



West Virginia Music Teachers Association

**Affiliated with Music Teachers
National Association**

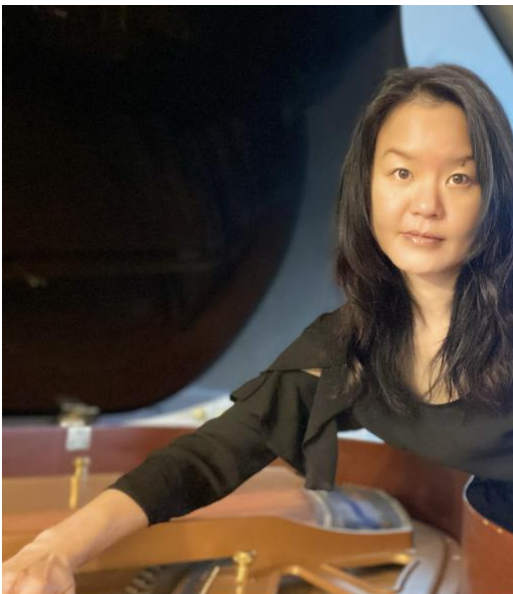


www.wvmta.org **WVMTA News Volume 60, Issue 1, January 2025**

Notes from the President, Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, NCTM

Happy New Year from WVMTA! We had a fantastic state conference in October, featuring a diverse range of topics and presenters. The guest artist, Josh Wright, truly captivated us with his performance. A huge thank you to Daniel Bellamy for organizing such a wonderful event and to Miles Helmick for expertly running the competitions. We also want to congratulate Dr. Johan Botes, who was honored as the Distinguished Leader of the Year for his years of dedicated service to WVMTA.

As we move forward, we want to acknowledge that Miles Helmick has stepped down from his role as the WVMTA Competition Chair following the state conference in 2024. On behalf of everyone at WVMTA, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Miles for his many years of service in this demanding position, which requires significant time commitment and exceptional organizational skills. We are also thankful to Gary Mullenax for graciously stepping in to fill the role for the remainder of the term.



Yu-Hsuan Liao, NCTM
WVMTA President

In early November 2024, I reached out to all district chairs for brief reports on average participation numbers in district events over the past two years. Across all six districts, we saw an impressive average of 150-180 students and around 20 teachers actively participating in these events. Given our state's relatively small membership numbers, this is a remarkable achievement. A special thank you goes out to all the district chairs, who are the real driving force behind recruiting participants and ensuring that events run smoothly.

Looking ahead, I encourage our members to make plans to attend the National Conference in Minneapolis, MN, from March 15-19, 2025. It promises to be an inspiring experience!

Wishing you and your students a productive and inspiring 2025!

Notes from President--Elect, Daniel Bellamy



Happy New Year everyone!

I want to say thank you to everyone that traveled to attend the state conference in October. It was a wonderful opportunity to see everyone again and spend a weekend enjoying piano and music in general with fellow pianists and musicians! A special thank you goes to both Dr. Yuhsuan Liao for her help and work as site coordinator and President as well as Miles Helmick for his time and hard work as competition coordinator. This event would not have been possible without their dedication and help!

We will start planning for this year's conference soon, so be on the lookout for updates!

Take care and stay warm,

Daniel Bellamy, WVMTA President-Elect



WVMTA Treasurer's Report, Bruce Rous

Truist account balance
\$ 28,275.65

Filed tax-exempt status.

Opened a Money Market account and transferred \$25,000 to that account, so we are earning interest. APR is 4.5%, variable. This is a liquid account, however any monthly transactions over 6 will be charged.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Rous

MTNA and WVMTA Competitions Results MTNA

WV Competition Results

Miles Hemlick, WV Competitions Chair and First Vice President

WVMTA Mountain State Composition Results

Elementary Piano

First Place: Evan Wu (teacher: Yuliana Yap)

Runner Up: Walker Boh Lin (teacher: Yuliana Yap); Wyatt Grayson Lin (teacher: Yuliana Yap)

Junior High Piano

First Place: Baliee King (teacher Vicki Cavendish)

