Martiros of OpporTUNEity music (<https://opportunitymusic.org/>) gave a fantastic presentation to our chapter on this topic during the 2022-2023 school year. She is available via zoom for other Local Associations.

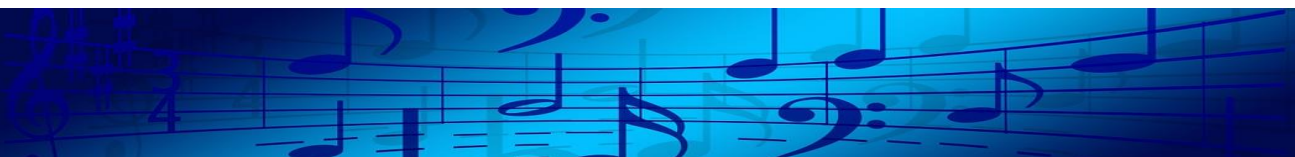
Books that are in my library on the Topic:

- *Including everyone: Creating Music Classrooms Where All Children Learn* by Judith A. Jellison—Oxford University Press
- *Perfect Pitch in the Key of Autism: A guide for Educators, Parents and the Musically Gifted* by Henny Kupferstein and Susan Rancer—iUniverse Publishers
- *Teaching Music to Student with Autism* by Alice M. Hammer and Ryan M. Hourigan—Oxford University Press

Additionally, here is a resource I found on an online forum from another teacher, Rebekah Maxner, which includes several links to online resources on the topic.



[Link to resources](#)



Congratulations to our Treasurer and Theory Chair!

Congratulations to our Treasurer & Theory Chair, Sydney (Alexander) Rinkleff, on her recent marriage! Sydney and her husband Patrick were married on October 28th. Of course, it was a day of beautiful music - the ceremony & Mass was adorned with full polyphonic choir & organ, and the reception featured a live jazz band!

Sydney maintains a dual location studio, splitting her time each week between Eau Claire WI and the Rochester MN area. She is grateful for the opportunity to be involved in such a variety of musical communities and endeavors, and is honored to continue serving as your WMTA Treasurer & Theory Chair - now as Sydney Rinkleff! She's still the same Sydney- just a new last name!



National Certification: Yes, this is for you!

By: Stacey Kraus, NCTM MTNA Certification Chair

If you missed the certification session at the state conference, you missed why now is the best time to get your national certification. If you are considering starting the process, please do not hesitate to contact me (sakraus2@gmail.com). If your local association has several people interested in starting the process, create a mentoring group to help and support each other. Remember, WMTA reimburses the application fee upon completion.

Approximately 20% of our WMTA teachers are nationally certified, with 4 receiving certification in the last 6 months. Currently, 7 WMTA members have applications in for certification. Congratulations to the newly certified, and good luck to the new applicants!



WMTA Hiring Administrative Assistant

WMTA thanks Heather for her two years in the WMTA Administrative Assistant position.

WMTA Administrative Assistant Description

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for supporting the members and events of the organization as directed by the President and Executive Board Members. Regular tasks include checking and answering the organization's email, designing and sending the quarterly membership newsletter and membership emails, updating the website, and assisting the Conference Chair in organizing and managing the Annual State Conference each October.


Qualified candidates must be self-driven and capable of independent work from home and have a computer capable of fulfilling the organization's needs. They should be capable of professional, timely, and effective written communication, while having strong editing and organizational skills. Applicants need sound computer skills including document design and knowledge of Gmail, WordPress, MailChimp/Constant Contact, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel. Typical weeks average 3 to 5 hours of work but tasks are generated by the current needs of the organization and can vary. This independent contractor (1099) position includes an annual evaluation and contract renewal with a competitive hourly rate.

WMTA members are strongly encouraged to apply.

Send cover letter and resume to mickeywmta@gmail.com, to the attention of Mickey Lytle and Mary Tollefson. Immediate hire.

Administrative Council: Media Chair Needed

WMTA seeks a new Media Chair! Juanita Becker has recently resigned as WMTA's Media Chair after serving in that position for the past two years. (Thank you, Juanita!) This position is a member of the Administrative Council which has two meetings a year (October and June), and the Media Chair manages the posts on the WMTA Facebook page. You can work on your own time (except during regional/state auditions when posting is a little more time-sensitive, but you can get some help there, if needed). If you are interested in this position, please email President Mickey Lytle: mickeywmta@gmail.com.



National Conference

Mark your calendars and register now for the 2024 MTNA National Conference, March 16–20, 2024, at the Hilton Atlanta Downtown.

The MTNA National Conference has long been the premier gathering for professionals and leaders in the music teaching profession. As an attendee, you will have the unique opportunity to:

- connect with new and established peers
- learn about the latest trends and topics in the profession
- see the newest offerings from more than 100 exhibitors
- come away inspired in your practice

Reserve your spot today!

If you are planning to be in Atlanta, please let Mickey Lytle (mickeywmtna@gmail.com) know as tentative plans are being made for state/division get-togethers.



