

NEWSLETTER

WISCONSIN MUSIC
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

May 2026

About Us

WMTA Association proudly supports over 400 members and welcomes everyone to get involved in our thirteen local associations, student programs, annual State Conference, and professional development opportunities.

It's Renewal Season!



It's time to renew your MTNA membership for the 2026–2027 membership year. Click the link to access your online renewal statement. [Click here to renew](#) (you will be asked to set a password if you have not already done so). On the Welcome Page, click the "Renew Now" button. Need help or have questions, call (888) 512-5278. Thank you for supporting MTNA in its efforts toward a more musical tomorrow!

Upcoming Dates

- May 9 – Regional Keyboard and State VIE Competitions
- May 16 – State Keyboard Competitions
- July 1 – Registration Due for Young Composer Festival
- Aug 15 – Composition Registration Deadline
- Sept 9 – MTNA WI State Performance and Composition Applications Deadline
- Oct 15 – Membership Renewal Deadline for 2027 District Auditions
- Oct 23–24 – Annual State Conference
- Oct 31 – MTNA Performance Competitions

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President's LETTER

Greetings WMTA colleagues!

As we turn to the summer season, I'm reminded of how music teaching can be cyclical and brings fresh challenges, such as balancing vacations and trying to keep students engaged during the summer. However, summer also brings the opportunity to seek out new repertoire and new challenges for our students. Our shared mission remains constant: to cultivate artistry, discipline, and joy through the ageless study of music.

Auditions!

Thank you and Congratulations to the many of who participated in the WMTA District auditions. Good luck to the teachers and students moving on to Regionals and the State VIE! I want to second the thank you that Roberta Grube offers in her article for the District Auditions. You can find out more about the VIIIIEI (Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble) events in Opala's contribution as well as information about the upcoming Regionals and State events (from Mary Anne Olvera). WMTA is lucky to have such wonderful audition chairs!

On a different note, it is bittersweet that I announce that Sydney Rinkleff is stepping down from the WMTA Theory Chair. While I had hoped to be able to announce a new chair at this time, we are still searching—if you have an interest or would like to nominate someone, please feel free to contact me! (marytollefsonwmta@gmail.com). Finally, check out Rita Schuman's article for information about Awards of Excellence.

MTNA National Conference

I attended the MTNA National Conference in Chicago. The Conference was great fun, and I enjoyed catching up with old friends and making some new friends, learning about new music

resources, and listening to the wisdom offered in other sessions. It was my honor to accept the Gala recognition for Martha Fischer and Bill Lutes, and I enjoyed meeting the “next generation,” as several students from UW-Madison attended the conference! Next year will be in St. Louis, and I hope you will start planning now!

What's Inside

Inside this newsletter, you will find some “nuggets” of information. For those teachers with budding composers, please review the information for two upcoming events: the WMTA Young Composers Festival and the MTNA Composition Competitions (state level). You might have a student who desires a variety in lessons, and this might be the challenge that both of you need. Also, Sandra Statz has provided some tips if you are thinking of MTNA National Certification (have you seen the new MTNA website?). As summer often provides a transition, Margaret Burton (IMTF) has provided an outstanding article about creating and maintaining a professional studio policy—some wonderful ideas to consider!

I hope you take the time to read through the entire newsletter, and my apologies to those contributors whom I didn't highlight in this month's column. As we approach the close of an academic year, I hope you'll take a moment to reflect on your own accomplishments. Teaching is demanding work, and it's easy to move from one goal to the next without pause. Recognize the progress you've helped create—not only in your students, but in yourself.

Thank you for the passion, professionalism, and heart you bring to music education across our state. It is an honor to serve this community.

Warmly,

Mary Tollefson, President
Wisconsin Music Teachers Association





Crafting a Studio Policy That Protects Your Time and Talent

Submitted by Margaret Burton
WMTA Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair

Summer is a great season to give your music business model a “tune-up,” by looking at what has gone well this year, and what could be done to make things easier for yourself as a studio owner and instructor. As music teachers, our passion is helping students succeed as musicians. Often, the protector of that Joy of Teaching is a clear, enforceable studio policy! A well-drafted policy document acts as a professional contract, preventing misunderstandings and ensuring your studio remains a sustainable creative business.

