

# **MMTA ANNUAL MEETING & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

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

Date: June 7, 2019

Time: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Location: 78 Oak Cliff Road, Newtonville, MA ~ home of Nilly Shilo

Present Board Members: Ellyses Kuan, Heather Riley, Dorothy Travis, Janet Ainsworth, Alison Barr, Melissa Vining, Nilly Shilo, Karin Wilks, Esther Ning Yao. Via Facetime or phone: Yulia Zhuravleva, Vera Rubin, Jonathan Roberts.

Present Non-Board Members: Liang Liang, Ranko Konishi-Houston,

Absent Board Members: Vivian Tsang, Leslie Hitelman, Penny Oullette

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

President Ellyses Kuan called the meeting to order at 10:07 am with a welcome and introductions. Minutes of Winter meeting had been previously approved and posted.

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

- Current account balances are: \$57k checking, \$20 savings, \$26 CD. There is no year to date P&L available. The Bay State Piano Program produced a net income of \$7,403. The Bay State Strings Program produced a net income of \$478. In addition, \$4,550 has been granted to date for Music Connect scholarships.
- Heather thanked Yulia for dealing efficiently and professionally with the difficulties surrounding cancellation of the Judged Festival in February. It was noted that the Pay Pal fee for a refund of \$45 was 99 cents.
- Yulia reported that the overall financial health of MMTA is good.
- ACTION: Yulia will provide comparative data in the future.
- Discussed: Karin asked the board to consider whether the mission of MMTA was being best served by the large amount of cash on hand. Alison stated that the organization currently lacked the manpower and programming that would result in expansion of activity and more financial outlay.

#### **2. MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Yulia**

- MMTA currently has 240 active members, which is a net of ten fewer than last year at this time. Ellyses asked if geographic and membership-type data could be provided.
- Discussed: It was decided that the most accurate measurement of actual membership would be closer to the end of the fiscal year when more members would renew in order to participate in student programs. The goal would be to track trends in membership numbers.

- Discussed: Esther questioned whether any verification of membership requirements was practiced, and it was noted that the state receives membership information from MTNA.
- ACTION: Ellyses will bring this concern to the attention of the national organization.

**3. NON-BOARD MEMBER FORUM** – our new member, formerly a member of the Delaware association, inquired whether Massachusetts provides a leveling system for performance and theory. She was provided with information regarding the various evaluations available to students in our state.

END OF ANNUAL MEETING, 10:50 am

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **1. CERTIFICATION – Nilly**

- 1 teacher has recently achieved certification, and two more have their projects due this fall.
- Nilly expressed consternation that a certified teacher had not renewed MMTA membership. Karin pointed out that the teacher would be required to pay membership dues in order to complete the annual recertification requirements.

### **2. JUDGED FESTIVAL – Heather & Ranko**

- After welcoming Ranko as the new co-chair of the Judged Festival, Heather noted that the cancellation of the 2019 festival due to a February snowstorm was the first cancellation in the 11-year history of the event. She pointed out that though the cancellation resulted in a net loss for the year, about \$200 in supplies costs would be recouped next year, and some labor would be saved since new repertoire lists would not be needed.
- To avoid potential future whether-related complications, Heather plans to reschedule the event for 2020 to early April. She is contacting Gordon College to this end.
- Discussion: A rule exists that winning students may not re-perform the same repertoire at any other MMTA event. Since some board members were unaware of this rule, it was resolved that the stipulation be explicitly and consistently stated in all the event rules.
- ACTION: Nilly suggested that the rule also be added to the sidebar of the MMTA website to increase participant awareness. Esther will contact Vivian about this.
- ACTION: Yulia requested that registration deadlines be scheduled for the last day of any month to ease the bookkeeping burden. Program chairs will see to this.

**3. MAE (MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT EVALUATIONS) – Penny** (presented in her absence by Ellyses)

- 46 students participated in 2 locations, generating a small profit. Penny is investigating the expansion of the program to include an on-line option.

