

## Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

State Affiliate of Music Teachers National Association

## February 2024

## **Letter from the President**



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Ah, February in Wisconsin. That dismal gray month where we're either anticipating our upcoming "winter escape" vacation or living vicariously through those (usually our students' families!) who have planned one. A day of sunshine can alter our mood in an instant. It's a difficult month to motivate students to practice and reach their goals. The music lessons we teach and the creative space we provide can be that sunshine our students crave in those dreary times. Here's to you, Sunshine!

"Music is sunshine. Like sunshine, music is a powerful force that can instantly and almost chemically change your entire mood. Music gives us new energy and a stronger sense of purpose." –*Michael Franti* 

WMTA is sure to have some exciting months ahead. MTNA National Conference is coming up in Atlanta (there's sun there!) next month. Many

members are deep into preparing for audition season. Fall conference planning is well under way. We have a new administrative assistant! So much of what we do is cyclical and ever-changing, and we are all grateful for each other to help us remember "how did we handle this last year?" and "what did my

predecessor in this position do?" Thank you to our leaders and our committee members. Many hands truly make light work—remember to tell your colleagues how much you appreciate their sunshine in your life!

Yours sincerely, Michelle "Mickey" Lytle, NCTM President, Wisconsin Music Teachers Association "Your days are numbered. Use them to throw open the windows of your soul to the sun. If you do not, the sun will soon set, and you with it."

<u>Marcus Aurelius</u>

## Coming soon...2024 Conference planning

### By Hector Landa, VP-Conference

Watch your email in the next week or so for 2024 conference information. It will include dates, location, and call for proposals. We are looking for representatives from all Local Associations statewide to serve on the conference committee in various capacities. Please join us in planning this fun and meaningful event as a short-term volunteer!

## **Call for Collegiate Presenters**

## By Dr. Nicholas Phillips, NCTM, College Faculty Representative

WMTA welcomes submissions for posters and presentations by our collegiate members for the 2024 State Conference. We will use the format of 20-minute accelerated sessions, similar to how MTNA does this at the National Conference. These presentations/posters 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 phillins@uwec.edu by March 17. We want you to be involved, so please consider submitting a proposal, and attending the conference regardless!



## **District Auditions 2024!**

#### By: Roberta Grube, WMTA State District Chair

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 rewarding experience for the students.

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. When a student earns a 5 (90% or better) on a test for two years in a row they will need to advance to the next test level. State track entries must follow the minimum theory guidelines for their grade listed on the website.

If a student is using legally downloaded music a completed and signed "Copyright Representation and Indemnification Agreement Form" must accompany the music when presented to the judge.

Teachers who enter students are expected to be available to work the day of the auditions. If the teacher is not available it is their responsibility to find a reliable substitute to fulfill the work shift. If a teacher or substitute does not fulfill their job, a fine of \$75 will be charged to the teacher. If the fee is not paid within 30 days of being issued, the teacher is not eligible to enter students in the event the following year.

Background checks may be required at your audition site. If you previously completed a background check, they are valid for three (3) years. If a teacher needs a sub at a site that requires a background check, the teacher is responsible to pay for it, the cost is \$30.

Happy Audition Day!

## 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: <u>mickeywmta@gmail.com</u>.

## Independent Music Teachers Forum

#### By Tricia Marton, NCTM, IMTF Chair

I fondly call second semester festival season, because we are preparing our students for all types of performances. I find it helpful to give my studio families a bit of information about getting their students ready for performances. Below is what I share. I hope this confirms or adds a few items to your tips.

#### Things for your student to check before the festival:

- Number each measure in all your pieces.
- Practice in the outfit that you will wear for the performance.
- Practice your exact warm up at home prior to the festival.
- Play your pieces for family, friends and for people who will make you nervous.
- Practice in performance mode playing through any mistakes and staying focused on your pieces no matter what distractions arise.

