

## **MMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

### **Minutes Submitted by Karin Wilks, secretary**

Date: February 7, 2020

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Rehearsal Room, Cove Fine Arts Center, Eastern Nazarene College, 62 Wendell Avenue, Qujincy, MA 02170

Present Board Members: Ellyses Kuan, Heather Riley, Nilly Shilo (by phone), Karin Wilks, Yulia Zhuravleva,

Present Chair People: Dorothy Travis, Alison Barr, (Heather Riley)

Absent Board Members: Melissa Vining, Janet Ainsworth,

Absent Chair People: Vera Rubin, Jonathan Roberts, Esther Ning Yau, Leslie Hitelman, Penny Oullette

After Dorothy reviewed the by-laws to confirm that we consisted of a quorum, President Ellyses Kuan called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Minutes of the September board meeting had been previously approved and posted. Reports submitted in advance are reproduced with this document following the minutes.

#### **1. TREASURER'S REPORT – Yulia**

Yulia states that the overall financial health of MMTA continues to be good. According to the decision of the board, she has hired a bookkeeper, Maureen in Melrose, to assist with data entry and reconciliation tasks. Maureen will be paid \$30/hour and Yulia estimates that she will work 2 hours per quarter. Yulia is investigating the purchase of a multi-used license for Quickbooks and the process of making the books available online. She expects that there will be a set-up charge for this process of \$350-500.

#### **2. MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Yulia & Ellyses**

Yulia reported that there are 38 new MMTA members. It was determined that we do not know if this number consists of all new or some lapsed/re-newed memberships.

Heather requested that Yulia remind non-renewed individuals that their participation in future MMTA events will require them to pay higher non-member fees.

Ellyses reported that member Isabella's attempt to gather a group for socializing and networking in western Massachusetts was cancelled due to lack of response. Alison noted that Melissa would like to organize such a group in Boston.

### **3. MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE – Ellyses**

Alison requested that she be provided with a two lists of Massachusetts teachers attending the Chicago conference, the first within one month of the conference and the second one week before. This is for the purpose of sending invitations to the Massachusetts cocktail hour. She has scheduled this gathering for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm. Ellyses will contact Melissa Curtis from national to obtain this information for Alison.

Ellyses reported that she has received three applications for student scholarships to attend the conference, all from Longy Conservatory students. She knows that 11 such students have registered for the conference and anticipates receiving additional applications. The deadline for applications is 2/28. Discussion ensued regarding deadlines for student scholarships and teacher travel grants, and it was agreed that in the future the deadline for both would be February 1<sup>st</sup>. It was also agreed that our website whould be changed to make this clear. The cap for travel grants is \$2,000.

Alison and Esther have applied for teacher trafvel grants.

MOVED: Dorothy – approve \$500 for each applicant.

SECOND: Heather

VOTE: unanimously in favor

### **4. JUDGED FESTIVAL REPORT – Heather**

Heather reported that planning for the event is going “beautifully.” Salem State has provided space at no charge. Heather will confirm that they will tune the pianos. Four rooms, rather than three, will be used for the event, so Heather has increased the limit of allowed students per teacher.

MOVED: Heather - make a donation of \$400 to Salem State.

SECOND: Nilly

Discussion: Heather pointed out that this is the amount given to Brandeis in the past. Dorothy suggested that any donation should be made after successful completion of the event.

VOTE: unanimously in favor.

## 5. BAY STATE PIANO REPORT – Ellyses for Esther

Tentative date for the program is May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## 6. BAY STATE STRINGS REPORT - Ellyses for Vera

The date for this program is May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. It will be held at BU. Of the three judges approved for the competition, one has been confirmed. Vera is considering scheduling the event for Sunday in the future.

## 7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Nilly

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Position 2020-2022</u>
Heather Riley	President
President Elect	tbd
Ellyses Kuan	Immediate Past President
Nilly Shilo	VP, Certification Chair
Yulia Zhuravleva	VP, Membership Chair
Yulia Zhuravleva	Treasurer
Valerie Stark	Secretary
Ellyses Kuan	Webmaster
Jonathan Roberts	MTNA Performance Competitions Chair
Leslie Hitelman	MTNA Composition Competitions Chair
Esther Ning Yau	Bay State Contest Chair
Vera Rubin	Bay State Strings Chair
Ranko Konishi-Houston	Judged Festival Chair
Jia Shi	Musical Achievemene Eval, (MAE) Chair
Dorothy Travis	Composer Commissioning Chair
Alison Barr	Music Connect Program Chair
Rebeca Helm	Communications Chair

The only open positions at the presentation of Nilly's report were President Elect and Webmaster. Dorothy asked if Ellyses would be willing to serve as webmaster, which is logical given her current role on the website re-design subcommittee. Ellyses agreed to take this role.