Runner Up: Eleanor Elbakidze (teacher: Yuliana Yap)

Honorable Mention: Cecelia White (teacher: Jenny Anderson)

Elementary A Composition

First Place: Aurora N Mallawaarachchi (teacher: Jenny Anderson)

Elementary B Composition

First Place: Rebecca Gilhooly (teacher: Jenny Anderson)

Junior Composition

First Place: Celia White (teacher: Jenny Anderson)

Senior Composition

First Place: Jenna Gilhooly (teacher: Jenny Anderson)

MTNA WV Preliminary Results

Junior High	Violin	Victoria Biehle	Ian Jesse	Representative
Senior High	Violin	Isaiah Biehle	Ian Jesse	Representative
Young Artist	Violin	Sophia Biehle	Ian Jesse	Representative
Senior High	Piano	Brandon Lu	Gary Mullenax	Representative
Young Artist	Piano	Azalea Kelley	Lucy Mauro	Winner
Young Artist	Piano	Calvin Riggs	Henning Vauth	Alternate

WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award

August 31st is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2025 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 Booey
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 No award given

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 Dr. Johan Botes, NCTM	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.

- 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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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.

Notes from the Membership Chair, Dr. Jerry Lee

- With view to the 2024-2025 membership year, using the month of April 2024 as a starting point, according to dues paid during April 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024, WVMTA confirms 55 members, including 4 collegiate members.
- Membership updates from September 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024:
 - WVMTA welcomes Ian Jessee, from Charleston, WV, as a reinstating member specializing in violin, viola, and chamber music.
 - WVMTA welcomes Tong Ding, from Morgantown, WV, as a new collegiate member specializing in piano.
 - WVMTA welcomes Karen Picard Young, from Marietta, OH, as a reinstating member as well as a member adding WVMTA to her membership. She specializes in piano.

- Please encourage and recruit new members to join WVMTA so that our organization stays as strong and active as possible!
- From now through June 30, 2025, active members joining for the first time will receive a 50% discount on national membership dues!
- 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

Clarksburg MTA/District II Report:

District 2 held the annual Fall Festival on November 23 at the Historic Waldomore in Clarksburg WV. Twenty-two students from four studios participated in the recital. Participating teachers were Robert Ellis, John Morrison, Allison Bishop, and Rayme Pullen. Following the recital program, Desiree Sowards gave a marvelous presentation on the history of the waltz accompanied by a demonstration of a traditional waltz step. Many of the students participated and some of the parents learned the waltz as well. It was a thoroughly engaging presentation from Mrs. Sowards.

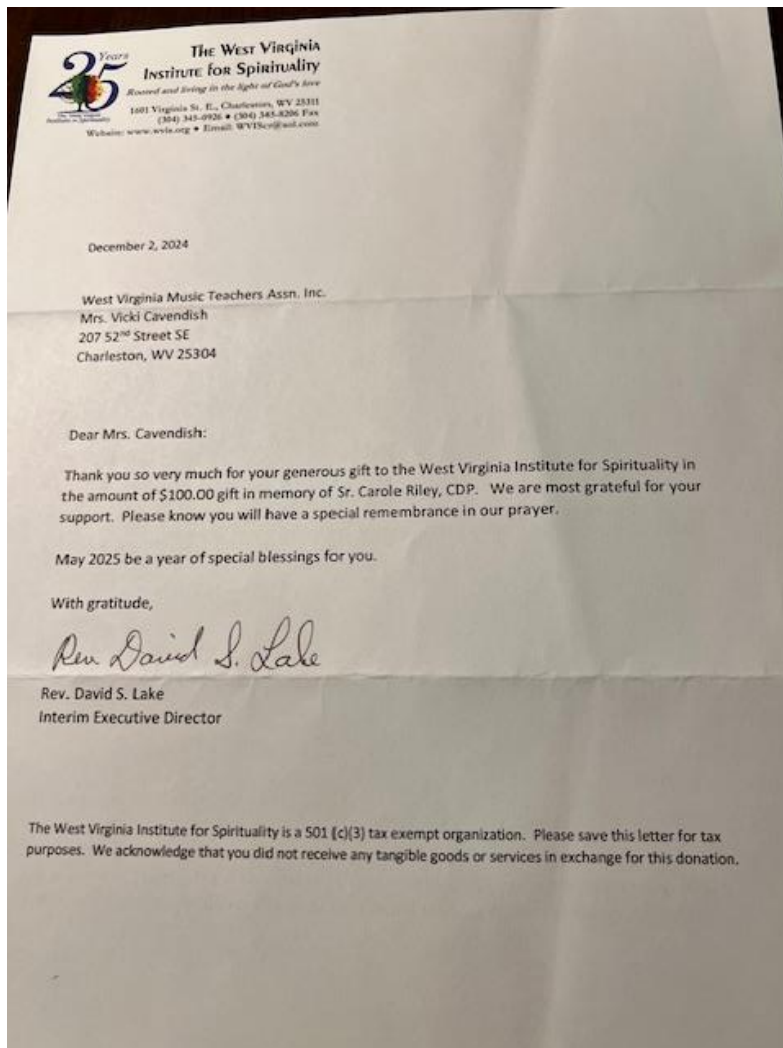
District 2 will host Theory/Technic testing later in March depending on student interest. Date TBD.