**2024
ATLANTA**
Music Teachers National Association
NATIONAL CONFERENCE • MARCH 16–20

The MTNA National Conference, held annually, brings together the most representative cross-section of the MTNA membership. This year evening recitals, a keynote speaker and four master classes will be among the headlining events at this premier conference for studio music teachers. Arrive a day early to take advantage of the five Pedagogy Saturday tracks. And, all the annual favorites like the Exhibit Hall, showcases and the MTNA Competitions will be back!

Visit www.mtna.org
for more information

FEATURED GUESTS

 <p>Sean Chen Tuesday Evening Recital Advanced Piano Master Class</p>	 <p>Sonya Headlam Soprano Opening Session Recital</p>	 <p>Martin Néron Pianist Opening Session Recital</p>
 <p>Theresa Bogard, NCTM Technique Master Class</p>	 <p>Alex McDonald Intermediate Piano Master Class</p>	 <p>Kevin Olson Elementary Piano Master Class</p>
 <p>Johnaye Kendrick Jazz Vocalist MTNA Gala</p>	 <p>Dawn Clement Pianist MTNA Gala</p>	 <p>Tim Topham Keynote Address Plenary Session</p>



Membership Musings

Dr. Justin Krueger, NCTM

When the call for newsletter content came up, I felt as though there wasn't a whole lot to report from the membership side - dues aren't due yet (no rap video necessary!), numbers aren't known yet, and the academic year when new collegiate members are recruited is off and running. And yet, as I finished putting together a database for district auditions and members just now, I had an opportunity to compare lists of member names. As I went through the names this year, I recognized so many folks from auditions, from conferences, from meetings, and even some new members whom I have fond memories of in studio class at St. Norbert College with.

This past week, I had an opportunity to introduce "Scenes from the Northwoods," by Kevin Olson - a collection of pieces commissioned in honor of Deanna Roen, one of our long time members and a MTNA Fellow. When I had the opportunity to explain how the commission worked to my student, he thought it was so cool that a group of her colleagues and friends commissioned a piece in her memory and was eager to start practicing.

And so, for most people, going through a database may not seem like an overly thrilling activity, but this year, for whatever reason, it carried a lot more meaning, because with each name is a story, and so it is, through our membership in WMTA, that our stories, and those of our students continue to be interwoven, to have the opportunity and the privilege to make music in our world.

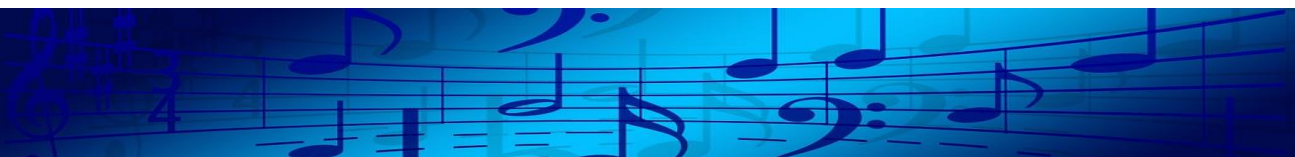
With all that is happening in various areas of the world right now in 2023, I am making a choice to focus on the positive, and one of those positives is the gift of music. As we approach the holiday season, I am grateful to know so many of you as colleagues, friends, and musicians that will continue to add beauty and goodness in our world. I ask that each of you take a moment and perhaps reach out to a colleague that you are grateful for, maybe a quick email, or a facebook message, but let's show our gratitude for the opportunity to have such a rewarding career.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and cheers to 2024!

WMTA Commissioned Composers

By: Michael Mizrahi, Commissioned Composer Chair

Thank you to Brooke Joyce for his commissioned composer piece- a piece that mixes science and music for a middle range student. You can find it and others on the website [here](#). All of our past pieces are listed, some with free music for you to use.





WMTA State Vocal/ Instrumental/ Ensemble Competition

By: Opala Bilhorn, NCTM Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Chair

The 2024 State Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Competition will be held at UW-Stevens Point on May 11, 2024. Below are the steps for participating in the WMTA State Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Competition:

1. Students must participate in District Auditions to qualify for the State Vocal/ Instrumental/Ensemble Competition.

To qualify for the State competition students must receive a score of at least 14 points on their playing/singing/ensemble and at least 4 points on their theory test.

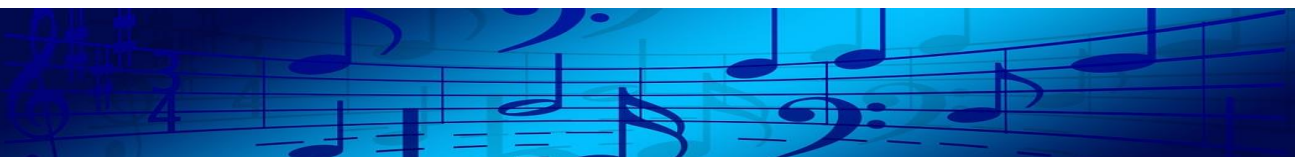
2. April 3, 2024 State Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Registration deadline

Payments should be mailed to Opala Bilhorn, 508 Campus St., Suite 3, Milton, WI 53563 and postmarked by April 3rd. (See the fee summary form for costs). Make sure to include your [fee summary form](#) printed from the website.

