

MMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Date: September 21, 2018

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Boston Public Library, Roslindale Branch, 4246 Washington Street, Roslindale MA 02131

Present: Ellyses Kuan, Heather Riley, Dorothy Travis, Jonathan Roberts, Alison Barr, Melissa Vining, Nilly Shilo, Penny Ouellette (via facetime), Vera Rubin (via phone), Yulia Zhuravleva, Karin Wilks,

Absent: Vivian Tsang, Janet Ainsworth, Leslie Hitelman, Esther Ning Yao

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the June 2018 meeting had been previously approved by the board and posted to the MMTA website. Karin reminded the board that they are courteously requested to review the minutes and remit comments or requests for change to her within one week of receiving a draft.

1. **MTNA & MMTA Missions Statements** – Ellyses

- Ellyses distributed copies of the two statements and thanked the board for their work in fulfilling the vision of the organizations.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – Yulia

Balances as of	<u>8/31/2018</u>	<u>8/31/2017</u>
Savings	19,994.89	19,927.78
Checking	52,829.79	47,623.35
Jumbo Certificate	26,330.12	25,949.82
TOTALS:	99,154.8 9	3,500.95

\$350 MMTA portion for membership received from MTNA for August 2018. Transaction pending. Urgent necessity to submit MMTA change of the Officers and then update the changes with the bank. 2017-2018 taxes submitted on August 20th, 2018. Received two scam emails from deskpresident@aol.com requesting money. Requests ignored.

Discussed: Yulia would like to obtain a physical credit card for ease in transacting business. Dorothy suggested that she transfer excess funds from checking to savings.

3. **Membership Report** – Yulia

Categories	Time Period	September 2018 Members	September 2017 Members
Current paid members	As of 09/18/2018	187	193
New Members	4/1/2018 to 9/18/2018	16	6
Unpaid Members (by MMTA)	As of 08/28/2018	70	50

Discussed: Yulia projects that there will be approximately 250 members by fiscal year end. Various ideas were discussed for drawing college students to be members.

4. **MTNA State Competition Report** – Jonathan

The 2018 state competition will be held at Brandeis University on Sunday, November 4th. For the performance divisions, there are 33 registrants total:

- 1 Chamber Music String – automatic state winner
- 7 Junior Performance String
- 6 Senior Performance String
- 8 Junior Performance Piano
- 7 Senior Performance Piano
- 1 Senior Performance Woodwind – automatic state winner
- 1 Young Artist Woodwind – automatic state winner
- 2 Young Artist Performance – Piano

“I am in the process of reaching out to potential judges for the competition. Any board members who would be interested in helping out the day of the competition, with registration, room monitoring, etc., please let me know.”

This year is the second year of the two-piano division of the competition, with only two rounds like last year. A first-round video round, and the final live round at the national conference. The application/video submission deadline is January 3, 2019.

“My sense is that this may be too new to put new support systems in place for this year, but going into year #2, I would be very interested in putting things in place to support teachers and students in preparing for this exciting new division, and preparing the recording. The biggest challenge, of course, is finding two pianos for students to rehearse with, and to record for the video submission. My hope is to find resources for

teachers to help teachers consider having their students participate in this division, particularly rehearsal space and performance/recording space.”

Discussed: Advice was given about the efficient coordination of judges. Jonathan noted that the duo piano competition is new and asked that the board be alert to possible entrants from our state.

5. **MTNA State Composition Competition Report** – Leslie

Massachusetts has 17 entrants! from 5 teachers. The 17 entrants span four different age groups: 3 Young Artists, 8 Seniors, 4 Juniors, and 2 Elementary. The judging begins September 20th and the results will be announced on October 15th. The winning compositions will go on to the Eastern Division Competition.

The judges are:

Philip Schuessler, MTNA 2017 Distinguished Composer of the Year.

Emily Hall, an award-winning British composer, and

M. Shawn Hundley, 2011 MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year.

6. **Social Event, Teacher-of-the-Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards** –

Vera via FT

Discussed: Nominations for TOY and LA awards are due by February 8, 2019. This will be announced in the newsletter. Dorothy suggested that the criteria for the awards be available on the website. The social event will be held at Vera’s home on Saturday, June 15, 2019.