Here are some tips on how to structure a policy that protects your income, your time, and your peace of mind:

1. Protect Your Income: Tuition and Payment

Move away from the “pay-per-lesson” model, which often leads to financial instability. Instead, treat a studio like the professional course of study it is.

- **Monthly/Semester Flat Rates:** Structure tuition as a flat rate rather than per-lesson fees. This ensures predictable income and reinforces that parents are paying for a reserved spot in your schedule.
- **Advance Payment & Automation:** Require payment before the first lesson of the month or semester. Utilising platforms like Fonz, My Music Staff, or automated bank transfers removes the “awkwardness” of asking for money and ensures payments arrive on time.
- **Late Fees and Termination:** Clearly state a specific late fee (e.g., \$10–\$20) for payments received after your deadline. Additionally, consider establishing a termination policy—such as 14 days’ notice—to give you adequate time to fill a vacancy.

2. Protect Your Time: Attendance and Makeups

Cancellations are the most frequent source of friction for independent teachers. The goal is to establish that tuition is based on enrollment, not attendance.

- **Strict Cancellation Rules:** Clearly state that “no-shows” or lessons cancelled with less than 24 hours’ notice are forfeited and charged at full price. Exceptions should be limited to true emergencies, illness, or hazardous weather.
- **The Swap List:** Depending on the size of the studio, one flexible idea is to encourage a “Lesson Swap” system where families contact each other directly to trade times for known conflicts, then letting you know of the switch through an online scheduling app. This empowers parents to handle any scheduling changes themselves.
- **Go Virtual:** Instead of traditional makeups, offer a “virtual-first” backup. If a student is mildly ill or the roads are snowy, the lesson can be held online.

3. Protect Your Peace: Boundaries and Communication

Setting “office hours” is the best way to prevent burnout and ensure you aren’t flooded with messages during personal time.

- **Communication Channels:** Direct families to use a specific channel (like email) for scheduling changes rather than social media or late-night texts.
- **Studio Etiquette:** Include a section for “Piano Health” habits, such as washing hands before lessons, and what to do if a student is ill (virtual lessons sometimes work!).
- **The Initial Interview:** Use an orientation or first lesson to review these policies in person. This ensures everyone is on the same page.

4. Implementation: Use the “Rule of Three”:

A policy is only effective if it is communicated and enforced. Try to keep your document to one concise page and use the “Rule of Three” for distribution:

- **Via Email:** Send a digital copy before the first lesson of the season.
- **In Person:** Reserve five minutes at the end of the first lesson to highlight key points and answer questions.
- **On Paper:** Provide a hard copy for the family to keep at home.

The Golden Rule: Once you have a clear policy, stick to it! While it’s tempting to make exceptions to avoid discomfort, bending your rules often leads to further boundary violations. You will be a happier, more effective teacher when you have a studio full of families who respect your professional integrity and your time.

Want more ideas on how to run a better business? Check out MTNA’s Business Resource Directory, under “Studio Policies”. Log in to your MTNA account, and check out a great list of articles [here](#).

CONFERENCE Update

October 23-24, 2026

Elevate Your Artistry: The 2026 State Conference is Coming!

The momentum is building, and the 2026 State Conference is shaping up to be an unforgettable event. Our selection committee has carefully curated an outstanding lineup of sessions designed to inspire, challenge, and invigorate your teaching.

What better way to honor 250 years of American musical heritage than by immersing ourselves in the work of living, breathing composers? We are thrilled to announce a featured showcase by the Red Leaf Pianoworks collective. Three of their composers will join us to provide a first-hand look into their celebrated publications. This is a unique opportunity to gain fresh, international perspectives from distinguished colleagues beyond Wisconsin.