3. Audition information (performance time and location) will be sent within a couple of weeks. Teachers submitting students must plan to volunteer at the competition.

Please note that State Track Keyboard Duets and Adult Keyboard are now included in the State Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Contest. Teachers of State-qualified students will need to submit their registration materials to Opala Bilhorn.

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



Audrey G. Baird
★ Stars of
Tomorrow

MSO MILWAUKEE
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
KEN-DAVID MASUR / MUSIC DIRECTOR

2024 Stars of Tomorrow Competition

with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024

First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
1511 Church Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Open to Wisconsin high school string, brass, woodwind, and percussion musicians — **applications are now being accepted.**

Three winners selected by a panel of professional musicians will perform as soloists with the MSO in the Audrey G. Baird Stars of Tomorrow concert on April 30, 2024. These soloists each receive a **\$1,000 award**. One soloist receives an additional **\$1,000 award** and an invitation to **solo with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra** on an education concert during the 2024.25 season! The remaining two soloists receive a **\$250 award**.

Semi-finalists and honorable mention winners are invited to play side-by-side with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Audition slots are limited and are first come, first served. Visit **mso.org/stars** for registration information and complete audition rules. Students must play a piece from the approved repertoire list.

STARS OF TOMORROW COMPETITION TIMELINE

NOW – Applications Available at **mso.org/stars**

JANUARY 22 – Application Deadline

FEBRUARY 17 – Auditions

APRIL 30 – Audrey G. Baird Stars of Tomorrow Concert
at the Bradley Symphony Center

Questions? Contact MSO Education at 414.226.7885 or edu@mso.org





District Auditions News!

By: Roberta Grube, NCTM WMTA State District Chair

It was great meeting all the District Chairs in person at the 2023 Conference in La Crosse. Thank you for picking up all your certificates and awards which made my job distributing them very easy.


Check out all the audition information on our WMTA website. There are easy-to-follow flowcharts to help teachers understand the various tracks and their requirements. If you have any questions concerning audition specifics, please reach out to your District Chair. They are a great group of volunteers that work hard to make our auditions a great experience for the students.

Registrations will be completed using spreadsheets again this year. Stay tuned for further instructions from your District Chair as I am putting the finishing touches on the registration spreadsheet.

All applications must be completed by the application due date for your district. There will be NO applications accepted late! Please also have your application fees turned in by your district's due date. If you do have a student entering out of district you MUST get permission from the out of District Chair prior to the registration due date. Remember if any of your students qualify for Regional or State, they must register in the Region that your District is associated with.

There are both comprehensive study sheets and individual study sheets for the theory tests on the WMTA website for your use. As a reminder, all students will receive only two hearings of the aural theory questions during the audition's theory testing. The intervals will be played melodically going up, then down, then together; that is one hearing.

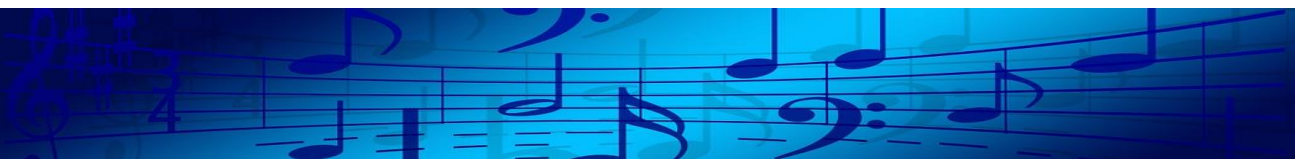
Also, the District Chairs have an opportunity to meet via zoom weekly where we address concerns and questions. I am looking forward to the 2024 auditions with enthusiasm my first year as State District Chair.

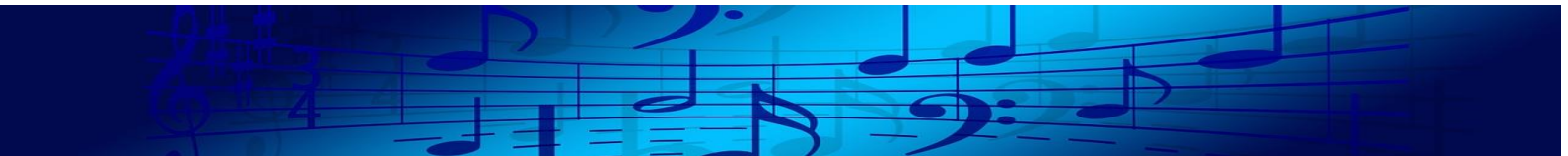





District Audition Dates and Sites

DISTRICT	SITE	AUDITIONS DATE	ENTRY DEADLINE
Appleton	Lawrence University	03/16/24	02/17/24
Eau Claire	UW-Eau Claire	03/16/24	02/16/24
Kenosha	UW-Parkside	03/09/24	02/09/24
La Crosse	Capella Performing Arts Center	03/16/24	02/16/24
Madison	UW-Madison School of Music	03/23/24	02/23/24
Merrill	Our Savior's Lutheran	03/02/23	02/10/23
Oshkosh	UW-Oshkosh	03/16/24	02/24/24
River Falls	UW-River Falls	03/23/24	02/21/24
Sheboygan, West Bend	Lakeland University	03/09/24	02/09/24
Stevens Point	UW-Stevens Point	03/16/24	02/24/24
Superior	UW-Superior	03/03/24	02/05/24
Milwaukee	UW-Milwaukee	03/23/24	02/24/24
Wausau	Wausau Conservatory	03/09/24	02/19/24
Whitewater	UW-Whitewater	03/23/24	02/23/24