7. **Commissioned Composer Report** – Dorothy

Massachusetts Commissioned Composer Program

MMTA is dedicated to supporting the creation of new works by American composers. The Massachusetts Commissioned Composer Program recognizes an outstanding professional composer with a commission award of \$2,000 and a premiere performance at the biennial Quad State Conference. The Quad State Conference occurs every two years in either Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, or Maine and the next Quad State Conference will occur in Massachusetts in October of 2019. The commission is not a prize for an existing composition but rather a means of encouragement for a recognized composer to create a new musical work.

Noted: MTNA commits a match of \$750 for this process. MTNA contributed \$1,250, for a total grant of \$2,000.

The winning composer of the Massachusetts Commissioned Composer program will also be considered for the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Distinguished Composer of the Year award. Each MMTA commissioned piece is automatically entered into this national competition, which serves to promote and recognize outstanding contributions to American music. The winner is selected by a panel of recognized composers. The MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year receives an award of

\$5,000, and their newly commissioned piece is presented in a concert performance at the next MTNA National Conference.

The MMTA Commissioned Composer Program serves to support the careers of professional composers and is not to be confused with the MTNA Student Composition Competitions. Composers currently enrolled in high school, undergraduate, or master's degree programs are NOT eligible to apply. However, submissions from doctoral candidates are accepted.

Qualifications:

- The nominee does not need to be a member of MMTA or MTNA
- The nominee must be a legal resident of the United States and preferably a resident of Massachusetts.

Discussed: Vera stated her opinion that the composer be required to be a MA resident. The board supported Dorothy's chosen word choice, "preferably."

- The nominee may be any composer who will agree to the terms of the application and the rules and regulations of the competition.

Guide to nominating an individual for MMTA Commissioned Composer:

- Any member of MMTA may nominate a composer.
- Nominations should be submitted to Dorothy Travis, Commissioned Composer Chair, and should include nominee's name, address, phone number, and email address.
- When considering making a nomination, first ascertain the interest of the prospective nominee in pursuing the commission.
- The nomination period closes on November 1, 2018.
- The commissioned composer chair will contact each nominee and request a resume (or curriculum vita) and an audio sampling of their previous work.
- The deadline for nominated composers to submit materials/CD or a download link to the Chair is December 1, 2018.
- It is very important that all nominees understand that the commission is not a prize for an existing composition, but rather a means of encouragement for a recognized composer to create a new musical work.

Discussed: Ellyses, Yulia and Dorothy stated that they already have nominees to put forth.

Submission Process;

Nominated composers who have been contacted by the Commissioned Composer Chair should submit;

- at least TWO representative works (excerpts or movements of a multi- movement work are acceptable) which should include a PDF of the scores and Audio recordings (MP3) and/or video links. The files should not exceed 15 minutes of original music and should be labeled with titles only and absolutely no identification of the composer.
- an Introductory Cover Letter

- a Résumé and/or Curriculum Vitae
- a List of Complete Works

Composers are encouraged to submit their materials no later than two weeks prior to the December 1 deadline to allow the chair time to review their submissions for possible omissions and/or problems with electronic transmission or with such sites as drop box. Composers are also encouraged to submit Supporting Documents, such as:

- Press clippings
- Reviews
- Links to performance videos
- Composer's website
- Any other social media sites that the Composer would like the selection committee to review

All submissions should be sent to Dorothy Travis at composercomp@mmta.net

Selection Process

The Commissioned Composer will be selected by a committee comprising the MMTA Commissioned Composer Chair, MMTA State President, and a third judge chosen by the Commissioned Composer Chair.

Commissioned Composition & Premiere Performance

The selected Commissioned Composer will write a work approximately 10–15 minutes in length for any performance medium. The commissioned composition is premiered at the Quad State Conference and should not exceed seven players. MMTA will provide a stipend of \$150 per performer, maximum of \$1,050 (7 performers), to engage musicians for the Quad State Conference premiere performance. MMTA offers no additional financial assistance in this regard and does not offer any additional stipend for travel or lodging. The 2018 Quad State Conference will be held on a Saturday in October in the Greater Boston area.

Discussed: The board agreed that MMTA would financially support up to seven musicians, but that the candidate has the discretion to compose for any size ensemble. A “congratulatory” stipend may be awarded at the board's discretion. Also, the program guidelines are to be made available on the website.

Important Dates & Deadlines 2018–2019

- November 1, 2018 Nomination period closes
- December 1, 2018 Nominated Composers submit cover letters, resumes and audio files.
- December 23, 2018 The Commissioned Composer Chair will notify the winning composer.
- September 1, 2019 Delivery of commissioned composition: PDF of completed score must be sent via e-mail to the MMTA Commissioned Composer Chair.
- October 2019 Premiere performance of the commissioned composition at the Quad State Conference.