Expanded Opportunities & Engagement

You asked, and we listened! We've redesigned the schedule to prioritize your experience. This year's program features three dedicated 30-minute blocks, giving you ample time to:

- Explore the Exhibits: Discover the latest pedagogical tools and resources.
- Join the Conversation: Participate in dynamic, peer-led round table discussions.

We Value Your Voice: To ensure these discussions are as impactful as possible, please help us tailor the experience by sharing your input here: [Round Table Topic suggestions](#)

We can't wait to see you there and celebrate our shared passion for music!

Stacey Kraus, NCTM
VP of Conferences

EXHIBITORS & ADVERTISERS

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



Registration pricing information:

More Savings, More Flexibility. Based on your feedback, we've expanded our registration options:

- Enhanced Early Bird Rates: Save even more by securing your spot early.
- On-Site Registration: For maximum flexibility, you can now join us at the door!

Note: Because we must finalize meal numbers with the venue ahead of time, on-site registration covers session access only and excludes pre-ordered food.

Registration Rates

Price	Details
\$130.00	Early Bird - MTNA/WMTA Members before August 15
\$155.00	Full Registration - MTNA/WMTA Members after August 15
\$125.00	2-Day Onsite Registration (Excludes Banquet and Luncheon Meals) MTNA/WMTA Members after October 19
\$100.00	One-Day Registration - (Must be pre-registered, Banquet or Luncheon Meal) MTNA/WMTA Members after August 15
\$100.00	1st Time Attendee (Discounted two-day registration for members who have never attended a WMTA State Conference.)
\$95.00	Collegiate Members (Must be a full-time college student registered this term.)
\$50.00	One-day Collegiate Member
\$175.00	Non-Member Registration (Full two-day registration for Non-Members of MTNA/WMTA)
\$45.00	Extra Guest(s) for the Friday Dinner & Concert



Conference Hotel

Details about reservations can be found on our [website](#).

Making the Conference Accessible: Travel & Lodging

We want to ensure that every member has the opportunity to join us in Stevens Point! To help manage costs, we encourage you to explore cooperative travel and lodging options.

Carpooling and room-sharing are highly effective ways to significantly reduce your expenses while building community. Here's how you can get started:

- **Connect Locally:** Reach out to your Local Association (LA) members. Often, several teachers from the same area are planning to attend and would welcome a shared ride or room.
- **Widen Your Circle:** Many members across the state are open to sharing accommodations. If you're looking for a roommate or a ride, your LA President is a fantastic resource to help facilitate these connections and point you in the right direction.
- **Plan Ahead:** Early coordination ensures you get the best rates and the most comfortable arrangements.

CONFERENCE HOTEL

STEVENS POINT HOLIDAY INN

1001 Amber Ave
Stevens Point, WI
54481
Reservation Desk:
866-247-1343



2026 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, October 22, 2026

7pm-10pm	Board Meeting
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FRIDAY, October 23, 2026

8:00	Registration / exhibits open
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8:30	Roundtable discussions / Exhibit time 1
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9:00	The Joyful Lesson - Martha Hill Duncan
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10:00	Red Leaf Showcase
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11:00	Roundtable discussions / Exhibit time 2
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11:30	Lunch - on your own
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1:00	Pianostics: A Deep Dive into Efficient Practicing - Mackenzie Melemed
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2:00	Together from the Start: Teaching Collaborative Piano Skills to Beginning Students - Teresa Drews
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3:00	Roundtable discussions / Exhibit time 3
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3:30	Finding Our Voice: The Unique Sound of and Influences on Music of the United States - Justin Krueger
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4:30	Local Association Chair Meeting & District Association Chair Meeting/ exhibitor time
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5:30	Cocktails
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6:00	Dinner and Awards Ceremony - start ceremony 1/2 way thru entree
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7:30	Concert
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Saturday, October 24, 2026

8:30	Registration Desk Opens / Closes at 11:00am
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9:00	'Round the Key Circle We Go!: Learning in all 12 keys leads to improvisation during year 1-2! - Amy Stephens
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10:00	Masterclass with Mackenzie Melemed
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11:30	Collegiate Sessions
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12:00	WMTA Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon
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1:30	Developing Piano Technique with Kabalevsky - Theresa Camili
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2:30	1 minute creations - Wynn-Anne Rossi
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3:30	Closing
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TREASURER REPORT

Attached please find the March Balance Sheet (On Page 17) and the Income Statement (On Page 18). Income and expenses have been as anticipated.