Discussion ensued regarding Penny's request for help with MAEs, which are scheduled for 4/5/2020 at the Indian Hill school. Penny can handle some of the planning, but cannot attend the event itself, and will need to cancel it in the absence of assistance. Nilly will ask Jia to take on the role of assistant MAE coordinator.

## **8. SOCIAL EVENT/TEACHER OF THE YEAR UPDATE - Alison**

Alison is hosting the annual social at her home, with a proposed date and time of May 31<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon.

Ellyses suggested that we extend the TOY nomination deadline in order to better publicize it. The deadline will be extended to 2/29 and Melissa will publicize it. Barring the receipt of other nominations to evaluate, the board tentatively approved granting of the distinction of Teacher of the Year to Ellyses.

Nilly had nominated Alison based on her excellent and ground-breaking work with the Music Connect Program. Alison demurred, having received the award in the past, and Dorothy pointed out that Alison was being put forward as a national fellow.

Alison's nomination of Ellyses for Teacher of the Year is as follows:

Ellyses Kuan

Nomination for MMTA Teacher of the Year 2020

Ellyses Kuan is a shining example of the highest standard of accomplishment and commitment to the profession of music teaching. In her terms as President -Elect and now President, and before that, as Vice President of Membership, she has made a significant, lasting and transformative contribution to MMTA. I am certain that Ellyses will be exemplary as Immediate Past President, continuing to champion her heartfelt causes – creating opportunities for student participation and Student Chapters and updated website and channels of communication, among others.

In a relatively short period of time, Ellyses has gently but persistently urged us forward, towards a greater level of communication, organization and professionalism. She has worked very swiftly and skillfully, crafting a board where each individual works at his/her highest potential for maximum growth in each program area.

As Quad State Conference Chair from Summer 2018 - October 5, 2019, I received complete support and attention from Ellyses. She dropped other scheduled things in order to drive to Endicott College to tour the venue. Many times, she talked me through difficult moments as a dedicated colleague would, helping me think through solutions to problems. She never said "Never." The Quad State went off without a hitch because of *all* the Board members who worked so hard, but Ellyses was at the helm and she knew that the buck stopped with her.

Further, Ellyses has attended conferences and Presidents' Summits, even when it was not her official responsibility to do so. The connections she has forged through MTNA are multiple and far-reaching. The ideas she has picked up through networking with leaders in other states are notable.

Ellyses' multiple life tracks of gifted solo pianist, extraordinary chamber musician, dedicated teacher, skillful entrepreneur and Library and Information Scientist (holding a Master's Degree in this field) uniquely qualify her in the understanding of how MMTA functions. Also, she is adept and positive in her interpersonal relationships, extremely intelligent and quick to laugh. It seems that nothing is beyond her imagination or understanding.

The biography below speaks to the breadth and depth in Ellyses' musical and teaching training and also to her complete immersion in her professional life. Her chamber group, Duo Amie, performs several concerts every year as full benefits for various causes, with all profits going directly to these worthy causes. This is all done with graceful aplomb, even while she raises two young children, runs a thriving music school in Quincy and works as MMTA President.

During my several stints on the Nominating Committee, people with far, far less in their schedules than Ellyses have resoundingly turned down MMTA positions time and time again. Ellyses immediately accepted the President-Elect when we were at a point of compromised leadership. She accepted without hesitation, having no idea what might be in store for her. I call this valiant. I call this unique. I call this true professionalism.

