

WMTA NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

Letter From The President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."— Henry Ford

It's hard to believe this is my last message to you as WMTA President. I've served on various arts boards over the past 30 years and seem to be a perpetual volunteer. As I talk with other volunteers, we all agree that (much like raising children) the days may be long but the years are short.

WMTA has seen many changes, struggles, improvements, and celebrations in the past three years. Our leadership at the state, district, and local levels have worked together to bring us out of the uncertainty of the pandemic. We met online, we met in person, we distanced, we were mindful of our students and our colleagues—we did all the things. We dealt with the challenges of the old Ovation database system crippling and dying and the new Cadence database system building and implementation taking longer than expected. We jumped through the hoops of the background checks and insurance requirements of the in-person events on UW system campuses and our District Chairs have been patient through that process as leadership navigated these new directives. We welcomed a new vibrant collegiate chapter at UW-Platteville! We began a new Vocal / Instrumental / Ensemble (VIE) track as well as a State Keyboard competition, and we all worked together to manage the growing pains that come with improving the student audition system. We celebrated our members presenting at state and national conferences, holding divisional leadership roles, and we named and honored foundation fellows. This has been an exciting time for celebrating all that WMTA has provided its members, and it's equally exciting to think about the future of this great organization. Where do we see our profession and future colleagues in another three, or 13, or 30 years?

I've enjoyed my time as WMTA's president, and I commend our board for their diligent and thoughtful work in making the last three years successful for WMTA and rewarding for its members and their students. I have found tremendous support in my immediate past president, Rachel Fritz, as well as past presidents Nick Phillips and Catherine Walby, and I would like to thank them for their advice and care. Our President-Elect, Mary Tollefson, and I have worked together over the past year to ensure a smooth transition as WMTA has several projects in the works and on the horizon. I look forward to her leadership and know she'll be a fantastic president and visionary for our board and organization over the next three years.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle "Mickey" Lytle, NCTM
President, Wisconsin Music Teachers Association





NOMINATING COMMITTEE

WMTA ELECTED OFFICER SLATE

The nominating committee puts forth the following candidates to serve from October 2024 through October 2027.

- VP-Conference: Stacey Kraus, NCTM
- VP-Membership: Justin Krueger, NCTM
- Treasurer: Rachel Fritz

Mary Tollefson, as current President-Elect, will take over presidential duties at the October 2024 conference and serve through October 2027.

STACEY KRAUS, NCTM, Candidate for VP-Conference

Stacey teaches piano privately at St. Paul Lutheran School and Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton, and is an active church musician and accompanist in the Fox Valley. She loves cooking, baking, and spending time with her husband and two daughters playing board games, paddleboarding, or hiking. She especially enjoys finding or arranging music for piano, violin, and cello to play with her girls.

JUSTIN KRUEGER, NCTM, Candidate for VP-Membership

My name is Justin Krueger and I am excited to be nominated to serve as VP of Membership for WMTA for another term. This will be my second time running, and I am happy to continue to serve each of you! I am grateful for the opportunity to connect with so many of you in various ways, especially during the preparation time for auditions.

I am a nationally certified teacher of music (NCTM), and I hold a DMA in Piano Performance from West Virginia University. I have taught students of all ages (4-74) and abilities (beginners through university students). Currently, I am director of music and worship at St. Margaret Mary in Neenah and have a studio of about 20 students. Additionally, I am a composer with OCP and GIA/WLP. I have served WMTA and FVMTA in various roles over the past 12 years and am excited to continue that service in a variety of ways.

I hope to continue serving as your WMTA VP for Membership to promote the benefits of our organization as well as make meaningful connections between members in our state.

RACHEL FRITZ, Candidate for Treasurer

I currently teach piano and serve as Chief Operations Officer at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music in the Greater Milwaukee area. I have been a member of MTNA in Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, and Wisconsin serving in multiple roles at the local and state level. The role of Treasurer has changed a lot since I last held the position and I am looking forward to learning new processes. When I am not working, practicing, or teaching I love the outdoors and am currently section hiking Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail.