At the time of this report, the income from one district has yet to be received. All district audition expenses submitted have been paid.

A few challenges appeared during district auditions:

1. Timely submission of income. Income should be submitted to the treasurer prior to auditions. Five districts this season sent the audition income in after the event. This is needed for several reasons:
 - a. Timely payment of district audition expenses. This income directly pays audition expenses.
 - b. Checks are not clearing. A time delay makes it harder for payments to clear. Accounts may be closed or may not have funds, which delays payment to WMTA.
 - c. Tracking - as the payments are not received, reminders have to be sent, and the outstanding items have to be maintained.
2. Sexual abuse and molestation coverage certificate. Multiple sites are requesting this information, and it is sometimes challenging to get all of the information that is needed for each location to have the certificate created. In the 2027 audition season, there will be a Google Form to complete to collect this information for the insurance company.

A budget for the 2026-2027 membership year will be presented at the June board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fritz
WMTA Treasurer



MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

As we are winding down the year, I wish all of you a wonderful start to the summer. However, before you close out your semester of teaching, don't forget to renew your membership. There are so many great reasons throughout the state, but the one that comes to the forefront all have to do with collegiality - the ability to connect with other teachers in our own local associations as well as the state. I am particularly excited for the upcoming state conference in Stevens Point, which will include a celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country and its musical heritage.

Also, consider introducing a friend/colleague to our organization. Invite them to a local meeting. Invite them to auditions. Let's let this be a year where we open doors and extend personal invitations to what we have as members of WMTA!

Musically!

Justin Krueger, NCTM
WMTA Membership Chair

State

KEYBOARD COMPETITION

WMTA 2026 STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION

Saturday, May 16

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

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

As I write this, we are exactly one month from our fourth annual State Keyboard Competition, where grade level Regional winners, grades 7-12, compete to determine the top grade-level participant in the state.

The day is an exciting all-day recital event, celebrating the remarkable discipline, patience, hard work, and determination of these students.

We congratulate the Winners of this event, and we thank the families who support these wonderful students!

WE LOVE OUR STUDENTS!



V I E STATE COMPETITION

The WMTA State Vocal|Instrumental|Ensemble Competition will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at UW-Stevens Point.

Sixteen teachers registered 51 students in 41 events including Vocal Solos, Vocal Ensembles, Keyboard Duets, String and Brass.

A Winners Recital will be held on May 9th around 3:30 PM – all are welcome to enjoy hearing performances by the winning students from the State Vocal|Instrumental|Ensemble Competition as well as the Regional Keyboard Competition.

The Vocal, Instrumental and Ensemble WMTA Auditions participation numbers have increased slightly with an increase in ensemble participation.

Please reach out if you have questions about how to participate in the WMTA Vocal|Instrumental|Ensemble Tracks in your District Competition, I am happy to assist!

Opala Bilhorn, NCTM

opalas.music.studio@gmail.com

WMTA State Vocal|Instrumental|Ensemble Competition Chair



Regional KEYBOARD COMPETITION

By Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM, Regional Keyboard Competition Chair

As I write this, we are two weeks away from our three Regional events (May 9), which will determine participants for the State event. So, this is a good time to shine light on topics surrounding:

REQUESTS and SWITCHING

Many teachers, on behalf of parents, request special consideration for their students. Sometimes it takes the form of a very gracious request; most times that request takes the form of a statement. My answer to a request is always the same: I don't take requests, unless it involves a family emergency or hardship.

Asking for extra consideration when a student has another event usually seems very reasonable to a parent or teacher. This other event often has undeniably great value. But this simple request puts an unreasonable hold on the already complex process of scheduling.