**4. BAY STATE PIANO & STRINGS CONTEST – Esther & Vera**

- *Esther: Piano*
- The trend of increasing student participation in the contest continues with nearly 270 students enrolled this past year. Esther is concerned about exceeding the limits of time and space for the programs. Options for solving this “good problem” were discussed, including moving to a larger venue, adding a second day, and making the day longer. Although a specific long-term strategy was not settled upon at this time, Esther will investigate hiring additional judges and getting another room.
- Because of technical difficulties with one of the pianos during the event, Esther will also make sure in the future that a “back-up” instrument is available.
- Esther plans to raise the participation fee by \$5 per student and to use the funds to pay for monitors. She may also adjust the time allotted for each student.
- Discussed: Students often have scheduling conflicts. Allowing them to request a morning or afternoon evaluation time will be considered.
- Discussed: Are disqualified students entitled to receive a copy of the judges’ comments? Valid points were raised on both sides of this issue. It was agreed that the decision lies with Esther as chair.
- *Vera: Strings*
- Vera reported some issues and concerns surrounding the judges for the string contest. One cello judge cancelled on short notice. She is concerned about judges stopping a student’s performance before they have finished their piece. Overall, she was extremely impressed with the quality of this year’s participants.
- Vera does not think fees should be raised but does not object to an increase if Esther decides to do so. Nilly believes that the fees should be the same for piano and strings, but, Dorothy observed, expenses for the two events may not be the same and fees should perhaps reflect that.
- *Judge Policy Review*
- Ellyses read the policy line by line. It was approved with the exception of the following two items:
  - Reimbursement to judges for travel expenses:
    - MOVED: Esther – eliminate the \$50 cap on reimbursement for mileage.
    - SECOND: Heather. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Hourly fee payable to judges:

- MOVED: Dorothy – increase the judge’s stipend to reflect an hourly fee of a range of \$35-45/hour to a range of \$35-50/hour. SECOND: Esther. Motion passed unanimously.

## **5. STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS & TRAVEL GRANTS**

- Ellyses stated that 6 applications had been received for the Herbert H Bowker Memorial Scholarship, all from students of one teacher, and all for the Ithaca Summer Program, which costs approximately \$2,000 per student.
  - MOVED: Dorothy – pay scholarships of \$300 per student to each of the 6 applicants, with one payment pending the student’s submission of the required application essay (which had been completed by the teacher). SECONDED: Janet. Motion passed unanimously.
  - ACTION: Ellyses will amend the application to make it clearer that the student applicant should write and submit their own essay.
- A Travel Grant request was received from the Massachusetts contest winner who traveled to the National Conference of MTNA in Spokane during March 2019. The total cost of airfare, ground transportation and lodging was \$1,875 for the student and an adult.
  - MOVED: Dorothy – reimburse \$625 of travel expenses, which is 1/3 of the total incurred. SECONDED: Esther. Motion passed unanimously.

In the interest of time, the executive session having already run over schedule, Ellyses requested that remaining business and agenda items be addressed via email. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

The following was distributed by Ellyses via email:

Here are the board meeting dates for 2019-2020. Please mark your calendars.

Venue TBD

September 20, 2019 Friday 10a.m.-12p.m.

February 7, 2020 Friday 10a.m.-12p.m. (Snow day: February 14, 2020)

June 12, 2020 Friday 10a.m.-12p.m.

## **CHAIR REPORTS**

### **Commissioned Composer – Dorothy Travis**

All four Quad State MTNA presidents have been contacted regarding the commissioned composer concert at Quad State and asked to supply information when they have it regarding the name of the composer, number of performers, and any musical needs they may have.

The MA composer is Vartan Aghababian. Jonathan Roberts attended his faculty recital at BU in March. NH and Maine are doing a co-commission and have selected Alexandra du Bois. Connie Chesebrough is the Commissioned Chair for NH. Annie Antonacos is the Commissioned Chair for Maine. Laurel Maurer (president of VT) says they have commissioned Dennis Báthory-Kitsz and it will be a piece for flute, voice, and percussion.

There will be three commissioned composers in total at Quad State.

### **National Teacher Certification – Nilly Shilo**

We currently have 3 candidates enrolled in the MTNA certification program.

Michael Rice – his projects were due last fall, but he requested an extension. His materials are now due by September 13, 2019.

Michal Harris – her projects were due last fall, but she requested an extension. Her materials are now due by September 29, 2019.

Isabelle Marcheselli – her projects were due on May 21, 2019. She submitted her projects last week, and they are now in the process of being evaluated.

I would like to suggest that we invite the recently certified teacher, Timothy Ballan, as well as Isabelle Marcheselli (once her certification is approved) to our social event on June 15. I would appreciate the approval of the Board on this.

### **MMTA's Music Connect Program – Alison Barr**

We have FOUR recipients of the Music Connect award:

#1 32-45's \$1,350 total

#2 32-60's \$1,920 total

#3 20-60's \$800

#4 12-60's \$480

Total amount paid to teachers academic year-to-date - \$1,920.

Total Grant awarded in 2018-2019 - \$4,550.