Please join me in affirming Ellyses Kuan as the recipient of our 2020 MMTA Teacher of the Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison S. Barr

February 5, 2020

*A native of Hong Kong, Ellyses began playing piano at age 3. She received a full scholarship for her master's degree, studying Piano Performance with Barry Snyder at the Eastman School of Music, and was selected to represent Hong Kong at the International Kirishima Music Festival in Japan. Among her other major teachers were Dr. Siu-Wan Chair Fang and Paul Odette. She has also performed in masterclasses by John Perry, Dang Thai Son, Malcolm Bilson, Alan Chow, Andrew Cooperstock and Jane MaGrath. As a soloist and collaborator, she has performed in the Greater Boston area, New York City (NY), San Diego (CA), Salt Lake City (UT), De Pere (WI), Greensboro (NC), Toronto (CANADA), Japan and Hong Kong, and in 2017 performed at the 42nd Annual Classical Music Festival at Esterhazy Schloss (Austria). She is also a founding member of the Boston-based piano cello duo, Duo Amie ([www.duoamie.org](http://www.duoamie.org)).*

*Aside from being an active performer, Ellyses is currently the music director of EKS Music School in Quincy, MA. In 2014, she was an invited panelist on the Boston Guitar Fest Roundtable on Entrepreneurship and Making a Career in Music Work, and her music school was featured in the Boston Globe the same year. In 2017, she was invited*

*to speak at the Piano Seminar Teacher's Roundtable at the Classical Music Festival Eisenstadt Summer Academy. She received a Steinway & Sons Top Music Teacher award 2 years in a row in 2017 and 2018. She is also president of the Massachusetts Music Teacher Association (an affiliate of the National Music Teacher Association), pianist for the Choral Art Society of the South Shore, and piano instructor at Milton Academy and Noble and Greenbough School.*

#### **9. WEBSITE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Ellyses**

The new website designer, Jeremy, is doing a great job and has submitted several logos for our consideration. Heather also commended his work. Colors for the logo are in discussion and will be finalized within a week or two. Ellyses is still seeking someone to design the content program for the website. She may contact the former programmer. It was agreed that we need someone who can provide on-going service for updates and technical issues.

#### **10. QUAD-STATE CONVENTION REPORT – Alison**

Alison's final report on the fall event reflects a final number of 113 registrants. She reported that the program ran a deficit mostly due to the expense of food, which all agreed was delicious! The cost of production of the program book was completely covered by advertising revenue.

There was discussion regarding treatment of the deficit as gain and loss on the multi-state event is generally split between the participating states. It was agreed that Alison will send documentation of the loss to the other state presidents with the message that MMTA agrees to fully absorb the loss. Heather stated that the treatment of losses should be discussed at the next quad-state meeting.

Special thanks and congratulations were offered to Alison for all she did to make the quad-state an outstanding conference! Alison graciously shared the praise with Ellyses, Heather and everyone else who worked on the event.

#### **11. COMMISSIONED COMPOSERS REPORT – Dorothy**

Dorothy expressed her enthusiasm about the Massachusetts composer and her enjoyment of the process of working with all of the talented musicians who presented their works at the quad-state conference. The board thanked Dorothy for her excellent work.

#### **12. MTNA STATE COMPETITION REPORT – Jonathan**

The difficulty of scheduling students for these events based upon their special requests was discussed. Dorothy stated that she had always considered reasonable advance requests, but that there should be a deadline for such requests.

Ellyses has received many phone calls and emails from parents requesting information regarding their student's performance time. She stated that participants must be notified of their performance schedule three to four weeks in advance of the competition date. This is the practice being followed by both Bay State and Judged Festival.

Yulia shared that Jonathan has had some frustration in collecting teacher fees. Nilly suggested, and the board agreed, that the fee should be called "state fee" rather than "teacher fee." Heather stated that a PayPal link needs to be added to the registration site, and Yulia will take care of this.

### **13. MTNA STATE COMPOSITION COMPETITION REPORT – Leslie**

Leslie states that results of the competition are posted on the website for our information. Selected information is reproduced below.

There were two first place winners and one honorable mention from Massachusetts!

#### **Elementary:**

Winner: Sabina Sandrasagra, Student of David Ibbett, MA ~ Sabina went on to place third overall nationally (see below).

#### **Senior:**

*Honorable mention:* Victor Xue, Student of Whitman Brown, MA

#### **Young Artist:**

Winner: Longfei Sun, Student of Whitman Brown, MA ~ Longfei also placed third nationally.