For this reason, I say no requests, but I will make a note and make no guarantees. I must stand by this, and here's why: Regional scheduling is not just scheduling the individual student, as we do at district auditions. Regional scheduling is scheduling an entire grade level block, or multiple grade levels, at one site. Coordinating siblings' needs to be done (always complex across grade levels), VIE coordination needs to be done with consideration to the VIE schedule, and each site needs to be balanced so that each site completes adjudicating around the same time.

And time is an important factor.

Regional competitions always include a Winner's Recital at day's end, which is often the gem of the day, and coordinated with VIE students at that site. We want to ensure a reasonable start

time, while ensuring that an audience, including the Winners, will be in attendance and able to perform. And, for those families who have traveled, it's important to send them on their way home at an acceptable time.

I have also had teachers/parents who will ask me, after the schedule has been published, if they can switch with another student, same grade level, same site. While this also seems like a benign request, my answer is always the same: No. Once the schedules are published, there can be no changes.

I must stand by this, and here's why:

As soon as the schedule is published, the judges' forms are prepared. They go into production, with sites and times printed on the forms. They are collated in the order of performance to facilitate ease of distribution to judges' folders. These must be in order, or the ease of distribution to the judge's folders cannot happen. Switches would create glitches! Student certificates are also being prepared, collated in an order facilitating distribution to teachers' packets. Again, switching creates additional and unreasonable time spent re-ordering certificates. And of course, there is a mass of coordination that cannot be changed.

Time requests and switching requests are made by wonderfully well-meaning and supportive parents/teachers, who are advocating for their students. I understand this. I also want to support and advocate for all our students as much as possible. I felt it was important to share my thoughts, hoping to build understanding around these topics.

And bravo to the 300+ students and 96 teachers across WI who participated in another successful and exciting Regional/State Keyboard event! Results will be posted in the next newsletter, and on the WMTA website.

AWARD Of Excellence

- Thank you to Sandra Statz for serving as the WMTA Teacher Award of Excellence Chair for the past several years. I assumed this role at the 2025 WMTA Conference.
- For the 2026 season, I will track Award of Excellence points earned by WMTA teachers.
- At the end of May, I will collect district data and prepare the Awards of Excellence for distribution at the 2026 WMTA Conference.
- Teachers do not need to track or submit their own points.
- If you do not wish to receive Award of Excellence recognition, you may opt out by emailing me. I will then not record your points.
- Teachers may still keep their own point records as a backup if they wish.
- The 2026 season will be a trial run for this process. If it becomes too time-consuming, we may return to the previous system in which teachers track and submit their own points.
- If you have never submitted points before, that is fine. I will begin recording your points in 2026.
- If you have submitted points in the past, your new points will continue to be added to your existing total.
- **District Chairs:** Please send me an invite to the google sheet that you use for your district registrations so I can gather the teacher points information. You don't have to wait until May - I'm happy to start with the district results for now and add regional and state later.
- Please feel free to email me with any questions. ritaschuman1@gmail.com

Warmly,

Rita Schuman, NCTM

District Auditions

The 2026 District Audition season is complete. Congratulations to all the students, teachers, and parents who were involved in this year's auditions. A special thank you to all the District Chairs who spent hours coordinating schedules, hiring judges, printing certificates, judge's sheets, theory tests, and name tags, and arranging background checks, to name just a few of the tasks they take care of.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you at the WMTA conference in October. It is a great time for the District Chairs to talk and pick up certificates and awards for the 2027 audition season. Just a reminder to start coordinating sites for next year.

Remember to renew your MTNA/WMTA/local memberships this summer. All renewals must be recorded by October 15, 2026, in order to enter students in the 2027 District Auditions.

Thank you for your patience and support this past year. A special thank you to ALL the District Chairs, you are amazing!

Roberta Grube

District Audition Chair

MTNA CERTIFICATION

Happy May!