DISTRICT	CHAIR(S)	EMAIL	PHONE
STATE CHAIR	Roberta Grube	rfrinkman@gmail.com	715-364-2537 / 218-349-6419
Appleton	Catherine Walby	catherine.walby@lawrence.edu	920-832-7448
Eau Claire	Joe Krause	josephkrause@gmail.com	715-797-0692
Kenosha	Flora Lim	floralim_piano@yahoo.com	262-945-3934 (Flora)
	Anna Kojovic-Frodl	annkojovic@gmail.com	262-880-8586 (Anna)
La Crosse	Reene Sampson	reene.ann.sampson@gmail.com	(608) 792-6697
Madison	John Scoville	johnharrisonscoville@gmail.com	913-488-1693 (John)
	Denise Taylor	dtaylorpiano@gmail.com	608-438-2754 (Denise)
Merrill	Katie Livingston	katzpianostudio@msn.com	715-218-6894 / 715-536-4054
	Carolyn O'Brien	cobrienpiano@gmail.com	715-966-2592
Oshkosh	Dr. Kirstin Ihde	ihdek@uwosh.edu	319-830-3264 (Kirstin)





	Annemarie Birschbach	ajbach@att.net	920-379-1968 (Annemarie)
River Falls	Teresa Lindahl	btbjgf@gmail.com	715-690-4282
Sheboygan / West Bend	Louise Mann	louisemannpiano@gmail.com	920-912-2106 (Louise)
Stevens Point	Gail Heywood	gailheywood0@gmail.com	715-459-8180
Superior	Roberta Grube	rfrinkman@gmail.com	715-364-2537 / 218-349-6419
Milwaukee	Jennifer Kottke	jenmilmusic@gmail.com	262-622-5092
Wausau	Mona Grote	monagrote@yahoo.com	715-721-5122
Whitewater	Bethany Hartlaub	bjoyful90@outlook.com	262-215-5495





2024 REGIONAL KEYBOARD COMPETITION DATES AND VENUES

By: Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM

Regional Keyboard competitions are held at three sites in WI (S Regional, NE Regional, NW Regional).

New for 2024!

- Students advancing to the Regional Keyboard Competition must compete in the region associated with their home district
- Piano Duets are now included in and entered in the Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble audition track
- Only Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble track may change regions
- Students placing as Winner, Runner Up will be receiving medals rather than trophies

All registrations must be postmarked by WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024. Registration fees are \$30 for each student entered. Send check, made payable to WMTA, along with the [Fee Summary sheet](#), to:

**Mary Anne Olvera
664 Louise Lane
Hudson, WI 54016**

**S REGIONAL
KEYBOARD
COMPETITION**
SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024
UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN -
WHITEWATER
Greenhill Center of the Arts
950 W. Main St.
Whitewater, WI 53190

**NE REGIONAL
KEYBOARD
COMPETITION**
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024
UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN –
STEVENS POINT
Noel Fine Arts Center
1800 Portage St.
Stevens Point, WI

**NW REGIONAL
KEYBOARD
COMPETITION**
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024
UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN –
EAU CLAIRE
Haas Fine Arts Center
121 Water St.
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Winners at grade levels 7-12 will have the option to advance to the State Keyboard Competition.

Any questions, contact Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM, maryanneolvera@gmail.com



WMTA Teacher Award of Excellence

By Sandra Statz, NCTM Teacher Award of Excellence Chair

It is my goal to help all teachers to earn this award! While students earn bars and plaques throughout their WMTA auditions experience, TEACHERS also can receive recognition for all their hard work! I would LOVE to honor YOU at the WMTA Conference Banquet in October 2024 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, 2024 (sooner is great): Sandra.statz2@gmail.com. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have as well...just send me an email.



We appreciate our music educational partners and support their teaching endeavors. Our commitment to fostering music initiatives remains steadfast, with a diverse range of opportunities such as exclusive discounts and collaborative community projects. As we celebrate our 75th year of being a local musical resource, we've been sharing inspiring stories of local musicians of all ages whose legacies continue to shape our musical heritage and strengthen the love of music in our communities. Visit any of our locations or HeidMusic.com to explore more.



Scan the code to enjoy our
Legacy of Music stories

HEID MUSIC

APPLETON | GREEN BAY | MADISON | OSHKOSH | STEVENS POINT | HEIDMUSIC.COM



2023 Local Association Members of the Year

Chippewa Valley MTA: Marcy Wankerl and Rebecca Wilkinson

[Marcy Wankerl](#) has served as the Treasurer for CVMTA for the last 4+ years. It is an office that requires a level of trust in dealing with the financial part of the organization. That speaks to her trustworthy character. Besides keeping the books, Marcy took over our annual Kwik Trip fundraiser and has worked to keep track of membership in both CVMTA, and the CVMTA Sr. Club and Jr. Club, a part of Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs. Marcy also gave insightful input during Board meetings in which we had discussions and made decisions for the organization.