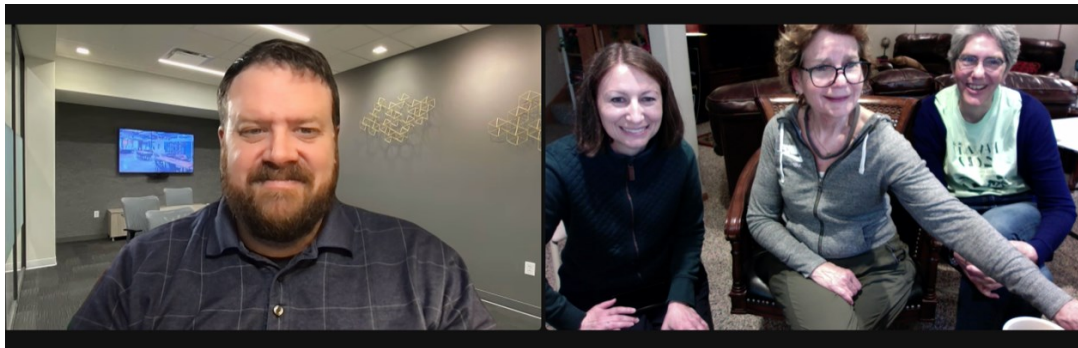


STATE DISTRICT AUDITIONS

The Adventures of CADENCE CAMP!!

Day One.....

Your WMTA State Chairs, Roberta Grube, State District Auditions, Mary Anne Olvera, Regional and State Keyboard Competition and Opala Bilhorn, V/I/E State Competition, KNOW HOW TO SPEND SUMMER!! Working to bring our Cadence system to LIFE!



Day Two.....

After a collective 43.5 hours of work in Cadence Camp, your WMTA State Chairs have been working hard with Slingshot Wizard Wayne....still smiling, but.....

DON'T LET THE SMILING FACES FOOL YOU! They only tell part of the story.

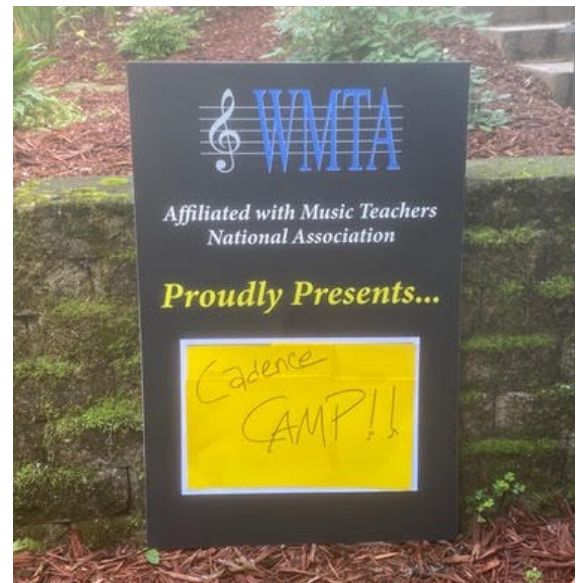
Forward progress on Cadence lay dormant from Oct. 2023 to June 2024, when we initiated Cadence Camp. We've spent two intensive days housed in Hudson, WI, focused exclusively on the production of this new WMTA resource.

And we have totally enjoyed working together as a team (we are a great team!) on this very complex program, Cadence.

But it's been long hours of hard work, and the work is not done - we've only uncovered how much more there is to do.

We are progressing and we will keep you informed as we move along this path.

(Patience requested and required from all - thanks!)





STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION

2025 WMTA STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION

WMTA offers students the opportunity to advance beyond Regional events and compete against their Regional grade level counterparts, to determine one grade level winner for the state. Eligible participants are the designated Regional winners - S, NE, and NW - at grades 7-12. This year's competition was a full day of very exciting music making, with extremely well-prepared young musicians playing to a very appreciative house!

CONGRATULATIONS 2024 STATE KEYBOARD WINNERS!

- Serena Hernke, 7th Grade Winner
- Paul He, 8th Grade Winner
- Vivian Feng, 9th Grade Winner
- Alex Bo, 10th Grade Winner
- Marianna Malinkine, 11th Grade Winner
- Ben Saudek, 12th Grade Winner

WMTA 2025 STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025
 UW-STEVENSON POINT
 NOEL FINE ARTS CENTER
 1800 PORTAGE ST.