It is my honor and desire to welcome each of you to become Nationally Certified. Becoming Nationally Certified is a great addition to my professional studio, and you can do this, too! And, our WMTA members get to earn this for FREE in the long run! I have mine on display in my waiting room and love it when students ask me about them!

Over the coming year, I am going to include easy tips to complete your Teacher Profile Project in these newsletters. Here is the National Certification page for your reference: <https://certification.mtna.org/>. I will present PIANO certification tips. The Voice, Violin, Flute & Organ are online as well. Part-time or full-time college faculty may become certified using the Administrative Verification Process found on the website as well.

What I'm going to propose is that you complete four of the five sections asap and then apply to complete your certification. You then pay the certification fee, MTNA sends you the final step info, and you complete and submit your work. Once you are certified, let me know, and I will request the reimbursement of your NCTM Application fee! That's it!

Here are the first things to do:

1. Let ME know you are ready to start....so I can encourage and support you.
2. Pull up and save the workbook from the website.
3. Complete Project #3: Present your Teaching. This is a great project to do, even if you weren't getting certified, because you can learn so much about your own teaching! This is a Three-part project and takes some time, but I have tips:

- Take on parts 1 & 2 NOW while you have students taking regular lessons. This way, you don't end up in the summer with students on vacation. Read over the instructions before starting. You will need THREE videos with your student. You don't have to choose a "challenging" piece for the student. I learned the importance of teaching TECHNIQUE and ensuring the students understand the notation on the page as I introduce a piece of repertoire...and it can come from a lesson book they are in. You will need the participating student to complete the authorization form found on the website.
- The second part is your own self-evaluation, but they give you things to consider.
- Read the workbook so you know what to name each video.
- The third part is YOU getting to record your own performance (Level 7 or above in The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature by Jane Magrath (1995) published by Alfred Publishing Co.) – choose a piece to start enjoying...you can record that over the summer.

4. Complete Project #1: Write your Teaching Philosophy – see the directions from the workbook referenced in #2

5. Complete Project #4: Share information about Your Teaching Environment – this may be the EASIEST thing to do - so you can do it now.

Questions? Contact me:
Sandra Statz, NCTM
Sandra.statz2@gmail.com





THE MTNA STATE PERFORMANCE COMPETITION IN WISCONSIN WILL BE OCTOBER 31, 2026 IN UW-OSHKOSH. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE MTNA WEBSITE [HERE](#).

MTNA STATE COMPOSITION COMPETITION

In Wisconsin, our students have two outstanding opportunities to submit original compositions: the MTNA State Composition Competition and the WMTA Young Composer Festival. I am chairperson for the WMTA/State MTNA Composition Competition for Wisconsin (i.e. a "competitive" event). Registrations/submissions will be due on the second Wednesday of September: September 9, 2026. Full details will be shared in the WMTA August newsletter. General guidelines include: A PDF score and a YouTube link are required with submission of registration to the MTNA competition. It is worth noting that handwritten scores are not accepted for the MTNA competition; submissions including text must follow copyright guidelines; additional guidelines are defined on the MTNA website. If you are interested in learning more about score formats, definitions of levels for entry, fees, and awards, MTNA Composition guidelines can be found here:

Composition Guidelines

Shad Ryan Wenzlaff





WMTA
YOUNG
COMPOSER
FESTIVAL



Are your students lacking motivation during those long summer months?
Want to try something new in lessons?
Looking for an online competition?

How about composition?!

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

This festival is open to any music student living in Wisconsin with three age levels (Elementary, Junior, and, Senior). Non-competitive options are available and everything is completed online anonymously.

All styles of music are welcome!

Registration is due July 1st and compositions are due August 15th.

Check out our website:

<https://www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com/competition-for-young-composers>

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

Hope to see you at the WMTA Young Composer Festival!



A Concert, a Collaboration, and a Composer!

