

Fall 2020 Newsletter



Dear MMTA Members,

I'm honored to introduce myself as your new MMTA President for 2020-2022!

I became a member in 2007, and have been involved with MMTA in many roles since then: Judged Festival Repertoire Committee; Royal Conservatory of Music Program State Representative Chair; Vice President of Membership; Judged Festival Chair; President-Elect, and 2017 MMTA Teacher of the Year.

Now - pandemic, or not - I'm excited to begin this new role as President and share my ideas with you! We'll be rolling out a new website, holding virtual coffee-talks around the state (aka Meet the President), and more online events. This year, 2020, also marks the 60th Anniversary for the founding of MMTA, and we're planning a fabulous virtual celebration for December. Stay tuned!

I still remember the first board meeting I attended. I was blown away by the enthusiasm, passion, dedication, and heartfelt engagement that I witnessed. Prior to that, I had been a part of many meetings from other organizations, which could largely be described as lackluster. But after that MMTA meeting ... I knew I was in the right place! I felt like I could be part of something meaningful and rewarding, both personally and professionally. I've received so much support, inspiration and friendship from all my MMTA colleagues over

the years - which I'm grateful for, especially now.

Here we are in 2020, and I don't need to describe the ways the pandemic has deeply impacted our lives as musicians and teachers. Everything is different, and uncertain. The motto I've chosen to embrace is: Be flexible and adapt! I believe we can't get stuck in the past, comparing everything to how it "used to be". We can grieve for what no longer is AND create a new path forward. I know MMTA is ready to do that.

If you're looking for specific support relevant to teaching during the current pandemic, be sure to check out the [COVID-19 Resources](#) section in this newsletter for helpful information and tips.

Visit our website, MMTA.net, to learn about student programs, teacher grants, scholarships, and more. Also follow MMTA on Facebook: [@MassMusicTeachersAssoc.](#)

Are you interested in becoming more involved in MMTA, either as a volunteer or board member? Please do reach out to me personally, or any of our board members. We'd love for you to take part in our organization!

I want to specifically thank a few members: Ellyses Kuan, our Immediate Past President, for her leadership and dedication over the past two years; Vivian Tsang, a long-time brilliant MMTA leader and colleague who taught me so much and has also become a dear friend; and Alison Barr, an inspirational, passionate champion of MMTA, whose camaraderie I cherish.

We need music - and our music community - in our lives, now more than ever. I hope MMTA can give you that same feeling that I've had: that you know you are in the right place for inspiration and support!

Be well and be safe,
Heather Rogers Riley
President, MMTA
[**president@mmta.net**](mailto:president@mmta.net)



Please welcome the members of the 2020-2022 MMTA Board:

Executive Board

President: Heather Rogers Riley

President Elect: TBD

1st Vice President, Certification: Nilly Shilo

2nd Vice President, Membership: Yulia Zhuravleva

Treasurer: Yulia Zhuravleva

Secretary: Valerie Stark

Webmaster: Ellyses Kuan

Immediate Past-President: Ellyses Kuan

Chairs

MTNA Performance Competitions Chair: Jonathan Roberts

MTNA Composition Competitions Chair: Leslie Hitelman

Bay State Piano Contest Chair: Esther Ning Yau

Bay State Strings Contest Chair: Vera Rubin

Judged Festival Chair: Ranko Konishi-Houston

Musical Achievement Evaluations Chair: Jia Shi

Composer Commissioning Chair: Dorothy Travis

MMTA Music Connect Program Chair: Alison Barr

Communications Chair: Rebecca Helm



MMTA's 60th Virtual Anniversary Gala



Did you know that your favorite professional organization – MMTA – is turning 60 this year? What a great time to celebrate with your friends and colleagues. Save the Date! [Keep Reading](#)

COVID Music Teacher Resources

[MTNA Resource List](#)

MTNA has compiled a curated list of some of the best and most helpful resources to support your music teaching and your continuing education needs during this crisis.

[Keep Reading](#)



Requesting Nominations for Massachusetts Commissioned Composer Program



Massachusetts was honored to select Vartan Aghababian as our commissioned composer in 2019. At the Quad State Conference last October he premiered his piece entitled, *Modal Dances*, for flute, clarinet, bassoon and hand percussion. As we head towards our next Quad State conference in October of 2021, we are now taking nominations for the next commissioned composer who will represent our state. [Keep Reading](#)

MMTA's Music Connect Program Continues to Thrive

After the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the MMTA Board unanimously voted to open the Music Connect grants up to Summer and Fall Lessons proactively. We voted to raise the teacher's reimbursement to \$50.00 per teaching hour from the previous rate of \$40.00 per teaching hour.

[Keep Reading](#)



My First Virtual Piano Camp



This summer, I found myself excited about creating my first piano camp experience for my youngest group of piano students and am excited to share my experience. At first thought I was unsure of how this would work since it needed to be online, but fortunately, the teaching pathways that I would use became more clear as the start date neared. [Keep Reading](#)

Never Say Never - Adapting During a Pandemic

“I will never teach online, it’s just not for me.”

“I will never use an online calendar, I like seeing things on paper.”

“I don’t have any need for a website, it’s just not necessary for my business.”

These words have all come out of my mouth. As a teacher for over thirty years, I am certainly used to changing with the times, but I always



thought in my next decade or so, that I had a system down that worked for myself and my students. Fulfilling, engaging, comfortable. [Keep Reading](#)

Reflections - A Teaching Memoir



Being a member of MMTA has enriched my life and those many students and teachers I've been privileged to learn from for the last 34 years. [Keep Reading](#)

2020 MTNA Composition Competition

The 2020 MTNA Composition Competition is underway. Nine teachers entered a total of 17 students! The breakdown for the 17 entries is 2 Young Artist, 5 Senior, 6 Junior, and 4 Elementary. [Keep Reading](#)



Upcoming Events

[Nomination for Commissioned Composer Deadline](#) - Sunday, November 1, 2020

[Deadline to submit YouTube video links MTNA State Competitions](#) - Sunday, November 1, 2020, 3:00pm

[MTNA State Competitions Results Announced](#) - Sunday, November 8, 2020

[MMTA's 60th Virtual Anniversary Gala](#) - Sunday, December 6, 2020



MMTA Board

Feel free to contact any Board members with questions about our association and our programs.

[Heather Rogers Riley](#), President

TBD, President-Elect

[Elysses Kuan](#), Immediate Past-President

[Nilly Shilo](#), Vice President of Certification

[Yulia Zhuravleva](#), Vice President of Membership

[Yulia Zhuravleva](#), Treasurer

[Valerie Stark](#), Secretary

[Jonathan Roberts](#), MTNA Performance Competitions

Chair

[Leslie Hitelman](#), MTNA Composition Competitions

Chair

[Dorothy Travis](#), Composer Commissioning Chair

[Jia Shi](#), Musical Achievement Evaluations Chair

[Esther Ning Yau](#), Bay State Piano Contest Chair

[Vera Rubin](#), Bay State Strings Chair

[Ranko Konishi-Houston](#), Judged Festival Chair

[Alison Barr](#), MMTA Music Connect Program Chair

[Rebecca Helm](#), Communication Chair

[Elysses Kuan](#), Webmaster



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