### **National Results are as follows:**

#### **Elementary:**

Winner: Elizabeth Liu, Student of Su-Shing Chiu, CA, Southwest

Second Place: Calvin Brey, Student of Gyuli Kambarova, KY, Southern

Third Place: Sabina Sandrasagra, Student of David Ibbett, MA, Eastern

#### **Junior:**

Winner: Malcolm Xiellie, Student of John Syzygy, CA, Southwest

Second Place: Jonathan Hartanto, Student of Kaori Tanioka, NJ, Eastern

Third Place: Benjamin Who, Student of Ann Witherspoon, TX, South Central

#### **Senior:**

Winner: Jason Zhang, Student of Amalia Kazaryan, MI, East Central

Second Place: Spencer Cha, Student of John Syzygy, CA, Southwest

Third Place: Jackson Hunt, Student of Yeeha Chiu, PA, Eastern

### **Young Artist:**

Winner: Clelland Reynolds, Student of April Clayton, UT, Southwest

Second Place: Jacob Zaring, Student of Caroline Ahn, IN, East Central

Third Place: Longfei Sun, Student of Whitman Brown, MA, Eastern

### **14. MMTA'S MUSIC CONNECT PROGRAM REPORT – Alison**

Alison stated her concern that only two applications for the program have been received to date, whereas four students were served by the program last year. Heather suggested that the program be given better exposure with a table at MMTA and MTNA events and with the production of a flyer or brochure. Alison agreed and will make such publicity available in time for the Chicago conference.

Heather inquired as to the target audience for the program. Alison clarified that it is intended to benefit currently enrolled students of member-teachers, and is, in that sense, an “internal” program.

### **15. NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – Melissa**

Melissa wishes to remind us all of the 3/6 deadline for newsletter submissions.

### **16. OTHER BUSINESS**

- MMTA is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021. Plans to commemorate the date will be made in the near future.
- Dorothy is a candidate for the Eastern Division Representative to MTNA. (See bio, below.) Ellyses reminded everyone to cast their vote in her favor. Melissa will be asked to send a voting reminder email to members.
- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2020. Ellyses will likely book the same location as today's meeting, a large room at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy.

### **Dorothy Travis**

Dorothy Travis, is a music director, accompanist, teacher and performer. Travis received music degrees from Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and Northwestern University. She has served as chair of the Massachusetts State Performance Competitions, president of MMTA, Commissioned Composer chair and was named 2016 MMTA Teacher of the Year. “Throughout my career, MTNA has been a focal point where I [receive](#) inspiration from its diverse [membership](#) through conferences, colleagues, articles and interactions. As a division director-elect, I would

use my communication skills to honor the importance of MTNA and its continued relevance in today's world," she says.

### **SUBMITTED REPORTS (as selected by Ellyses):**

#### **Judged Festival Report**

from: Heather Rogers Riley MMTA Board Meeting, February 7, 2020

- Date Confirmed: Sunday, May 3, 2020
- Venue Confirmed: Salem State University
  - FREE!
  - Option to make a donation to their music department scholarship fund.
  - Vote: I move that the Board approve a donation amount (to be agreed on) to send to the SSU scholarship fund, in recognition of their generous support for our Judged Festival event.  
  
(Send to: Music and Dance Department, with a notation that it go towards the Finnegan Award.)
- Judges:
  - 5 confirmed = yes; 3 pending.
- Registration is now open: Feb. 1 - March 31
  - Announcement emailed to teachers & members
  - Announcement posted on social media
- Upcoming To-Do:
  - Hire College students (provided by SSU)
  - Hire Monitors (need 8)
  - Esther: Any recommendations for college/grad students to hire?

## Quad State Conference Report for MMTA Board Meeting, February 7, 2020

On October 5, 2019, almost 150 people converged upon the stunning, foliage-clad campus of Endicott College in Beverly, MA, for our MTNA Quad State Conference. It was an inspiring and smooth day. There was so much conviviality and excitement in the air. Here is my accounting of all who were there:

1 Internationally-Recognized Presenter - Dr. William Westney

1 MTNA National Representative- Dr. Ginger Hwalek

4 State Presidents (not included in State counts below)

4 Un-Master Class Student Performers

4 Un-Master Class Teachers

3 Composers representing Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont  
and Massachusetts

1 Professional Photographer

7 Composition Performers

14 Chamber Music Performers

34 Teachers from Massachusetts

23 Students from Massachusetts

7 Teachers from New Hampshire

1 Student from New Hampshire

8 Teachers from Vermont

11 Teachers from Maine

1 Student from Maine

20 Guests, Parents and Friends

From the total above: 20 Volunteers, including students

Finances: For several reasons, this was an expensive conference. The RENTAL amount for Endicott was very reasonable, reflecting a 20% discount for our non-profit status, and adding nothing extra in for tuning and AV help. However, we were required to get breakfast food and water from their food service and this amounted to \$521.25. Also, when I signed the contract during the previous spring, I needed to "guess" on the

amount of lunches (based on projected attendance)we would contract for and could not adjust DOWN from there. We showed a \$758.55 deficit.

