



West Virginia Music Teachers Association

**Affiliated with Music
Teachers National
Association**



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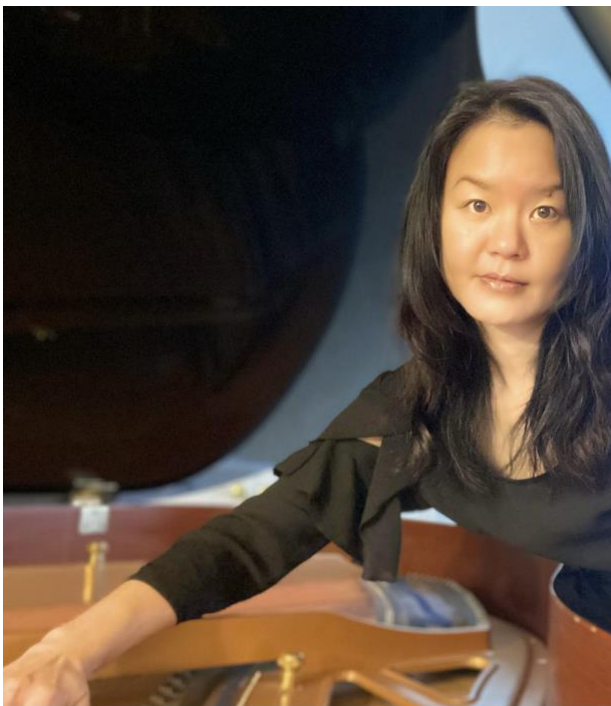
Notes from the President, Dr. Yuhsuan Liao NCTM

Happy spring to all our WVMTA members!

This year's MTNA National Conference was held in Atlanta, GA and it was my honor to represent West Virginia and meet with music teachers from around the country. Marshall University faculty member Dr. Henning Vauth presented "Toward a Holistic Concept of Wellness in Applied Music Teaching" On Pedagogy Saturday, Congratulations! The presentations, workshops, masterclasses were stellar, and the concerts were equally spectacular. The 2025 MTNA National Conference will be held on March 15-19, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I hope you will make plan to attend.

We are in the process of updating the WVMTA Performance Plan, it should be done by before the beginning of next school year. Stay tuned!

There are so many great things happening in the districts around the state and I applaud the great work that WVMTA teachers are doing with their students during this busy time of the year. If you have any questions, problems, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on the current board. We are here to help all of you succeed!



In the meantime, we have great state conference to look forward to! President-Elect Daniel Bellamy is doing a great job putting together a program with high-profile guest artist and interesting presentations at Shepherd University, October 11-12, 2024. As WVMTA composer commissioned chair, I am happy to announce that we will have new commissioned work premiered at the 2024 WVMTA State Conference.

Best of luck to you and your students for all of your spring musical activities!

Yuhsuan Liao, NCTM

Notes from President--Elect, Daniel Bellamy

The 2024 WVMTA state conference and competition will be held at Shepherd University (Shepherdstown, WV) on October 11-12, 2024. More details to come in the June newsletter!

Daniel Bellamy

WVMTA Treasurer's Report, Bruce Rous

As of January 14, 2024, our bank account balance is \$29,046.73. The current balance of our 5-year CD is \$11,436.92 and our 1-year CD valued at \$10,781.07.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Rous

WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award

August 31st is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2024 WVMTA Teacher of the Year. According to rules as set up by the WVMTA Administrative Board on October 25, 1996: "Nominations will be limited to three." Also according to rules, the qualifications are:

- Demonstrates innovative teaching and creative musicianship and,
- Has held membership in WVMTA for at least five (5) years.

Past Teacher of the Year Awards Recipients:

1991 Peggy Johnston, NCTM	1992 Christine Kefferstan, NCTM
1993 Carol Beall, NTCM	1994 Linda Seime, NCTM
1995 Lena Lim, NCTM	1996 Mary Wilson
1997 Ray Martin, NCTM	1998 Leslie Petteys, NCTM
1999 Ruth Carder, NCTM	2000 Catherine Crotty, NTCM
2001 Bonnie Miltenberger	2002 No award given
2003 Lya Cartwright	2004 Olive Meyer, NCTM
2005 Mila Markun, NCTM	2006 Scott Beard, NCTM
2007 Elaine Tutt	2008 Vicki B. Cavendish
2009 Harriet Tucker, NCTM	2010 Jan Jemison Smith, NCTM
2011 Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM	2012 Hooi Yin Boeoy

2013 Christene Kefferstan, NCTM	2014 Carole Kriewaldt
2015 No award given	2016 James Miltenberger
2017 Henning Vauth, NCTM	2018 Mary Wilson
2019 Jacob Womack, NCTM	2020 John Morrison
2021 Ian Jessee	2022 Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Lee
2023 Robert Ellis	2024

WVMTA Distinguished Leader of the Year

- This award is based on accumulated years of leadership and service contributed to the organization, over and above 10 years.
- This award will be based on whether the award was or was not already received by a particular member previously. The award CAN be granted to the same individual more than once.
- This award will be based on the recommendation, every year, of the current committees' research and records (If you are interested in becoming a future member of the Awards Committee, please notify Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao at yliao@shepherd.edu). The Distinguished Leader of the Year Award was begun in 2006 and replaced the "Member of the year Award."