Registration Deadline: May 14, 2025. Forms and Fees must be mailed to:

Mary Anne Olvera
 664 Louise Lane
 Hudson, WI 54016

NEW! THE JUDGES CHOICE AWARD

In addition to grade level Winner, judges will now be given the opportunity to acknowledge one student - inclusive of all grade levels but not chosen as grade level winner - whose performance deserves a unique recognition.

The new Judge's Choice Award will be given at the full discretion of the judging panel.

Judges are not bound to give this award each year, and their basis for award may differ each year. The Judge's Choice Award will be determined by the impact of student performances, and the resultant decision of the judging panel. Students in grades 7-12 are eligible. Winners will not be considered for this award.

Examples of possible consideration may include, but are not limited to:

- An outstanding performance with overall program/repertoire choices less weighty than the Winner's program/repertoire choices.
- An overall program combination that creates a unique, interesting, imaginative and fresh blend.
- Any other distinctive performance elements that moved the judging panel to award this unique recognition.

Points: Winner = 15

Judges Choice = 13

Questions should be addressed to:

Mary Anne Olvera - maryanneolvera@gmail.com

Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM, WMTA Regional and State Keyboard Competition Chair



STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION

2024 WMTA REGIONAL KEYBOARD COMPETITIONS

All 2024 Regional events ran smoothly, with regions showing consistent numbers of registered participants from 2023-24 - even with S Regional held on Mother's Day! This date, while prohibitive for some, did not create a significant impact on participant numbers. The NW regional event almost doubled in size from 2023.

WMTA 2025 Regional Keyboard Competitions dates and venues are as follows:

S REGIONAL

UW-Whitewater
Greenhill Center of the Arts
950 W. Main S.
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

NE REGIONAL

UW-Oshkosh
Arts and Communication Building
1001 Elmwood Ave
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

NW REGIONAL

UW-River Falls
E. H. Kleinpell Fine Arts
420 Cascade Ave.
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

Deadline: Postmarked by April 9, 2025.

Registration fees are \$30 for each student entered.

Send fee summary sheet and check, made payable to WMTA to:

Mary Anne Olvera
664 Louise Lane, Hudson, WI 54016

REMEMBER:

Students advancing to the Regional Keyboard Competition must compete in the region associated with their home district.

A student preparing both solo (for Regional Keyboard) and duet (for V/I/E) may participate in the Regional Keyboard Competition at the venue/location of the State V/I/E for full award consideration in the Regional Keyboard Competition.

Questions may be addressed to:

Mary Anne Olvera - maryanneolvera@gmail.com

Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM, WMTA Regional and State Keyboard Competition Chair



Independent Music Teachers Forum

By Margaret Burton, IMTF Chair

Music Studio Checklist for Fall: Are You Ready?

August is upon us, and September's busy teaching season is looming on the horizon like a tidal wave— Whether you've been seeing music students all summer, or managed to take some well-deserved time off, August is an opportune time to organize your studio for the coming year before getting swept up in the September rush. Just a few afternoons in August, adjusting aspects of your teaching business and adding fresh new ideas, can help make this year the best yet!

Last year, an outstanding studio checklist appeared online in a blog post by Dr. Malia Jade Roberson of the Music Theory Shop which I'm now using in my own studio prep for 2024-25. You might like it, too!

Dr. Malia's list is broken into four areas:

- ⇒ (1) *Housekeeping Tasks (updating website, studio policy, rates, etc.);*
- ⇒ (2) *Communication (email list, communicating with students & parents, surveys, etc.);*
- ⇒ (3) *Suggestions for Additions to the Studio (more offerings to increase income and give students what they need); and*
- ⇒ (4) *Growing Your Business (social media strategies and ideas to think about moving forward).*

Check out the full blog article and checklist [HERE](#).

Happy Planning!

Margaret Burton is an independent music teacher and active FVMTA member in Neenah, WI. Do you have any tips or tricks that have worked for you as an Independent Music Teacher? Websites or blogs you love? Something you'd like to hear more about? Write to us at wmta.margaretb@gmail.com with the subject line: "IMTF Ideas".