The GREAT POSITIVES were the number of people who attended in one capacity or another and, especially, the number of students from MA and the other states, who attended for free. Also notable was the participation of students and professional musicians from ALL OVER the four-state region and the amazing composers whose works were so beautifully represented! Thank you, Dorothy!

I think we gained virtual benefits for this \$758, including setting a new, high bar for Quad States in years to come.

#### Actual Quad State Final Figures

##### Income:

All registrations: \$5949.15 (includes 53 lunches paid \$15.00 each which is \$795.00)

Ads for Program Book: \$450

Total Income: 6399.15

##### Expenses:

Speaker (Westney) \$2500 (we have already paid \$500 of this)

Program printing \$461.13 (saved \$869.75)

Photographer \$400.00

Rental of Endicott Facility - \$2692.99 (\$1397.50 of this is lunch fee for 125 people)

Hospitality for Friday Night Reception : \$319.26

Hotel Reimbursement \$500

Payment for Ginger Hwalek's Registration (reimbursed by MTNA and reflected in Registration Income above) \$90.00

Miscellaneous: \$119.32

Refund of Registration \$75.00

Total Expenses: 7157.70

(Deficit: \$758.55)

Thank you to all the Board Members and others who supported this event wholeheartedly. It was a resounding success and will be remembered for years to come! I especially want to thank MMTA President, Ellyses Kuan and MMTA President-Elect Heather Riley.

Here is a link to a wonderful slideshow depicting the spirit of the day:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71G2oZGErFY>

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Barr, 2019 Quad State Chair

Quad State Chair

Commissioned Chair Report for February 2020 Board Meeting

The MA commissioned composer, Vartan Aghababian, premiered his piece, *Modal Dances*, at the Quad State conference in October of 2019. The seven movement piece for flute, clarinet, and bassoon with auxiliary percussion was based on the seven modes. The other two composers were Dennis Bathory-Kitsz from Vermont and Alexandra du Bois who was jointly commissioned by NH and Maine.

The 2019 Distinguished Composer of the Year is Bret Bohman, chosen for his composition entitled, *Tides*. Bret was commissioned by the Missouri Music Teachers Association. Three other composers received honorable mention, from Idaho, Nebraska, and Washington State. Vartan sent a lovely thank you letter in early January. Here is a quote from his letter;

"I am most grateful to you and the MMTA for the prestigious award and the generous commission. I seemed to have progressed through the years of my career as a composer thus far without much recognition from the outside and I have learned to persevere (or as the Brits say, "carry on) without it, but I wish to say here that it was such an incredible honor (and a lot of fun!) to be recognized and then to be given the opportunity to compose for such a respected and viable organization. I truly appreciate every benefit of this award. Moreover, I would like to thank you and the MMTA for the whole experience that was the Regional Conference on October 5th of this past year. It was so amazing to meet and speak with so many highly educated, professionally accomplished, enthusiastic, supportive, appreciative and engaging individuals. To hear their perspectives on my music and to have professional exchanges with them was valued by me on that day to such a degree that I shall never forget it."

Submitted by Dorothy Travis

Commissioned Composer Chair

February 7, 2020

MMTA Board Meeting MMTA's Music Connect Program

For the 2019 - 2020 academic year, the MMTA's Music Connect Committee has happily receive and approved TWO applications from worthy candidates:

32 60-minute lessons at \$40.00 per lesson = \$1280.00

20 45-minute lessons at \$30.00 per lesson = \$600.00

For a total of \$1880.00 granted.

Budgeted for 2019-2020: \$5120.00

None of this tuition money has yet been paid out to the teachers, so it will not be reflected in the Treasurer's Report. Last year, we gave four grants totaling funding of \$3520.00. I am concerned that, while were closer to using our budgeted funds last year (2018-2019) of \$5120.00, we do not seem to be attracting the interest and application frequency we should, given the generous nature of the program.