We appreciate Marcy's contribution and dedication to CVMTA, especially in continuing for a second term when the need presented itself. Besides being on the CVMTA Board, she teaches piano and homeschools her children. It is a busy life. Thank you for sharing it with us, Marcy.


[Rebecca Wilkinson](#) has served on the CVMTA Board for the past several years. Currently she is responsible for our newsletter and website. Both are demanding communication tasks. She is often the point person for information in the organization and helps with so many of the little things that make our programs and events work. During the COVID years and with our continuing online programs, Rebecca has been the tech person making Zoom work, wherever the location. Over and over, she has willingly shared her musical, organizational and technical expertise with members of CVMTA, WMTA and WFMC.


Thank you, Rebecca, for your dedication to CVMTA and its success. Your care, your insight and your contribution have made a difference.

Fox Valley MTA: Janelle Bonson

[Janelle Bonson](#) has been an active member of FVMTA for several decades, teaching music not only in a home studio, but at churches, schools, and community centers throughout the Fox Valley, including Mount Olive Lutheran School, the Thompson Center and the Appleton YMCA.

A native of Newton, WI, Janelle received an Associate's degree from Concordia College in Milwaukee, and a Bachelor's degree from Doctor Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN, majoring in Elementary Education with a concentration in Music. Working as a church organist since 1975, she has played in various Lutheran churches throughout Northeast Wisconsin for almost 50 years. She is currently the organist for Peace Lutheran Church in Neenah and accompanies the choir. A classically trained pianist, Janelle has always pushed herself to learn new styles— From Bach to Count Basie, this musician plays it all. Certainly at home in sacred spaces, she's equally comfortable playing with a rhythm section in area big bands! She has studied jazz piano with Matt Turner at Lawrence University and performs regularly with the Fox Cities Swing Band. Her passion for education led to her to volunteer as a reading instructor with the Fox Valley Literacy Project for over 15 years. Janelle says, "It was very rewarding to see students reach their goals and succeed." This quote embodies her teaching philosophy in music and life. While she daily encourages others, she's always challenging herself to learn something new: She's now taken up trombone! Beginning with the New Horizons program in Appleton, she now performs with the Neenah Community Band.





Even with this packed schedule, Janelle has volunteered countless hours with FVMTA. Years ago, FVMTA established a Scholarship and Grants Committee, raising as much as \$10,000 in a year for local students in need of financial help for lessons, and for teachers' continuing education expenses. On that committee, Janelle has given decades of quiet, caring service without seeking recognition. We haven't (yet) tallied up the number of students and teachers that those scholarships have impacted, but over 20 years that number, no doubt, is an astounding figure. She has directly and indirectly touched the lives of so many young musicians and is a treasure to the community. Not one to "blow her own horn," we're happy to honor her this season, especially since this year Janelle is stepping back, having recently announced her studio retirement.

We are grateful for Janelle Bonson being an engaged, active and reliable member of FVMTA, quietly supporting the organization for decades with her volunteer time and talent, her presence, sage advice, timely questions, and good ideas. We are blessed to have her in our community as a respected music colleague and friend, and are honored to name her as FVMTA's 2023 Member of the Year.

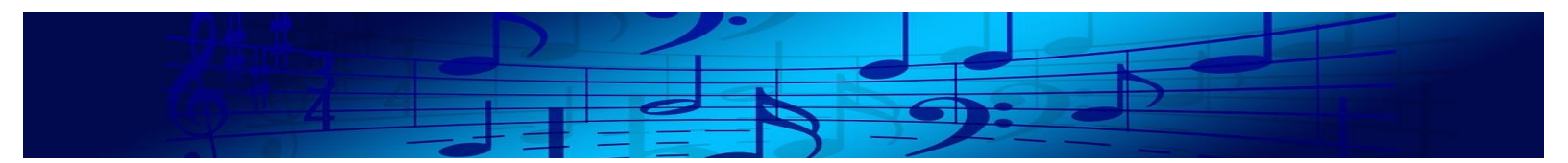
LaCrosse Area MTA: Lori Lawson


The La Crosse Area Music Teachers Association is pleased to honor [Lori Lawson](#) with Member of the Year. Lori first joined LAMTA in 2003 while working on her Bachelor of Music in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. That same year, she opened Lawson Music Studio which she continues to operate today. Lori has been serving as the secretary of LAMTA since 2018. Nobody takes better meeting minutes! She enters students in every event that LAMTA hosts and is always one of the first members to volunteer. As District Chair and Co-Chair, Lori has spent countless hours over the last 5+ years making sure that the WMTA District event happens in La Crosse. Her dedication to WMTA District through covid was admirable, she really kept us going! When Lori is not teaching or playing music you may find her gardening, reading science/fantasy fiction, fishkeeping, studying Korean or spending time with her husband and their two children.