• December 1, 2019 Deadline for MMTA Commissioned Composer Chair to submit the commissioned composition to the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year Award Competition.

• March 21-25, 2020 MTNA National Conference • Chicago, IL

History of Massachusetts Commissioned Composers (X denotes an MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year)

MASSACHUSETTS

CHORAL WITH ORGAN 1979 DR HERBERT FROMM FIVE MOTETS

ACCOMPANIMENT 1980 DR HUGO NORDEN MUSIC IN A FOR WOODWIND
QUINTET WOODWIND QUINTET 1981 MINUETTA KESSLER QUARTET, OPUS 109
STRING QUARTET X 1983 1982 NICHOLAS VANSLYCK CONCERTTRIO FLUTE,
BASE CLARINET, CELLO & PIANO

PIANO, 1983 RUTH LOMON IATIKU (BRINGING TO LIFE)

HARPSICORD, PERCUSSION & HARP 1984 MARJORIE MERRYMAN THE RIVER
SONG VOICE & PIANO 1985 DR LINDA OSTRANDER BACCHANALE KEYBOARD
1986 DR JOHN EDWARD CROTTY SCHERZO INTERMEZZO VIOLIN, VIOLA &
PIANO 1989 MARTI EPSTEIN WATERBOWLS PIANO SOLO 1990 ARTHUR
LEVERING TRANCED VIOLIN & PIANO 1991 MICHAEL NIX THE VERY RICH
HOURS MEZZO SOPRANO, GUITAR & CELLO 1992 ELIZABETH VERCOE
UNKNOWN UNKNOWN 1993 ERICK PARRIS PIECE FOR DOUBLE BASS & PIANO
DOUBLE BASS & PIANO 1994 JAMES CARR SONATINA IN F UNKNOWN X 1996
1995 DAVID W TADDIE CONVERGENCES HARP & ELECTRONIC TAPE

1996 DAVID TASGAL PIANO CONCERTO STUDENT ORCHESTRA & SOLOIST 1997
TETYANA RYABCHIKOVA SYMBOLS PIANO

CHORUS, CHILDREN'S CHORUS, 1998 DR JAMES J ROMEO SONGS OF PEACE &
JOY

NARRATOR & ORCHESTRA 1999 JUDITH B BUMA ONE MORE CHORAL 2000
ADAM GROSSMAN DIVERTIMENTO FOR STRING ORCHESTRA STRING
ORCHESTRA 2001 SUSAN CAPESTRO TROPISM FOR PIANO & SYNTHESIZER
PIANO/SYNTHESIZER DUET 2002 KATHLEEN MASKELL KEEP THE LIGHT
BURNING CHILD CHOIR/KEYBRD ENSEMBLE 2003 ALLA ELANA COHEN TRIO
FOR VIOLIN, CELLO & PIANO VIOLIN, CELLO AND PIANO 2004 TIMOTHY
MELBINGER PIANO SONATA NO 1 PIANO 2005 PAUL BRUST DUO VIOLIN AND
PIANO 2006 STEPHEN HALLORAN PIANO SONATO NO 2 PIANO X 2008 2007
JOHN MCDONALD STAUDLIN AS VOGL: PREAMBLE TO A WINTER JOURNEY
ALTO SAXOPHONE AND PIANO

DIANNE GOOLKASIAN 2009 RAHBEE

THREE POEMS OP 187 TRIO (VIOLIN, CELLO, AND PIANO) 2011 ANDREW LIST
FANTASY FOR ALTO SAXOPHONE AND PIANO ALTO-SAXOPHONE AND PIANO
2013 STEPHEN HALLORAN ICECUBE SOLO PIANO 2015 SETEPHEN
FEIGENBAUM I PROMISE EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY SOLO PIANO

8. **Website Subcommittee Report** – Ellyses

The Website Committee consists of: Ellyses Kuan, Dorothy Travis; Heather Riley; Jonathan Roberts and Melissa Vining. We met via google hangout the first time on August 23, 2018 (Heather was away so just the remaining four of us, but Heather gave some really good ideas before our meeting, thanks!)

We talked about the purpose of the new website and what we would like the website to look like and which functions/tabs for (prospective) members to use when browsing our webpage. Melissa took a very detailed report from our discussion. Please see Appendix 1. (*available upon request.*) Thank you very much Melissa.