#### Festival weekend:

Parents: Keep your family calendar as clear as possible to help your student focus on a great audition.

#### During the festival:

- Dress appropriately—most competitions request that performers wear their Sunday best.
- Be certain to arrive early to the audition site so you are not rushed.
- Bring your original music book for the judge. Due to copyright laws, most festivals **will not accept** copied music.
- Remove any jewelry that could get in the way and give them to a trusted adult.
- Be certain to warm up prior to performing.
- Smile and Bow...it says thank you for listening to my performance.

#### **Memorization Tips:**

1) Play the piece cold turkey from memory. Note any areas that give you trouble.

With the music, work on any sections that were troublesome. Be a detective and find out what is giving you grief. Start from the smallest area—perhaps just one or two beats.

Work up to the entire measure with the trouble spot, then an entire phrase. Do this for each problem area.

Play the entire piece with the music in performance mode. Did the problem areas stay fixed?

Play the entire piece without the music. Did the problems areas stay fixed? Was this better than the first 'cold turkey' performance

2) Play once daily with the music to cement all the details in your piece.

3) Pretend you are at the audition and go through all the details from walking into the room to smiling and thanking the judge after the performance.

4) Practice daily in performance mode. Play through all of your pieces and let nothing—the beeping cell phone, your sister calling you—distract you.

5) No matter what happens, imagine being satisfied with your performance

Parents: Plan a special small celebration when your audition is finished...ice cream anyone!?! Good Luck!

## WMTA State Vocal/ Instrumental/ Ensemble Competition

## By Opala Bilhorn, NCTM, State Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Chair

WMTA offers students the opportunity for grades 4-12 and Adult to advance beyond the District Vocal, Instrumental and Ensemble event to compete against their grade-divisions for the title of State Winner.

#### ELIGIBILITY:

- Enter in the State Track at the District Auditions
- Receive qualifying scores at the District Auditions (performance scores: 5-5-4 and theory 80% minimum).
- Pieces chosen must comply with repertoire requirements, and not exceed 15 minutes.

#### ON COMPETITION DAY:

- □ Students are grouped into graded divisions.
- □ The adjudicator listens to all the performers in a division and declares a Winner, Runner-Up and Honorable Mention(s).
- The Winner has the opportunity to perform at a recital that afternoon/evening.
- □ In the event the Winner cannot perform, the Honorable Mention is invited to perform.
- Points = 15 for Winner plus Winners Trophy, 14 for Runner Up plus trophy, 13 for Honorable Mention and all receive certificates

2024 VOCAL / INSTRUMENTAL / ENSEMBLE STATE INFORMATION

Date: Saturday, May 11th

Location: UW-Stevens Point

Registration deadline: April 3 Fees:

- Solos & Duets \$30
- Ensembles: Solos & Duets: \$30
- Ensembles (3-5 student performers): \$40
- Ensembles (6-10 student performers): \$50

Checks payable to WMTA send checks & Fee Summary form to: Opala Bilhorn 508 Campus St. Suite 3 Milton, WI 53563

For information about guidelines for Ensembles and non-Keyboard instruments and voices please see the WMTA website: <u>https://www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com/</u>

Questions: Contact Opala Bilhorn at opalas.music.studio@gmail.com

## 2024 WMTA REGIONAL KEYBOARD COMPETITION DATES AND VENUES

## By Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM, Regional Keyboard Competition Chair

WMTA Regional Keyboard Competition is the next level of advancement after the District event. To enter, students in grades 1-6 choose REGIONAL TRACK at the Round One District Auditions. This track is considered Pre-State. The goal of this competition is to challenge students to play the pieces they prepared for the District audition, and compete at a more polished and advanced level.

#### ELIGIBILITY:

- Enter in the Regional Track at the District Auditions, the opening round.
- Receive qualifying scores at the District Auditions (performance scores: 5-5-4 and theory 80% minimum).
- Pieces must comply with repertoire requirements, and not exceed time limits (see Flow Chart)
- Students in grades 1-3 may play for comments and points, but cannot compete at the Regional competition.
- Students in grades 4-6 will play for comments and points and compete at the Regional competition.