Total Grant money funded by MMTA for 2018 – 2019: \$5,120.

Grant money remaining: \$570.

I consider this a huge success for the first year the program has been in existence.

I would ask the Board to vote to budget \$5,120 again for grants in 2019-2020.

**(NOTE: The Music Connect budget was unanimously approved via email on 6/10/2019.)**

I understand that the applications could grow exponentially.

During the summer, I will look for one or two good sponsors to add perhaps \$2000.00 more to our awards base – I will look for individual and corporate sponsors.

I would like to thank my committee - Valerie Stark and Dorothy Travis for their most dedicated and thoughtful work and also Treasurer Yulia Zhuravleva for her prompt processing of tuition reimbursements.

No news on this. I will follow up with Debbie Cyr.

**Recent exciting development: MMTA member and registered PTG member Debbie Cyr is working with the Mass Chapter of the PTG to coordinate free tuning services to be offered to those grant recipients who may need them. More details coming on this!**

Description:

“MMTA’s Music Connect Program,” affords qualified students of MMTA members in good standing the opportunity to receive tuition-free instruction. This program joins all of our other student competitions, festivals and grants to insure that our students are served at the highest level.

[http://www.mmta.net/web\\_content.aspx?page\\_name=musicconnect](http://www.mmta.net/web_content.aspx?page_name=musicconnect)

### **MTNA Composition Competition - Leslie H.**

deadline for the 2019-2020 competition- September 11, 2019.  
Application will be on the website in August.

### **MMTA Quad State Conference – Alison Barr**

Thank you to all who have worked so hard so far –Heather Riley, Vivian Tsang, Ellyses Kuan, Valerie Stark and Dorothy Travis. (I will see that Valerie gets this.)

All registration information is at

[http://www.mmta.net/event\\_details.aspx?event\\_id=1227](http://www.mmta.net/event_details.aspx?event_id=1227)

**Volunteers needed** (can include Committee Members:)

*Does anyone have students who will be attending for the day? I will also contact Conference and Performing Arts Dept. thereto see if we can get local students to help.*

**Ads and Advance Promotion** inter- and intra-state

**Nametags** made from Registration List – Alison’s Studio Assistant

**Reception on Friday** - Liz Manduca and Alison Barr

(I will contact all registered to let them know exactly where in hotel and when this will take place.) **Set-up** Oct. 5 a.m. – two or three people (not sure yet what will be needed)

**Registration Table** – two people

**Host for Bill Westney on that day** – get him water, take him to lunch, etc

**Host for National Rep** (if needed?) Ellyses?

**Breakfast Hospitality** Food, set-up and tear-down – two people min.

**Brief Words of Welcome** – Ellyses and then Alison

**Commissioned Composer Concert and Warm-up** – Dorothy and other State Chairs

**Chamber Music Concert Coordinator** (working with Alison and Committee)

Communication with performers and coordination on that day

**UnMaster Class Coordinator** (working with Alison and Committee) (same as above)

**Lunch Coordinator** – making sure it is ready, walking us over, etc., helping with people who need to drive over, may ask you to keep track of complimentary list

**Tear-Down** – two or three, can include students

**Quad State Program Information**

**Chamber Music Group to represent Massachusetts**

I have asked each state to be in charge of deciding on its own professional group, four in all. I will present them with simple guidelines –

Chamber instrumentation to encourage other instruments and voice along with piano

## Timing

Warm-up time (will need to be specified, worked out with UnMaster Class participants...Commissioned Composer performers will rehearse in the a.m.

No Piano Duos or four-hands

We do have access to some practice rooms and a couple of large rehearsal rooms, but times will have to be designated

### **Guidelines for MMTA Chamber Ensemble:**

There must be at least ONE MMTA member in the group, preferably ALL MMTA members.

MMTA Members who perform music also be registered for the Conference

Performance must be at a "concert" level and performers must be professional musicians, not students

**Application Process** – We will send out an all-member email with a simple application

### **Chamber Concert Application Questions:**

What work do you plan to perform, how long, how many movements, what instrumentation? Please include bios of each performer.

### **UnMaster Class Application Guidelines:**

Teacher must be MMTA Member in good standing and must be registered for Conference.