Students and Teachers from FVMTA, Northeast Wisconsin Piano Teachers Forum (NEWPTF), and OAMTA collaborated on a “monstrous” piano concert of duets and a trio on stage at the Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton, on Saturday, January 31. An “orchestra” of keyboards (three grand pianos and five Yamaha digitals, courtesy of Heid Music), teacher conductors, and music students of all ages presented a varied program of twenty-three pieces, including some literature of Wynn-Ann Rossi, the featured composer for the grand event. Participating students will receive a collection of duets in various levels, which Ms. Rossi has been commissioned to compose for the commemoration of the event. The audience was treated to a rockin’ duet finale by sixteen of the twenty participating teachers, along with the appearance of “Rockasaurus Rex!”

Masterclass Opportunity for FVMTA Members and Their Respective Students.

Six students were chosen to perform solos for Dr. Molly Roseman, UW-Stevens Point, on Saturday, February 21, on the community grand piano housed in the newly-renovated Appleton Public Library. In true “Masterclass” form, Molly demonstrated “masterful” teaching techniques and the students bravely responded as a student would in a private lesson - except they were on stage with an audience! Teachers and students experienced another point of view for practice technique, interpretation, etc., for a variety of literature by Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Copland, and Ginastera. Dr Shuk-Ki Wong, D. M. A., Piano Performance and Pedagogy, and FVMTA VP of programming, arranged the educational event.

FVMTA Fiftieth Anniversary!

Members of FVMTA celebrated 50 years of connecting on a professional level with a celebratory Anniversary Recital and reception at Appleton Public Library on Sunday, April 19. In 1976, a group of forward-thinking music teachers gathered to exchange career ideas, thus sowing the seed of a professional organization that took root and grew into a vibrant association now known as Fox Valley Music Teachers Association. Through the years, members of FVMTA have met on a regular basis to share teaching philosophies, business practices, and to encourage students of all levels to make music on every level for themselves and their communities.

In the past 50 years, the active FVMTA has initiated the purchase of a grand piano for community use at the Appleton Public Library, produced fifteen Monster Concerts, twenty-four Young Artist Competitions, many masterclasses, supported the WMTA district, regional, and state auditions, and raised funds for scholarships and grants. New teachers are especially welcomed in the mentoring program. HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY!

Barbara Froelich, NCTM
 FVMTA PR Chair
 March 8, 2026

Local Associations

CVMTA CHIPPEWA VALLEY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: ESTHER PEDIGO, ESTHER.PEDIGO@GMAIL.COM

FVMTA FOX VALLEY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: MARGARET BURTON, MARGNET25@GMAIL.COM

GMC WMTA GREATER MILWAUKEE CHAPTER

- PRESIDENT: CHRISSY DEAL, CHRISSY.DEAL@GMAIL.COM

KRMTA KENOSHA RACINE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: DEBORAH MASLOSKI, DMASLOSKI@GMAIL.COM

LAMTA LA CROSSE AREA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: REENE SAMPSON, REENE.ANN.SAMPSON@GMAIL.COM

MAME MADISON AREA MUSIC EDUCATORS

- PRESIDENT: LISA ALLRED, LISAALLREDMUSIC@GMAIL.COM

MMTA MICHIGANO MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: TRICIA MARTON, NCTM, MUSICALMARTON@GMAIL.COM

OAMTA OSHKOSH AREA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: ANNEMARIE BIRSCHBACH, AJBACH@ATT.NET

RRMTA ROCK RIVER MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: JULIE HILDEBRANDT, DAVIDH53@FRONTIER.COM

SAMTA SUPERIOR AREA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: ROBERTA GRUBE, RFRINKMAN@GMAIL.COM

SCVMTA ST. CROIX VALLEY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: MARY ANNE OLVERA, NCTM, MARYANNEOLVERA@GMAIL.COM

SPAMTA STEVENS POINT MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: OPEN

WAMTA WAUSAU AREA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- PRESIDENT: OPEN



Executive Board

PRESIDENT: Dr. Mary Tollefson, NCTM | marytollefsonwmta@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT: Mickey Lytle, NCTM | MickeyWMTA@gmail.com