VIE COMPETITION

State Vocal | Instrumental | Ensemble

The 2024 WMTA Vocal | Instrumental | Ensemble (VIE) Competition at UW-Stevens Point ran smoothly. Mary Anne Olvera (Regional/State Keyboard Competition Chair) and I coordinated the North East Regional Keyboard Competition and the State VIE Competition in several aspects including our scheduling, to accommodate students who participated in two different instruments (vocal, string or ensemble AND keyboard), as well as the Winners Recital time to accommodate students’ participation in both competitions.

This was the first year that the State Keyboard Duet track was coordinated under VIE.

The VIE participation numbers grew. Even without the newly added Keyboard Duet Track, the overall participation numbers increased and the Ensemble Track participation doubled: two ensembles competed at the State VIE Competition. The Ensemble Track has growing participation numbers in the non-State tracks (D2 and D3) as well.

Much conversation has been devoted by the WMTA Executive Board on how to best accommodate students who qualify for both the Keyboard Regional Competition and the State VIE Competition AND who are not from the North-east Region (where the State VIE Competition will typically be held). There were six, “dual-instrument,” participants at the 2024 State VIE and the Regional Keyboard Competition and several Regional-qualified Keyboard participants whose sibling was a State VIE participant. To support student participation in both the competitions (State VIE and Regional Keyboard) the WMTA Executive Board has formed the following guidelines regarding the Regional Keyboard qualified students:

Dual-Instrument Qualified Students:

A student who is participating in both the State VIE Competition **AND** the Regional Keyboard Competition may participate in the Regional Keyboard Competition at the venue/location of the State VIE Competition. This dual-qualified student will be eligible for full award consideration - Winner, Runner-Up, and Honorable Mention in the Regional Keyboard Competition.

Siblings of State VIE Qualified Students:

Regionally qualified Keyboard students who have a sibling competing at State VIE BUT the keyboard student themselves is NOT participating in State VIE may, if they so choose, compete at the Regional Keyboard Competition venue/location of the State VIE Competition. However, this keyboard student(s) will be eligible for Honorable Mention award consideration only. This student(s) retains the option to compete in their home region, and will therefore be eligible for full award consideration - Winner, Runner Up and Honorable Mention in their home region.

The 2025 State VIE Competition is Saturday, May 10th at UW-Oshkosh.
Opala Bilhorn, NCTM

WMTA Vocal | Instrumental | Ensemble Chair | opalas.music.studio@gmail.com



FVMTA EVENTS AND UPDATES

Piano teachers of FVMTA participated in **International Make Music Day** at Heid Music in Appleton with a lunchtime piano ensemble. The mini-concert was one of several instrumental acts scheduled all day at Heid Music. Two to ten pianists per tune played on up to five pianos at a time. Audience members sat close by - able to both see and hear these unusual works. Compositions included pieces by classical composers J.S. Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Gabriel Fauré and Frank Schubert. Works by more contemporary composers Kevin Olsen, Robert Vandall, Lalo Schifrin, Christopher Norton and Joseph Mouret rounded out the program.

FVMTA Young Artist Festival is slated for Saturday, February 15, 2025, at Lawrence University Conservatory of Music from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm.

The YAF is a ½ day musical event composed of **piano concerto competitions, string concerto and solo competitions, ensemble competitions, and a clinic** for students, teachers and parents, all culminating with a **winners recital**.

Students in grades 6-12 who (or their teachers) live in the Wisconsin counties of Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca and Winnebago are eligible. See <https://www.fvmta.org/young-artist-festival.html/> for specific information.

Barbara Froelich, NCTM, Questions can be sent to: barbara.froelich55@gmail.com.

MAKE **MUSIC** YOUR SUPERPOWER



As the warmth of summer sets in, the urge for students to take a break from their instrument may be strong, but maintaining a steady practice routine is crucial for progress and development! With extended daylight hours and increased leisure time, the summer months offer an ideal chance to delve into fresh techniques, dabble in diverse genres, or embark on composing your own music. With programs like Playcation offering chances to keep playing and win prizes, and events like Make Music Day providing opportunities to celebrate music with others, there are plenty of reasons to stay engaged and inspired!

Embark on a musical journey today by visiting us either in-store or online at HeidMusic.com.





AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

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 on October 25, 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.