Rayme Pullen, Chair

Charleston MTA/District III report:

District Three will hold the Theory Test on Saturday, March 15 at Kanawha United Presbyterian Church. Spring Adjudication for piano students will be Saturday, April 5. Our judge will be Dr. Johan Botes. The location is TBD

Sister Carole Riley passed away on November 3. Sr. Carole had been an active member of WVMTA District 3 these past few years, since her retirement from Duquesne University, where she was a professor from 1969 to 2017. Sr. Carole also founded the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality in Charleston. Sr. Carole will be greatly missed. WVMTA donated \$100 to the WV Institute for Spirituality in memory of Sr. Riley. We received the following letter:



Vicki Cavendish, Chair

Mid-Ohio Valley MTA/District IV Report:

The Mid-Ohio Valley District 4 held two Fall Festival recitals on Nov. 17 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Parkersburg. Performers included 33 students from four teachers: Laura Hamm, Barbara Heckert, Amy Rice and Karen Young. Abby Dodds, Licensed Professional Music Therapist, described her work at the local hospital and encouraged the students to continue making music.



Laura Hamm, NCTM, Chair



Eastern Panhandle MTA/ District VI report:

Many of our students took part in the WVMTA Conference events on October 12th, 2024, at the Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV:

- Brandon Lu (Student of Gary Mullenax) participated in ***the MTNA National Piano performance competition*** senior category and placed first.
- 3 students of Jenny Anderson participated in ***the Mountain State Piano Performance competition***. They placed as follows : Cecelia White- honorable mention (Junior category), Inaara Diaz – 1st place (Senior category) and KateLin Zappe- runner up (Senior category).
- 11 students of Jenny Anderson participated in ***the Mountain State Composition competition***.

Our winners:

Elementary A category: Aurora Mallawaarachchi 1st place, Pippa Love- runner up.

Elementary B category: Rebecca Gilhooly -1st place, Rayaam Puri – runner up

Junior High category: Cecelia White -1st place

Senior High category: Jenna Gilhooly -1st place, Abigail York- runner up.

Our Fall Festival was held on October 12th, 2024, at the Ashbury United Methodist Church in historic Charles Town, WV. The festival theme was “Folk Songs Around the World,” presented by Mary Love. 46 students of Jenny Anderson, Gary Mullenax, Donna Coyle and Natalie Sigety took part.

Our Winter Recital was held on December 7th 2024 at the Falling Waters Presbyterian Church, located in Hedgesville, WV. 50 students of Gary Mullenax, Jenny Anderson, Donna Coyle, Natalie Sigety, Mellissa Rickman and Mary Love took part.

Our next events are: Siengal- Hoffman Ensemble festival on February 22nd 2025, Theory & Technic testing on March 15th 2025, Spring Adjudication on April 5th 2025, and Spring recital on May 17th.



Jenny Anderson , 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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