We received two proposals from two different designers: **Wing Ngan** from *Ink Design* and **Greg Goldfarb**, an independent designer. Both designers will create template design and work with a programmer to launch the website. They both will give us a tutorial on how to maintain and update the website, it should be quite easy and intuitive. For their Proposal, please refer to Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 (*available upon request*). Their work samples are included (*available upon request*). *Please note, the quote from Greg Goldfarb is for web design only, he does not do logo design.

Vivian has contacted the programmer who have been helping us and he is willing to continue to work on this project for \$50/hr. (A very reasonable rate).

The next step is to ask for another quote (if there is any suggestion and contacts from the rest of the board member). We set our review date as mid-September but if we can get another quote, that would be great. Otherwise, we will vote on the proposals send by Wing Ngan and Greg Goldfarb. My guess this project will cost about 2-4K in total (Designer + Programmer fee + Web Maintenance fee (if any), but not including logo design, just an estimate figure).

Discussed: It was agreed that the ideal time to switch to the new website would be during the summer. Yulia requested that the membership database be made more easily navigable and was advised that she communicate with national in this regard. Nilly expressed her preference for the traditional logo.

9. **2019 Quad-State Convention Report** - Alison

Proposed Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019; 2nd choice: Saturday, October 19, 2019
Proposed Venue: Tufts University Granoff Music Center in Medford, MA, using Faculty Dining Room next door for our lunch. Note: Tufts will only take give us a secured reservation in April 2019, so we may need to look for another site...they originally said they would secure the date a year in advance... Other venue being researched – Merrimack College.

Proposed Schedule (see rough draft below)

Board-approved Clinician: Dr. William Westney, please see bio below. Once we have locked in date and signed paperwork, I will draw up a Letter of Engagement for Bill and send a deposit of some sort. Do we need an amount and Board approval?

Discussed: Alison suggests that we move ahead with planning at MC since Tufts is not able to commit. Yulia was instructed to provide \$500 to Alison for the deposit. Alison also strongly recommended that all board members participate in the conference.

Rough Budget

Expenses:

William Westney fee \$2500. including travel

Tufts Rental \$1750.00

Tufts Service Fee \$500.00 (staffing)

Hospitality: \$150.

Reception for Friday evening \$200.

Program Booklet –online only OR online and print? \$200.

Lodging for President and Chairman for night before \$200.

Complimentary lunches for President and MTNA Rep and others if needed: \$100.00

(Fee for lunch is included in Registration costs...students are free for registration, but not for lunch)

\$5600.00

Income:

Program Booklet Ads from all states: \$500.00

Registration: 110 registrants at \$60. each: \$6600.

Total: \$7100.

Note: There will be some reduced fee for Spouse registration, but I didn't include that in my projection above.

Thoughts expressed by Board Members; these have been presented to Bill for thought:

1) Theme of "Collaboration" We might invite ensembles to play - maybe one from each of the four states. Since this wouldn't necessarily be appropriate for "The Perfect Wrong Note," but more like an UnMaster Class.

2) The Keynote sounds absolutely terrific for ANY instrument or voice, so we would just exchange the word "piano" with "music" study, with your permission.

3) (Continuing along the lines of #2 above) We constantly strive to give opportunities to the non-pianists among us, so I am thinking that one of the performances so generously slotted into the schedule may involve chamber music, but this wouldn't affect your presentation.

WILLIAM WESTNEY, guest presenter/clinician

9:15 – 10:30

Keynote Presentation: "The Powerful Key Ingredient for High Achievement and Motivation: Enjoyment!"

Description: Among the huge benefits of physical and mental “enjoyment” at the piano: technical health and problem-solving, rich and satisfying tone, relaxation and virtuosity, motivation to practice, spontaneous communication with an audience. I will demonstrate with many illustrations - and citations from scientific research - just what I mean by the term “enjoyment” in the context of piano study (at all levels).