Currently we will be excited to honor the following Teachers (and we want to honor YOU too!) at the Banquet:

- Laura Swenson with the 250 & 275 point bars
- Sandra Statz, NCTM with the 375 point bar

Submitting Points for Awards

It is time for 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.



ADA ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

Recently Clarified ADA Accommodations Policy by the Executive Board

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires associations like MTNA & WMTA to make reasonable accommodations to the known physical or mental limitations of otherwise qualified disabled individuals. MTNA & WMTA are committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in all of the association's programs and services. MTNA & WMTA will make every attempt to accommodate disabilities on an individual basis unless the accommodation would impose significant difficulty and undue hardship on operations or the association would incur substantial expense in doing so. Anyone who requests an accommodation must provide documentation of the disability, including a statement from a medical/health care professional, prior to commencing the programs or services.

If your student requires accommodations as specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) all requests should be made to the local District Chair by November 1 of the year prior to the audition year even if the student chooses not to participate later. This will allow the local District Chair time to gather the documentation required and submit the request to the District Auditions Chair. The District Auditions Chair, local District Chair, and student's teacher will determine accommodations for the student prior to their audition.



MTNA FOUNDATION

The MNTA foundation is a resource that many people use to get grants and help them as they pursue a career in teaching music lessons. Grants can be at the state, local or personal level. If a teacher wants to learn more about teaching in a specific area, they can apply for a grant to take a few lessons in that area. Many teachers have heard of the Mry Sue Harris grand, but did you know that there's a grant to help encourage community engagement in music? This is what you support when you support our Fellow. Each fellow has \$1500 raised to be named. Your help is needed, even if you can give just a small amount that helps the teacher who's being honored.

This year we will have a fellow, please be ready to support Rachel Fritz as a fellow either by giving to [MTNA](#) Foundation (you will be able to designate the fellow) or by contributing at the conference either at the silent auction or to the silent auction. Local associations wishing to give towards can mail to WMTA with it designated to the fellow. Because our fellow isn't surprised this year we can start giving early. All gifts should be given by December 31st.

For those that don't know Rachel Fritz, she has served WMTA in many ways and is our outgoing immediate past president. She is a piano instructor and the chief operations officer of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

Shannon Whaples, NCTM

La Crosse Symphony Orchestra
presents the:

26th Annual Richard Record Rising Stars Concerto Competition

La Crosse Symphony Orchestra

ALEXANDER PLATT | MUSIC DIRECTOR

24
25
SEASON

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Viterbo University, Fine Arts Center, 929 Jackson Street, La Crosse, WI 54601

Closed Preliminaries: 8:30am – 2:00pm (approx.) / Open Finals: 3:30pm

Prizes & Awards

- \$2,250 Cash Award**
- \$1,500 Cash Award**
- \$1,000 Cash Award**
- 2 \$500 Cash Awards**

The first and second prize winners will perform on the March 1 LSO concert.

Fee and Application:

Non-refundable \$40 entry fee payable to the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra must accompany the application form. Application, fee, and biography must be postmarked no later than December 16, 2024.

*First-prize winner is not eligible to enter the year following their win.

Eligibility:

High school students (grades 9-12) from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Students completing high school early are eligible if they are not currently enrolled in higher education at the time of the competition.



For any further questions, please contact Concerto Competition Chairperson Janet Roth at theroths07@msn.com

For complete details visit:

www.lacrossesympphony.org/rising-stars/

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LaCrosseSymphony.org f @ y

PIANO COMPETITION

MARANATHA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

If you are studying advanced-level repertoire and desire to push yourself to the next level, apply for our High School Scholarship Piano Competition.



- Accepted applicants receive detailed written feedback.
- Contestants are awarded an overall rating based on their performance.
- In addition to a \$300 cash award, MBU scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,500 will be awarded to top performers.
- Contact janet.tschida@mbu.edu with questions.

mbu.edu/pianocompetition

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Limited Openings





MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

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.



Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

Part of Music Teachers National Association



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 submitted and 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](#)

- One-time Quarterly Newsletter full page color ad- \$75
- One-time Quarterly Newsletter half page color ad- \$50
- Multi-newsletter advertising: 4 ads in the consecutive February, May, August, and December Newsletters.
 - Full Page: \$300
 - Half Page: \$150
- One-time use of our postal mailing list -\$100
- 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](#).



Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

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