#### **ON COMPETITION DAY:**

- Students are judged in their grade levels. The grade levels are not mixed.
- If there is a very small number of entrants (1-2) at any one grade level, they may be grouped with another adjacent grade level.
- Students MUST perform the compositions performed at the District level.
- An adjudicator will listen to all performers at that level, and declare a Winner, a Runner-Up (at the judge's discretion), and Honorable Mentions.
- The Winner has the opportunity to perform at a recital that afternoon.
- In the event that the Winner cannot perform, the Runner-Up is invited to perform.
- Points = 15 pts/Winner +Medal and Certificate, 14 pts/Runner-Up + Medal and Certificate, 13 Pts. Honorable Mention + Certificate, 10 pts. for all participating students.
- All teachers entering students must be prepared to work on the day of the competition, at the location where their student(s) compete. If a teacher does not work or has not provided a substitute, their student(s) will not be allowed to participate, and a \$75 fine will be imposed.

#### SOUTH REGIONAL KEYBOARD COMPETITION

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 UW-WHITEWATER Greenhill Center of the Arts 950 W. Main Street

#### NORTHEAST REGIONAL KEYBOARD COMPETITION

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 UW-STEVENS POINT Noel Fine Arts Center 1800 Portage St. NORTHWEST REGIONAL KEYBOARD COMPETITION

SATURDAY, MAY 11, UW-EAU CLAIRE Haas Fine Arts Centr 121 Water Street

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 Registration Fees: \$30 for each student entry Checks to be written to WMTA

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

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

## **Six-Month Memberships**

The MTNA six-month membership is now available. Please encourage your non-member colleagues in our state to join at a reduced cost.



We have a deep commitment to fostering music creation, community arts, and recognizing the significance that music adds to your life. Whether you're guiding beginners or seasoned students, explore our specialized resources at HeidMusic.com, unlocking possibilities to inspire and support your role in shaping the next generation of musicians. Discover exciting opportunities as you cultivate a passion for music and contribute to the growth of a vibrant musical community!

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

## 2024 WMTA STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION

#### By Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM, State Keyboard Competition Chair

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN- STEVENS POINT Noel Fine Arts Center 1800 Portage Street

#### ELIGIBILITY:

- Students in grades 7-12 enter in the State Keyboard Track at District Auditions, the opening round
- Winners of the respective Regional Competitions NE, S, NW at their grade level will compete

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2024 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 STATE COMPETITION

WILL THIS BE LIKE A LARGE RECITAL? 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. Teachers will also be charged admission.

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 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.

**WILL THERE BE WARM-UP ROOMS?** Yes, warm-up rooms will be scheduled at 15 minute increments, one half hour prior to their performance. All warm up rooms have grand pianos.

**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.

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, judges listen for 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.

WHY CAN'T STUDENTS PREPARE PROGRAMS THAT GO OVER 15 MIN.? The 15 minute time limit is in place to create equity for every student that is playing. It is not meant to discourage students from learning larger repertoire. (Parents and students are reminded that most college entrance auditions are capped at 10 min.)

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.

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

## Welcome WMTA's New Administrative Assistant

## By Drea Wagner, NCTM

Hello, fellow teachers! After 4 years teaching music at a small college in North Carolina, I am delighted to be back in the land of cheese, polka, and, most importantly, WMTA! I greatly missed this group of colleagues during my time in the south, and was excited to hear there was a niche I could fill within the organization. I am looking forward to working with you all again!



## **Fellow Midwest MTA Seeking Conference Proposals**

OhioMTA is accepting proposals for our fall conference to be held October 3-5, 2024 at Highland Üniversal Gatheringspot (HÜG), Akron, OH. We are in need of proposals and welcome those from surrounding states to submit. Proposals are due by February 29.