Madison Area Music Educators: Lisa Allred and Linda Johnson

[Lisa Allred](#) is a lifelong musician and music teacher who loves teaching students of all backgrounds. Raised in Idaho, she moved to Madison almost ten years ago, and has maintained a thriving private piano studio ever since, teaching over 70 students aged 5-65 through the years, in private lessons, group workshops, and elementary piano group lessons. Lisa has also been an ensemble coach for piano, violin, and voice, conducting ten different amateur adult and youth choirs and orchestras in Idaho, Utah, and Wisconsin, in addition to working as both a professional and volunteer accompanist for over 20 years. She studied at Brigham Young University as a pianist and a choral musician, with additional relevant coursework in music history, theory, conducting, world music, and child development. Lisa is currently Vice President, compiles our monthly newsletter, and is very active within MAME.

[Linda Johnson](#) began her music career with piano lessons at age 8 and violin lessons at 10 years old. She earned her Bachelor of Music Education degree from UW-Madison and returned to her hometown of West Allis to teach elementary strings in their public schools for 4 years. When she got married, she returned to Madison, where she has maintained a private studio teaching piano, violin and viola for 44 years. After becoming a MAPTA member (Madison Area Piano Teachers Assoc.),





she chaired the Honors Recital, Membership, and Programs committees, and served as Vice President. When family illness kept her from being able to fulfill her role as president of the newly organized MAME, she became the group's secretary and currently heads up Performers Supporting Performers. She is very grateful to the Madison Area Music Educators for this honor.

Michibago MTA: Jane Voigt

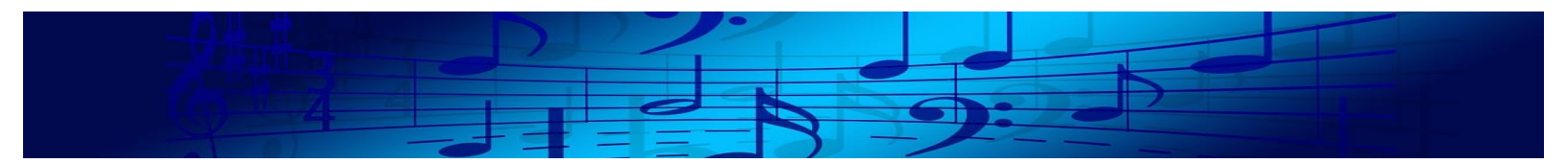
Michibago MTA is happy to recognize [Jane Voigt](#) as member of the year. Jane graduated with a Bachelor of Music from Alverno College and is a charter member of Michibago. During her years of service, she has chaired several committees, been vice president, and mentored newer teachers. In 2022-2023, she took on the role of Michibago president...again. She is a strong proponent of National Guild as well as WMTA auditions. Jane is a knowledgeable and calming presence who keeps the vitality of the organization at the forefront. Congratulations, Jane!

Oshkosh Area MTA: Maria Dietrich, NCTM

OAMTA is pleased to honor [Maria Dietrich, NCTM](#), as our member of the year. We are grateful for her years of service as secretary, for her quiet strength and for her wisdom and teaching experience. Maria Dietrich operates an independent music studio in Ripon, Wisconsin, and is organist/pianist at the First Congregational Church of Ripon. She recently retired from Ripon College, where she was an adjunct instructor of music for over 20 years. Maria served the Green Lake Festival of Music from 1991-2006 as administrative director before joining the staff of the Thrasher Opera House in Green Lake. After retiring in 2019 as executive director of the Thrasher, she served a year as interim director of the GLFM. She has served as an arts grant panelist for the Wisconsin Arts Board and the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. She is a graduate of Lawrence University, where she studied piano with Marjory Irvin. She has been a member of OAMTA since 1985 and earned national certification in 2004. Over the years she has served as OAMTA secretary and president. She has served as an adjudicator for OAMTA, FVMTA, and Michibago auditions.

Rock River MTA: Andrea Fisher

[Andrea Fisher](#) has been a member of the Rock River MTA for over 20 years. She assisted in several student growth opportunities in the past year, including Piano Olympics, Monster Concert, Piano Play-A-Thons, coordinating the Susan Heninger Piano Camp Scholarship, and more recently, co-organizing a composition workshop for students of our association. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy from UW-Oshkosh in 1976, Andrea worked at the former Bethesda Lutheran Home for seven years as a Music Therapist and Therapeutic Recreation Director. She also served as a consultant to the Watertown School District, helping the music staff learn how to better serve and incorporate students with special needs into their music program. She began teaching private piano students in her home in 1983 and has continued teaching many students over the years. In 1998, she became certified as a Kindermusik Educator, and brought music into the lives of parents and their infants and young children in the communities of Waterloo, Beaver Dam and Watertown. Many of these students continued to express their love for music by taking piano lessons either privately or through her employment at White House of Music. Andrea has also accompanied her church worship team since 1980.





St. Croix Valley MTA: Nina DeKock

[Nina DeKock](#) has been an active member with SCVMTA for 26 years and was member of the year one time previously. She has taken her turn through the years and has held the roles of Secretary, Vice President and President. Nina teaches piano and lives in New Richmond, WI. She and her husband have two young adult children whom they enjoy getting together with when possible. Her daughter lives in the Twin Cities and her son lives in New York City.