Member of the Year Honorees

1991 Mary Shep Mann, NCTM	1992 Bobby Loftis, NCTM
1993 Judy Lambert, NCTM	1994 Jane Mangus, NCTM; Sandra Hastings
1995 Mila Markun	1996 Marija Sommer, NCTM
1997 Marguerite Bostonia, NCTM	1998 Jean Douglass, NCTM
1999 Connie Arrau Sturm, NCTM	2000 Olive Meyer, NCTM
2001 No Award given	2002 No Award given
2003 James Miltenberger	2004-05 No Awards given

Distinguished Leader of the Year Honorees

2006 Barbara Heckert	2007 Carol Beall, NCTM
2008 Mary Wilson	2009 Karen Taddie, NCTM
2010 Gary Mullenax, NCTM	2011 Janna Kisner, NCTM
2012 Scott Beard, NCTM	2013 Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM
2014 No award given	2015 Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM
2016 Laura Hamm, NCTM	2017 Gerald (Jerry) Lee
2018 No award given	2019 Hooi Yin Boey
2020 Vicki Cavendish	2021 Dr. Jacob Womack, NCTM
2022 John Morrison	2023 Dr. Henning Vauth, NCTM
2024	2025

WVMTA Scholarship for an African American Applied Music Student (AAAMS Scholarship)

- WVMTA will provide a \$500 scholarship for an African American applied music student.
 - The scholarship will be awarded annually, if the WVMTA Budget Committee determines there are sufficient funds in the general WVMTA budget.
 - Students cannot receive the scholarship in two successive years unless there are no other competitors.
 - All African American students shall be eligible, regardless of age and performance level, including pre-college, college, and adult students, and regardless of instrument or voice type.
 - Eligible students must be students of a WVMTA member (“dues paid”) at the time of application or start lessons with a WVMTA member by the week after Labor Day.
 - A call for applications shall be included in the June Newsletter by the President.
 - Applications shall be due on or before August 8, and selections will be made by the WVMTA Budget Committee by August 15. Applications should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the President.
 - There is no application fee.
 - Selections will be made based on need and/or merit.
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- The student or legal guardians shall receive the scholarship in form of a one-time payment from the WVMTA Treasurer, postmarked on or before September 1.
 - If there are no applicants, the earmarked money shall go back into the general WVMTA budget.

Application:

- A formless one-page letter written by the student’s applied teacher, speaking to a) need and/or merit of the student, b) stating that the student either has already been studying with the teacher, or will start lessons with the teacher by the first week after Labor Day, and c) confirming that the teacher has paid WVMTA dues for the current fiscal year.
 - Proof of the teacher’s dues payment to MTNA/WVMTA for the current fiscal year.
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Notes from the WVMTA composer commissioned chair—Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao

It was 2019 when we had the WVMTA commissioned composer selected, after 5 years of absence, I am happy to announce that we will have new commissioned work premiered at the 2024 WVMTA State Conference.

Shepherd University faculty **Dr. Stefan Swanson has been selected as the 2024 WVMTA commissioned composer.** His new work “Songs from the Ancients “for flute, cello, piano, and percussion, will be premiered at the 2024 WVMTA State Conference.

Dr. Swanson is an award-winning composer for film, media, and concert, with over a decade of film scoring experience and over sixty scoring credits. He has also enjoyed tremendous success composing for the concert hall with over seventy compositions including two symphonies. His Symphony No.2,

"Lipsky," commissioned by Ashland Symphony Orchestra commemorate the life and career of long-time musical director and conductor Arie Lipsky, received a standing ovation at its premiere in October 2023 under the baton of Grammy-Winning conductor Michael Repper.

He has had numerous films stream on Amazon Prime (Hard Laughter, Escaping Fed, and Premature), and one currently streaming on Hulu (Premature, which was also released in theaters in February 2020). Recently, his score to the feature film Dress Code won Best Original Score at the New Jersey Film Awards. Other films such as Gun Hill Road, Stop, Stone Cars, and The Guys and have played in all the major festivals throughout the world including Sundance, Cannes, Tribeca, and Telluride, along with being broadcast on NBC, HBO, Cinemax, and BET.



He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Composition, Theory, and Technology at Shepherd University. He has also taught Film Scoring, Composition, Theory, and numerous other classes at New York University, Rutgers University, California State University (Northridge), and CUNY Staten Island.

Notes from the Certification Chair, Jacob Womack NCTM

I am excited to announce that we have one new application for certification in piano since our last newsletter went out. WV continues to have one of the higher percentage rates of MTNA Certified Teachers in the country!!

Do you want to take your professionalism to the next level? Did you know that the MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to accomplish that goal? Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients and peers that which the individual knows and is able to do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice. In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for professional achievement and validates expertise for the

individual and to those outside the field. The MTNA Certification program exists for teachers who teach music to students of any age level in private or group settings. The program is based upon a set of five standards defining what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do.