10:30-10:45: BREAK

10:45 – 11:45: Composition Concert or Student Performance

LUNCH

1:15 – 1:45 Activating the Musical Impulse (group activity)

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.: Composition Concert or Student Performance

2:45 – 3:45: The “Perfect Wrong Note” – A Closer Look (*Teacher volunteers, or advanced students, will have been prearranged to bring in technical “problem spots” they’ve been working on – thorny passages that haven’t quite succeeded with their practice approaches thus far, or are causing a lot of tension, etc. By working with them I put the “Perfect Wrong Note” philosophy to the test.*)

4:00 – 4:30 – Q and A with WW

Pianist WILLIAM WESTNEY was the top piano prizewinner of the Geneva International Competition, and he appeared thereafter as soloist with such major orchestras as l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and the Houston, San Antonio and New Haven Symphonies. Westney holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Queens College in New York and a Masters and Doctorate in performance from Yale University, all with highest honors. During Fulbright study in Italy he was the only American winner in auditions held by *Radiotelevisione Italiana*. He has given solo recitals on four continents, including appearances at New York's Lincoln Center, the National Gallery and Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., St. John's Smith Square in London, University of Chile (Santiago), and a U.S. State Department tour of Italy. His playing has been described by reviewers as “riveting” (*N.Y. Post*) and “refreshing” (*Straits Times*, Singapore). Critics have praised his recordings for CRI and Musical Heritage Society, and *Newsweek* magazine selected his CRI album of Leo Ornstein's works as one of its "Ten Best American Music Recordings" of the year.

An internationally noted educator, William Westney holds two endowed positions at Texas Tech University – Paul Whitfield Horn Professor of Piano and Eva Browning Artist-in-Residence – and has received the university's highest honor for education, the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award. He won a grant from the U.S. State Department's Fulbright "Senior Specialist" program (Council for International Exchange of Scholars), to teach throughout Korea and China in 2006. As an interdisciplinary scholar, he was appointed the Hans Christian Andersen Guest Professorship at the University of Southern Denmark (Odense) and appeared throughout the Nordic area during the 2009-10 academic year, giving recitals in the U.K., Denmark, Iceland, Finland and Norway. He teaches in the summer at the InterHarmony Festival in Acqui Terme, Italy.

Dr. Westney's unique “Un-Master Class” performance workshops were described as “fascinating” in a featured *New York Times* article. They are increasingly in demand in

the U.S. and abroad, having been held at such prominent centers as the Aspen School, Peabody Conservatory, Kennedy Center, Royal Conservatory (Toronto), Cleveland Institute, Tanglewood Institute, Royal College of Music (London), *Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst* (Vienna), Central Conservatory (Beijing), Sibelius Academy (Helsinki), Royal Danish Academy (Copenhagen) and the Juilliard School.

Schirmer Performance Editions released Dr. Westney's edition, and CD recording, of piano etudes by Stephen Heller in 2005, by Burgmüller in 2009, and a volume of *Lyric Pieces* by Edvard Grieg in 2013. His first book, *The Perfect Wrong Note*, was published by Amadeus Press in 2003 to critical acclaim. An international bestseller (over 30,000 copies), and recently released in a Japanese-language edition, it is a "well-thought-out approach to music instruction to which many aspire, but which few attain" according to the Library Journal, and American Record Guide described it as "refreshing and rewarding." In recognition of the book's unique contribution to the field of music teaching, Music Teachers National Association chose William Westney to receive the Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award in 2012.

Further information: <http://williamwestney.com>

10. **Certification Report** – Nilly

Last year has seen a significant increase in the number of certification applicants from Massachusetts. Four candidates have applied for and started this program (a relatively high number per year compared with most other states). One of these candidates has just completed his projects and earned his NCTM in piano (in August). The other three candidates are due to submit their materials during the 2018-19 school year.

The newly certified teacher, Timothy Ballan, is from Springfield, MA. I have sent him a congratulatory letter on behalf of the MMTA Board and welcomed him into the association. I also asked for his permission to announce his name and town in our newsletter. He gladly agreed and will soon send me a brief bio, just in time to be included in the September newsletter.

Lastly, Ellyses and I met in the summer and discussed the possibility of inviting newly certified teachers to the MMTA social at the end of the year. It seemed like a good way to get to know these teachers and also introduce them to other MMTA members. If the Board approves this, I will make sure to invite newly certified teachers to our future events.

Discussed: Alison and Karin agreed to be available to answer questions for certification candidates.

11. **Newsletter & Social Media Reports** – Melissa

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Deadlines and publishing dates for newsletters:

- o Fall 2018

- Deadline for submissions Tuesday, September 4, 2018
- To be published Friday, September 21, 2018 o Winter 2018
- Deadline for submissions Tuesday, December 4, 2018
- To be published Friday, December 21, 2018 o Spring 2019
- Deadline for submissions Tuesday, May 7, 2019
- To be published Friday, May 24, 2019
- Newsletter outlets:
 - o Digital copy sent by email (MailChimp) to all members
 - o Website:
 - In the past, a PDF copy has been posted on the MMTA website
 - I propose to instead structure website news in blog format. Important articles from the newsletter can be included in the web blog. That way I can also link from the newsletter to the blog for additional information.
 - I'm looking for 1-2 volunteers to help me proofread each newsletter before it goes out.