1ST VP-CONFERENCE: Stacey Kraus, NCTM | sakraus2@gmail.com

2ND VP-MEMBERSHIP: Dr. Justin Krueger, NCTM | justind.krueger@gmail.com

TREASURER: Rachel Fritz | wmtatreasurer@gmail.com

REGIONAL AND STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION CHAIR: Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM | Maryanneolvera@gmail.com

VOCAL/INSTRUMENTAL/ENSEMBLE STATE COMPETITION CHAIR: Opala Bilhorn, NCTM | opalas.music.studio@gmail.com

COLLEGIATE FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE: Dr. Nick Phillips, NCTM | phillins@uwec.edu

DISTRICT AUDITIONS CHAIR: Roberta Grube | rfrinkman@gmail.com

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM: Margaret Burton | wmta.margaretb@gmail.com

LOCAL ASSOCIATION CHAIR: Catherine Walby, NCTM | Catherine.walby@lawrence.edu

Administrative Council

COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE FORUM: N/A

MEDIA CHAIR: Ashley Jehn | hanke.ashl32@gmail.com

MTNA CERTIFICATION: Sandra Statz, NCTM | sandra.statz2@gmail.com

MTNA COMPETITIONS COORDINATOR: Dr. Diana Shapiro | shapirod@uww.edu

MTNA COMPOSER COMMISSIONING: Dr. Michael Mizrahi | michael.d.mizrahi@lawrence.edu

MTNA FOUNDATION CHAIR: Shannon Whaples, NCTM | shannonspianostudio@hotmail.com

MTNA STUDENT COMPOSITION COMPETITION: Shad Ryan Wenzlaff | wenzlaffsh@yahoo.com

MTNA JR. /SR. COMPETITIONS: Dr. Diana Shapiro | shapirod@uww.edu

MTNA YOUNG ARTIST/CHAMBER MUSIC: Dr. Diana Shapiro | shapirod@uww.edu

TEACHER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: Rita Schuman | ritaschuman1@gmail.com

THEORY CHAIR: OPEN | wmtatheory@gmail.com

WELLNESS FORUM CHAIR: Dr. Kaju Lee, NCTM | leekaju@uwplatt.edu

WMTA YOUNG COMPOSER FESTIVAL: Amber Bruns, NCTM | amber@bluemaplemusic.com

The WMTA Administrative Council also includes all Local Association Presidents and District Chairpersons.

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

Wisconsin Music Teachers Association
As of March 31, 2026

MAR 31, 2026

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents

100 - Checking	14,423.38
110 - CD 2597 (10/2027)	115,364.27
111 - CD 2363 (11/2026)	42,219.02
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	172,006.67

Total Current Assets	172,006.67
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Total Assets	172,006.67
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Liabilities and Equity

Equity

Current Year Earnings	8,436.71
300 - Net Assets	163,569.96
Total Equity	172,006.67

Total Liabilities and Equity	172,006.67
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Statement of Activities (Income Statement)

Wisconsin Music Teachers Association
For the 9 months ended March 31, 2026

JUL 2025-MAR 2026

Income

400 - Donations & Grants	750.00
410 - Membership	5,485.00
420 - Conference	7,710.00
430 - District Auditions	28,810.00
434 - Composition Festival	1,372.25
435 - MTNA Competitions	945.00
440 - Advertising	250.00
450 - Interest	4,749.11
Total Income	50,071.36

Gross Profit

50,071.36

Operating Expenses

500 - Wages	18,160.00
501 - Contractor Expenses	316.50
502 - Mileage	3,323.75
503 - Lodging	1,719.08
504 - Meals	5,445.06
510 - Facilities	3,355.00
511 - Technology	753.34
512 - Printing & Publication	130.00
513 - Postage & Shipping	35.11
514 - Supplies	353.45
515 - Awards	4,189.86
516 - Background Checks	577.00
520 - Grants	2,400.00
541 - Insurance	680.50
590 - Other Expense	196.00
Total Operating Expenses	41,634.65

Operating Income

8,436.71

Net Income

8,436.71