I've updated the "Teacher Verification Form" through which teachers apply for their reimbursements. Melissa has done yeoman's service posting on our FB page and placing in newsletter. We also placed a full-page ad in the Quad State Program book. Thank you! Thanks also to my committee – Dorothy Travis and Valerie Stark, who continue to read the applications carefully and promptly. Going forward, I plan to have printed postcard-size handouts for the Social Event and I'll also give a small speech there!

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Barr MMTA's Music Connect Chair

### **Jonathan Roberts, State Competition Chair February Report**

Our state competition was a wonderful success. Thank you to all of those who helped with monitoring, manning the registration desk, and more – Ellyses Kuan, Alexander Morollo, Lydia Reed-Guertin, and Inês Andrade.

For the first time, all of the competitions were open to the public. In previous years, it was only the competitions held in the large concert hall that were open. Overall, I think families and teachers appreciated this. The judges in the small classrooms were a little hesitant at first, but they assured me that everything ran fine.

For those interested, our judges for the competitions were as follows:

Junior Piano: Sivan Etedgee, Eri Nakamura, and Lois Leventhal

Senior/Young Artist Piano: Heeyeon Chi, David Evenson, and Alexander Poliykov

Junior/Senior Strings: Bonnie Black, Patrice Jackson, and Laura Bossert

The judging was consistent, with no conferring needed for any of the competitions, so I believe that the "right" people were chosen. The winners were as follows:

#### Junior Piano Competition:

Winner - Andrew Gu, student of Helen Jung

Alternate - Eriz Zhang, student of Helena Vesterman

Honorable Mention - Emily Zhou, student of Niva Fried

Honorable Mention - Victoria Park, student of Jeanie Lee and Ramon Rivera

#### Senior Piano Competition:

Winner - Natalie Zhang, student of Michael Lewin

Alternate - Justin Wang, student of Helena Vesterman

Honorable Mention - Gaeun Lee, student of Niva Fried

Honorable Mention - Emma Fu, student of Mary Siciliano

Honorable Mention - Sofia Marina, student of Leonard Richter

#### Young Artist Piano Competition:

Winner - Lior David, student of Alan Chow

Alternate - Paulius Pancekauska, student of Spencer Myer

#### Junior String Competition:

Winner - Eunice Park, violin, student of Anait Arutunian

Alternate - Aika Oki, violin, student of Fudeko Cohler

#### Senior String Competition:

Winner - Sophia Xie, violin, student of Fudeko Cohler

Alternate - Zoey Long, viola, student of Vera Rubin

Unfortunately, none of our winners advanced to the national round this year, though our woodwind representative, Hunter O'Brien (student of Paula Robison), was selected as the national-round alternate for the young artist woodwind division.

Planning ahead for next year's competition, there were a couple of small issues that arose that I would like to present for discussion to the board.

First is the scheduling of the competition. The date of the competition has conflicted with NEC Prep's concerto competition for the past two years. Ideally, I would love to change the competition date to Saturday rather than Sunday, but Brandeis is usually unavailable.

Families participating in both competitions got in touch with me rather short-notice asking for a time change to accommodate their NEC concerto competition time. Rather than changing around the schedule to accommodate, do we want to set a hard deadline for families to notify regarding scheduling conflicts? Or let families know that their original scheduled time is what we have to stick to for scheduling reasons?

My understanding is that families are expected to set aside the day for the competition, but I also don't want to hurt our competition participation by being too iron-clad on this. Of course, even if I do try to accommodate schedules, there is only so much I can do if a family's availability is completely out of their MMTA competition window. I would love anyone's thoughts for consideration.

The other issue is one that I do not think we can do much about, but I wanted to present to the board if discussion is warranted. One of our competition winners had his mother listed as his teacher, along with her home studio as the place where he takes lessons, when he actually has two teachers at NEC prep, all of which were not listed. When the piano chair at NEC prep was informed of the results, she was totally thrown for a loop and contacted me immediately.

There were a number of email exchanges, but ultimately the teacher of record was changed, so now it shows up properly. I do not necessarily think this parent was trying to promote her own studio through this, but I just wanted to bring it to the board's attention in case anyone has any ideas or thoughts on it for future competitions.

Please contact me if there are any questions or concerns whatsoever, for this competition or future competitions.