Superior Area MTA: Roberta Grube

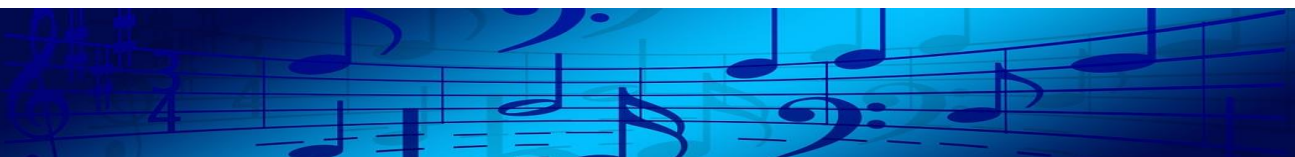
[Roberta Grube](#) is currently president and treasurer of SAMTA. In addition to her duties as president and treasurer of the local chapter, she also organizes and directs local auditions, organizes workshops for intermediate-level students, applies for grants to fund student activities, and sponsors and supports the members of the UW-Superior Student Chapter of WMTA.

As a strong supporter of the arts in the northwestern Wisconsin area, Roberta has tirelessly served for 25 years as a volunteer in the music department of the School District of Maple. An accomplished accompanist, she lends her support at concerts, small group performances, and solo-ensemble festivals at the district and state levels. Students from her piano studio regularly perform as soloists, accompanists, and small-group members at community, school, and church events throughout the area.

Roberta serves as Music Director of Trinity Lutheran Church and provides music for services as well as performance and educational opportunities for young people of the congregation and the school community.

As a committed member of WMTA, Roberta mentors and supports members navigating the audition process. Her computer abilities and knowledge of repertoire at the early and intermediate levels are valuable assets that she willingly shares with members throughout the state. As a partner in business with her husband, Ed, she also understands the needs of teachers starting their studios and provides guidance and suggestions for policy statements and financial processes.

Without a doubt, Roberta embodies the mission of WMTA/MTNA “to advance the value of music study and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers” and therefore the SAMTA Member of the Year.



A photograph of a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark shirt, playing a saxophone. The image is partially obscured by the text and other elements of the poster.

ADMISSION & SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

DEC 2, 2023 • JAN 26, 2024 • FEB 17, 2024

Audition early to receive priority consideration for a full-tuition Resch scholarship!

Bachelor of Music
Music Education
Performance

Bachelor of Arts
Individualized Studies
Audio Production
Composition
Jazz Studies

**LEARN MORE
AND APPLY!**

A square QR code with a small circular logo in the center, likely linking to the audition information.

SHARON J. RESCH
INSTITUTE of MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN - GREEN BAY

UW-Green Bay is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)

Madison Area Music Educators (MAME) invites members of WMTA to these local association sponsored events

By Shad Wenzlaff, MAME President

MTNA Watch Party
February 9, 2024

MAME members will watch an MTNA teacher presentation via Zoom. This watch party will allow MAME/WMTA members to discuss the presentation over Zoom following the presentation. Zoom link will be made available via request - please fill out information box at our website <https://madisonmusiceducators.org/contact-us/>.



Gokhale Method

March, 8, 2024: 10am-11:30am

Heid Music, 7948 Tree Lane, Madison, WI

Presented by Sigrun Franzen

The Gokhale Method is a step by step, effective method of restoring healthy, upright, relaxed posture. Piano teachers need to sit, stand, and bend, for hours at a time. Not only do we want to be comfortable ourselves, our students are also observing and copying. In this session, Sigrun will present the Gokhale Method reasoning, and then show how to sit upright and relaxed, and hinge from the hips with your back in one piece. For anyone with existing chronic back pain or other pain, she will show a therapeutic way to sit that will help prepare for sitting and bending. Sigrun is a local piano teacher and member of MAME, as well as a certified Gokhale Method teacher.

Bird's-Eye View of Child Development.

April 13, 2024: 10am-11:30am

Contact MAME for location information <https://madisonmusiceducators.org/contact-us/>

Presented by Sue Ellen Dubbert, NCTM

This presentation will explore the importance of music teachers having an informed “bird’s-eye view” of child development. A teacher can move from an intuitive sense for child development to a concrete understanding of the phases of child development. By understanding these phases, teachers can work with children to better reach the student, based on where they are in their development. We will look at several theorists and educators to learn how they conceptualize the phases of child development. Then, we will work as a group to examine several common teaching topics and strategize how best to approach these topics for different ages of students.


FVMTA & OAMTA news

By FVMTA and OAMTA Local Associations

For the first time since 2018, the UW-Oshkosh Music Hall was decked out with six pianos and dozens of pianists performing simultaneously for a **Monster Concert**.

On November 11th, twenty duets and trios were performed en masse, showcasing over fifty piano students and teachers from the area in one spectacular night of music. The program featured a wide array of arrangements for four to six hands per piano, including John Williams' “Cantina Band” from Star Wars, “You’ll Be Back” from Lin-Manuel Miranda’s smash Broadway hit, Hamilton, Jerry Lee Lewis’ “Great Balls of Fire” and a special tribute to Veterans, “America the Beautiful” and “Fly With Eagles.”





