

Winter 2020 Newsletter



Dear MMTA Members,

I hope you are all continuing to stay safe and well!

Your board has been as busy as ever, creating and adapting, to bring you outstanding MMTA experiences online this year.

Our MTNA State Performance and Composition Chairs ran very successful online competitions in October and November - see the [results here](#). The winners from the state in both competitions advanced to the Eastern Division Competitions.

Eastern Division Performance Competition winners will be announced later in December.

Eastern Division Composition [results](#) were just released, and two winners were selected from Massachusetts!

Elementary: Miles Chang, Student of Yuki Shibata

Young Artist: Luis McDougal, Student of Alla Cohen

The winning compositions automatically advance to the national competition as national finalists. The results of that competition will be announced by the end of January.

Congratulations to all the winners and their teachers, for their dedication and achievements!

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated [MMTA's 60th Virtual Anniversary Gala on December 6](#). I would like to acknowledge and thank Alison Barr, our extraordinary planning committee chair, and Ellyses Kuan, Immediate Past President, for their tremendous effort and creativity in producing a truly memorable, one of a kind, online celebration! We had dancing, cocktails, slideshows, videos, musical performances, and “mingling” in chat rooms, with a special focus in support of MMTA's Music Connect Program. If you'd like to make a special donation to the Music Connect Program in honor of MMTA's 60th anniversary, you can [Donate here](#).

Some things to look forward to in the coming weeks and months:

- A new website! (Yes, it's coming! Launch date TBD, but probably early spring).
- Performance events, like [Judged Festival](#), taking place online - stay tuned!

May we each find a moment (or more) this season to find respite from screens, solace in music, and rest.

Warm regards,
Heather Rogers Riley
President



MMTA's 60th Anniversary Virtual Gala a Resounding Success!



On behalf of the MMTA Board and our Gala Committee, I wish to sincerely and deeply thank everyone who Zoomed in last night and/or donated to MMTA's Music Connect Program. Our 60th Anniversary Gala was attended by over forty people and many, many more sent their well-wishes and appeared in videos.

This included MTNA's Executive Director Gary Ingles, MTNA Staff, Eastern Division President Wei-Yuh Christina Xie, Foundation Fellows George Litterst and Ginger Hwalek, many, many past State Presidents, Maine MTA President



Gulimina Mahamuti and many more. [Keep Reading](#)

MMTA's Music Connect Program Benefits from 60th Anniversary Gala Donations

We want to thank ALL of you, whether you were able to Zoom in on the 60th Anniversary Virtual Gala or not, for your generous donations to MMTA's Music Connect Program. Over \$800.00 has been raised and we plan to have the donation link permanently available on the MMTA website. [Keep Reading](#)



Announcing David Ibbett as MMTA's Commissioned Composer for Quad State 2021

MMTA is pleased to announce that David Ibbett, Ph. D., a composer, educator, and musical advocate for



science, has been selected as the Massachusetts Commissioned Composer. David composes electrosymphonic music: a fusion of classical and electronic styles that interweaves influences from songs, symphonies, pop, rock and electronica. [Keep Reading](#)

MTNA Massachusetts State Performance Winners Announced

The 2020 MTNA Performance Competition has announced state winners who will advance on to division competitions for piano and strings. [View State Results Here](#)



What MMTA/MTNA Means to Me

The seeds for my dedication to MTNA were sown in 1975, when, as a college junior at University of Maine at Orono, I was a founding member of Maine Music Teachers Association, along with my piano professor Kathryn Ann Foley. I remember Julio Esteban, then MTNA President, flying in to “create” the chapter. My teacher couldn’t stand correspondence, so I was the



Chief Mail-Opener. [Keep Reading](#)

2020 MTNA Composition Competition State and Division Results

The 2020 MTNA Composition
Competition Congratulations to all
the participants and their teachers!
[View State and Division Results
Here](#)



Upcoming Events

[Judged Festival 2021](#) Online - Registration opens Feb. 20, 2021

[MTNA National Virtual Conference 2021](#) - March 13-17, 2021

💡 Remote Group Music Party Idea! 💡

I recently had a Zoom group party of piano students. As the gathered students ranged in age from 8 to 16, with similar musical experience gaps, I needed an ice-breaker game that would work for all. I came up with an improvisational game, based on the music alphabet. The younger students already had home-made flash cards of the music alphabet, so I assigned them all to come up with words using the music alphabet. Then they took turns announcing their word and choosing another student to improvise a short melody beginning with those notes. The beginners improvised with one hand, and did pretty well. My high school student, who already thinks in strange harmonies, used both hands and impressed us all. They even challenged me! It was a fun game, connecting the different levels.

- Valerie Stark



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



Copyright © 2020 Massachusetts Music Teachers Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