Use the following link which takes you to the OhioMTA website for guidelines and a submission link: <u>https://ohiomta.org/proposal-submission</u>. Please spread the word, and thank you.

Susan Treer, President OhioMTA

## **National Conference**

Mark your calendars and register now for the 2024 MTNA National Conference, March 16–20, 2024, at the Hilton Atlanta Downtown. If you are planning to be in Atlanta, please let Mickey Lytle (<u>mickeywmta@gmail.com</u>) know as tentative plans are being made for state/division get-togethers.

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



## WMTA Teacher Award of Excellence

## By Sandra Statz, NCTM, Teacher Award of Excellence Chair

#### WMTA Teacher Award of Excellence

2024 is YOUR year to receive 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): <u>Sandra.statz2@gmail.com</u>. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have as well...just send me an email.

## WMTA Young Composer Festival

#### By Amber Bruns, NCTM, WMTA Young Composer Festival Chair

Young Composer Festival is back this summer! Registration will be due July 1 and all compositions must be submitted by August 15. Any instrument in any style is welcome. More information about the festival will be in the May newsletter. Please contact Amber Bruns <u>amber@bluemaplemusic.com</u>.

## WMTA Collegiate Summer Study Grant

#### By Sydney (Alexander) Rinkleff, WMTA Treasurer

The Wisconsin Music Teachers Association awards up to \$2000 annually to college students to support study at summer music programs. Funds may be awarded to a single recipient or divided among multiple recipients depending on applications received.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be undergraduate or graduate students currently taking applied lessons with a WMTA member. Students planning a study program for the summer directly following graduation are eligible to apply. The application form can be found on the WMTA website.

**Timeline:** Application deadline: May 1 of the calendar year the summer program will take place Recipient(s) notified: mid-June

Funds dispersed: July (via mailed check)

MARANATHA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## **MUSIC & DRAMA CAMP**

## June 10-14, 2024

## **FOR AGES 12-18**

Choose from one of the following specialized tracks:

- BandMusicalDrama
- Piano
- Musical Stage Crew
  - Strings

# Register by May 1 for discounted pricing

## VISIT MBU.EDU/CAMPS



745 W. MAIN ST. WATERTOWN, WI









## WMTA Teacher Receives MTNA Award

Congratulations to Dr. Alissa Freeman who is a recipient of the 2024 MarySue Harris Studio Teacher Fellowship Award. She is a member of Madison Area Music Educators (MAME) local association and currently serves as Programs Chair.

Three \$5,000 grants, funded by the MarySue Harris Endowment Fund, are presented annually to recently graduated independent teachers who demonstrate commitment to the music teaching profession and outstanding studio development.

As the preeminent organization for music teachers, MTNA offers programs and services to enhance the life and livelihood of independent music teachers and to support them in their careers.

Eligibility: The fellowship award is given to an independent teacher who has established a studio, but has been a teaching professional for no more than three years. Applicant must be a current active member of MTNA. Open to teachers of all instruments and voice.

The 2024 MTNA National Awards and Recognitions will be formally presented to the recipients during the MTNA National Conference, March 16-20, 2024, in Atlanta, Georgia. Congratulations, Alissa!

## **Invitation from Madison Area Music Educators**

#### By Shad Wenzlaff, MAME President

MAME invites members of WMTA to these local association-sponsored events:

#### <u>Gokhale Method</u> 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 <u>https://madisonmusiceducators.org/contact-us/</u> 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.

## 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, <u>click here</u> or contact the MTNA National Headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or <u>mtnanet@mtna.org</u>.

#### Have You Moved?

All membership changes, including renewals and address changes, should be made on the MTNA website by updating your member profile. <u>www.MTNA.org</u>

## **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 <u>wisconsinmta@gmail.com</u> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior. (January 15, April 15, July 15, and November 15) <u>More information here</u>

- 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 <u>here.</u>