Thousands of musicians from the area have taken part in the 13 previous Monster Concerts since 1990. This was the second performance co-hosted by the Fox Valley Music Teachers and Oshkosh Area Music Teachers Associations, and co-sponsored by UW-Oshkosh and Heid Music, who provided the venue, grand pianos and digital keyboards for the gala. Proceeds will benefit, in part, a scholarship and continuing education fund for local students and teachers.

Summer Grants: Your money helps students

By Dr. Nicholas Phillips, NCTM Collegiate Chair

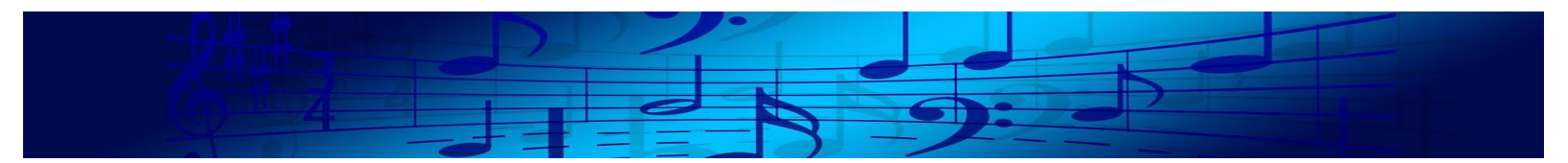
Last summer we were able to fund 3 students for summer grants. This opportunity has been invaluable to our students. Jonathan Bass recounts his Summer Study below.


Two Weeks at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Summer Piano Intensive

By Jonathan Bass, Lawrence University

Since I am preparing to enter my final year as a piano performance major at Lawrence University, this summer was an extremely important one for me. I have known for some time that I want to apply to master's degree programs in piano performance, and to continue pursuing a professional career in piano; by the beginning of the summer, I had made a longlist of graduate schools to look at and was in the process of narrowing the list down. There are of course many criteria one can use to choose a school – location, size, quality of practice and performance spaces, reputation, availability of financial aid, etc. – but the most important criterion is the teacher. As a music major, one's studio teacher is the person one spends by far the most time working with, and the person who provides not only artistic instruction but often career advice as well. A positive student-teacher relationship (or lack thereof) can make (or break) a musical education.

One of the schools on my radar is the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. UNCSA has a strong master's degree program for piano, and some Lawrence connections, as one of my Lawrence teacher's former students went on to study there. UNCSA also has a two-week summer piano intensive starting at the end of June, which I attended in order to get a sense of the campus and piano faculty. In addition to recitals on the UNCSA campus and in the surrounding community, the program included a number of workshops: we had performance classes, which were opportunities to perform for the other students in a recital hall and receive feedback from the faculty; "piano fight club" in which we listened to recordings by great pianists and debated which we preferred, a great exercise in forming and expressing musical opinions in a respectful and effective way; improvisation





class, in which we discussed various ways of improvising idiomatically (cadenzas in Mozart concerti, or adding ornamentation in Bach, for instance) and tried some things out at the piano; and choir, in which we sang through some short Baroque pieces (I particularly enjoyed Purcell's "If Music Be the Food of Love"). I appreciated very much the variety of all these workshops – it can be tempting as a pianist to imagine that making one's fingers simply reproduce what's written on the page is the only thing that really matters, when in reality there are so many other wonderful, exciting, and diverse aspects of music-making to be explored! Personally, I found choir especially meaningful; it forced everyone in the room to listen actively to those around them rather than only to themselves (it developed our chamber music skills, in other words), and it forced us to literally, viscerally experience what it feels like to sing – surely this is worthwhile for pianists, who spend so much time talking about making a "singing" tone at the keyboard!

I also had private lessons during the piano intensive with Dr. Dmitri Shteinberg, who is on the UNCSA faculty during the academic year. We got through a considerable amount of repertoire in the two weeks: the entire Beethoven Op. 110 sonata, the Rachmaninoff etude-tableau Op. 39 No. 5, and some movements from the Bach D major keyboard partita. We talked a lot about sound production in the Beethoven and Rachmaninoff – probably the most exciting moment for me was when Dr. Shteinberg helped me get a bright, ringing, melodic sound in some of the lyrical sections of the Rachmaninoff that until that point I didn't even realize it was possible! In the Bach, Dr. Shteinberg emphasized the importance of knowing the historical, cultural, and musical context surrounding Bach's work, and suggested some reading on Bach to that end. All in all, my lessons with Dr. Shteinberg were extremely worthwhile for me – not to mention that through it all he was very friendly, generous, and clearly deeply passionate about music. He's someone I would study with enthusiastically, and from whom I could learn a lot.

All this made for a highly valuable, enriching stay in North Carolina; I experienced some of the important parts of music-making that happen away from the piano, learned a lot at the piano, performed, and – most importantly – identified a potential graduate school teacher at a program I was already interested in. The two weeks were very well spent!





Aids for you to use

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

The WMTA newsletter is to be used for WMTA and Local Association information, with the exception of paid advertising. 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 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.





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](#).