*From Dr. Westney:*

*Any instrument welcome, which might be a nice message to send to teachers other than piano teachers, if that is part of the intent. But any way it comes out is fine - 2 pianists and 2 others, or whatever.*

*If a teacher would like to perform in lieu of a student, of course that would be great as well! Note from Alison – I would love to see this great opportunity go to students first and foremost!*

*Criteria for performers in the "Un-Master Class": (1) minimum age 16 (2) Pieces should be just as well prepared as for a Master Class - memorized (when this is appropriate to the instrument), vocalists knowing the meaning of every word of a foreign text, etc. (3) If not sure which piece to choose, pick one that has a performance problem of some kind ("is this stately slow movement meaningful to the audience, or just kinda boring?" "does this modern piece sound cool, or just weird?" "I want to tell a story through this piece, but is the story convincing?") (4) It's best to have participants who have a sense*

*of fun and adventure and like to converse with teachers and try new things. Not mute and/or very withdrawn students (they won't enjoy it or get much out of it) . . . (5) Wear comfortable clothing that is easy to move around in.*

### **UnMaster Class Applications Questions:**

Repertoire based on Bill's recommendations, length of time, etc.

What will student be playing? How old is the student? How long has student studied? How long with current teacher? Please send teacher bio and a short synopsis of student's level and experience in performing, etc.

### **Draft of Budget - Updated May 28, 2019**

#### **Income:**

50 Early Bird registrants @ \$75 each = \$3750.00

50 Later Registrants (including at door) @ \$85.00 each = \$425.00

Spouses: 5 @ \$25.00 = \$125.00

Non-Members 5 @ \$95.00 = \$475.00

Students with ID - Free

Program Ads: \$500.00

Lunch (this is now under income because we will have already paid in below in the Endicott rental fee) 105 x \$15.00 = \$1575.00

**Total projected Income: \$6850.00**

#### **Expenses:**

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

Program printing \$300 – Do we need printed program?

Rental of Endicott Facility - \$2135.33 (\$1397.50 of this is lunch fee for 125 people, which will include the comp lunches)

Hospitality: \$300.

Lunch (self-pay, included in Rental figure)

Hotel one night for Pres and Pres-Elect, Committee Chair \$500 (conference rate, rest is paid by individuals)

Other Recording fees, composer...\$400(?)

Students Assistants: \$100

Tuning(s) \$300

**Total Projected Expenses: \$6535.00**

**MMTA Judge Stipend Policy – reviewed at June 2019 Board Meeting:**

**The following was proposed and approved at the June 2016 Board Meeting**

1. All judges will be offered a stipend and not at an hourly wage.
2. Judges may receive a mileage allowance of 57 cents per mile for a round trip or whatever rate is set by the IRS (based on Google distances). This mileage allowance is capped at \$50 without MMTA Board approval.
3. Chairs may offer a meal allowance of up to \$15 per judge if lunch is not provided at the venue.
4. Chairs may offer a parking allowance not to exceed \$25 per judge as needed.
5. Judges not traveling by car are allowed a travel allowance of up to \$25 as needed.
6. The stipend is determined by the chair and based on an hourly wage of between \$35 and \$45 per hour. The Chair has discretion to set the hourly wage using historical precedent, budget, or incentive as a rational.
7. All judges working together on the same competition should receive the same stipend for the same amount of time on the same day.  
Example: Judge needed from 8 to 5 (9 hours) Stipend would be between \$315 and \$405 at the discretion of the chair.

**MTNA Competitions – Jonathan Roberts**

I am pleased to share that Kyle Chan, student of Niva Fried, was awarded third place at the MTNA national competition in Spokane this past March.

A date is nearly set for the 2019 state competition, which will be either Sunday, November 3rd or Saturday, November 9th. Any board members who would be interested in volunteering at registration, as a room monitor, or just general assisting, please let me know.

The Chamber music competition has been changed this year. There will no longer be state or division levels to the competition, and video auditions will be submitted for the national chamber music competition. Seven groups will be selected nationally.

## **Website Committee Report – Ellyses Kuan**

Moving on with the website project, the committee has received sitemap and also the wireframe from designer Wing Ngan. (See attachment)

Both the sitemap and the wireframe are created based on the minutes Melissa prepared from our meeting in Fall. The wireframe is not the final design but just a way for the designer and us to decide what will go onto each page. It will also help us to know the type of contents (text with image, form, audio and movie) in order to nail down the number of page template we need.

Also sent in Dorothy's suggestion to the designer to make the sitemap clearer.

Wing and Ellyses have also set up timeline for moving this project forward:

1st design review: 5/29

Feedback from MMTA: 6/5

2nd design review: 6/19

Feedback from MMTA: 7/3

3rd design review: 7/17

Final approval from MMTA on all design templates: 7/24

Final file to programmer: 7/30