For more information about the Certification Program, visit www.mtnacertification.org or contact jwomack@concord.edu, the national headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or mtnacertification@mtna.org.

MTNA Certification – WVMTA Challenge and Incentive

\$200 Reimbursement Check Available for Any Newly Certified NCTM!*

Yes, for anyone who successfully becomes a NEW NCTM! No stipulations. Receive a \$200 award from the WVMTA board for completing certification, which covers the entire fee! Find out the latest information on requirements for the National Certification Program at www.mtnacertification.org.

*This award does not apply to people who complete their renewals or their permanent professional certificates. This award is only for new certifications. Contact jwomack@concord.edu for more information.

Certification Drawing Value: \$200

Our Certification program has a drawing at each year's state conference to allow one person to win a free \$200 application fee for the MTNA certification. This year, any member (regular or collegiate) may enter your name in the drawing prior to the state conference and the winner will be drawn at the state conference. The winner does not need to be present to win, although we encourage all members to attend state conferences. Contact Jacob Womack, certification chair, to enter the drawing (jwomack@concord.edu). Find out the latest information on requirements for the National Certification Program at www.mtnacertification.org. The winner of the drawing must submit their official certification application to MTNA within one (1) year and complete the process within two (2) years.

Collegiate Members are eligible to enter the certification drawing.

Notes from the Membership Chair, Dr. Jerry Lee

- With view to the 2023-2024 membership year, using the month of April 2023 as a starting point, according to dues paid during April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, WVMTA confirms 70 total members, 11 of whom are collegiate.

- Membership updates from January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024:
 - WVMTA welcomes Allison Bishop as a new member. Allison is from Morgantown, WV and specializes in piano.
 - WVMTA welcomes Brianna Eddy as a new collegiate member. Brianna is from Nashville, TN and specializes in piano.
 - WVMTA welcomes Mingzhe Feng as a new collegiate member. Mingzhe is from Morgantown, WV and specializes in piano.

- Do you know someone who would benefit from MTNA membership? Now is the time to introduce prospective members to MTNA with a trial membership! Between now and June 30, anyone joining for the first time as an active member will receive 50% off national dues. The new membership year will begin July 1, so new members should take advantage of this promotion now to get the most value. Your colleagues can join online at www.mtna.org. The website will reflect the pro-rated amount automatically for new members. Thank you for your support in growing and strengthening MTNA!
- In addition, please encourage and recruit new members to join WVMTA so that our organization stays as strong and active as possible!
- To join online and to learn more about specific member benefits, please visit the following website and click on the link towards the top of the page, "Join + Renew": www.mtna.org
- The text below is from MTNA, describing the benefits of membership:

Choices for a More Musical Tomorrow

MTNA offers a number of membership types for teachers, students and those involved in the music industry.

For well over a century, MTNA has been the backbone for a collaborative community of music-teaching professionals, connecting both the seasoned educator and those at the beginning of their career.

Membership with MTNA does more than simply complement your career as a music professional—it supports, supplements and shapes it. It empowers music teachers nationwide to become better educators through networking, leadership, mentoring and educational opportunities.

MTNA Membership Delivers:

- **Peer Connections**—a network of outlets, forums and channels for like-minded individuals in the music profession to collaborate and communicate, both locally and nationally
- **Ongoing Education**—conferences, events and advice on teaching tips and pedagogy, technology and web trends, master classes and informational sessions
- **Invaluable Resources**—access to countless benefits, from Certification, publications and consultation services to competitions, teacher enrichment grants and insurance

Districts Reports

Charleston MTA/District III Report:

District 3 held their Theory Test on Saturday, March 2. Eighteen students participated from two studios.

Our Spring Adjudication was held on Saturday, April 20. Again, Eighteen students from two studios participated. Dr. Johan Botes was our adjudicator.

Vicki Cavendish, Chair

Mid-Ohio Valley MTA/District IV Report:

Theory & Technique tests will be held April 27 at the Parkersburg Wood County Library. Spring Performances are scheduled for Sunday afternoon, May 19 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Parkersburg.

Laura Hamm, NCTM, Chair

Eastern Panhandle MTA/District VI Report:

We already have had several events in the 2023-2024 educational year:

Fall Festival in October 2023, EPMTA Winter Recital in December 2023, and Siegal-Hoffman Concerto Festival in January 2024.

The most recent event we had was for Theory and Technic testing. This was held on March 16, 2024 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Williamsport, MD. A total of 37 student's participated in the theory tests and 40 for technic tests.

The EPMTA Spring Recital will be held on May 4, 2024 at the Old Opera House, located in Charles Town, WV.

Spring Adjudication is scheduled on May 18, 2024 at the Fellowship Bible Church in Shenandoah Junction, WV.

Jenny Anderson, NCTM, Chair

News is published quarterly online at www.wvmta.org and mailed to members who do not have an email address. If you have a change of street address or email address, contact MTNA at www.mtna.org or call 888-512-5278

Dr. Johan Botes, Newsletter Editor, japbotes@gmail.com

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