Article & Submission Guidelines:

- Articles should be approximately 100-300 words.
- Submissions should be copy ready (with proper grammar, spelling, etc.).
- Please also include a title for your article.
- To submit, e-mail your article to Melissa Vining (newsletter editor) at newsletter@mmta.net.
- **Include "MMTA newsletter submission" in the subject line of your submission e-mail.**
- Include your first name, last name, and a contact e-mail address in the body of your message. Your name (but not your e-mail) will appear in the newsletter (unless you ask to be anonymous).
- We will work with you via e-mail to edit and proof your submission prior to publication.
- Articles should be sent as an attachment in Word (.doc or .docx) format. Please do not send in .pdf format.
- Related pictures are highly encouraged to be submitted along with your article.
 - o Images must fall into one of these categories: [1] your own work—i.e. you took the photograph; [2] freely licensed; [3] public domain; [4] fair use.
 - o Attach images to the same e-mail as your article submission.
 - o Include a short (1 sentence) caption of each image.
- *Submissions that are deemed commercial in nature will not be accepted.*
- *Submissions that do not meet the above guidelines may not be accepted.*

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Information:

- I set up a Hootsuite account to manage our social media

- Free version connects to up to 3 social profiles and schedules 30 posts at a time
- o Compatible with: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Google+, LinkedIn

Proposal Outline:

- Currently MMTA's only social media profile is Facebook. I propose that we focus on Facebook initially, and if we are able to generate enough content and increase our Facebook presence, then we can add additional social media profiles (suggestions: Twitter and Instagram).
- Request for social media content from board members
 - o Each board member will be asked to provide at least 4 pieces of social media content upfront (September) and/or 1-2 pieces of social media content they would like to repeat monthly.
 - Topics (festival information, exciting news from MMTA, etc.)
 - Details (registration information, dates, times, web links, etc.)
 - Pictures and/or marketing copy would also be very helpful, but not required!
 - o Board members will also be encouraged to send along additional pieces of social media content as they arise throughout the year.
 - I will send out an email once a month as a reminder/request for additional social media content.
 - o With 52 weeks in the year, if each board member provides at least 4 pieces of content, I will have enough to post at least once a week (this does not take into account additional content that may come up throughout the year).

Discussed: The board requested that a link to the blog be included on the website. (9/25/18 update per Melissa: this has been done.) Melissa requested that more photos be submitted for the blog and the importance of obtaining parental permission to share student photos was noted. A group photo of the board was taken at the conclusion of the meeting.

12. MMTA's Music Connect Program Report – Alison

Sub-Committee: Alison Barr, Chair, Dorothy Travis, Valerie Stark

I am thrilled to announce that we have approved two grants already! The student and teachers' names will remain confidential. They are fully funded for their tuition fees for the academic year 2018 - 2019 and I congratulate their teachers for offering them this opportunity. Also, I would like to thank Ellyses Kuan, Valerie Stark, Dorothy Travis, Janet Ainsworth and Vivian Tsang for all the unstinting help they have given to get this program underway.

I am working on the "Teacher Verification Form" which I will generate, and which will enable our Treasurer to make payments for every eight-weeks of teaching.

Announcement in Newsletter:

NEW: MMTA's Music Connect Program

Massachusetts Music Teachers Association Board of Directors is proud to announce the inception of "MMTA's Music Connect Program," which allows qualified students of MMTA members in good standing to receive tuition-free instruction. This exciting new program will join all of our other student competitions, festivals and grants to insure that our students are served at the highest level.

Please find this exciting new program at:

http://www.mmta.net/web_content.aspx?page_name=musicconnect

Your Board, under the advice of Attorney Peter Katz of Newton, has worked for a year getting this program up and running, and has voted to fund four full grants for the academic year starting in September 2018. Alison Barr will hold MMTA's latest Board position, "MMTA's Music Connect Chair," With the assistance of a small committee, consisting of Valerie Stark and Dorothy Travis, she will manage the program, review applications and help get things up and running.

Please keep in mind that grants will be limited during the first year. For any questions not addressed through the link above, please contact Alison Barr at musicconnectprogram@mmta.net.

13. Judged Festival Report – Heather

LOCATION: Gordon College, Wenham, MA

- DATE: Saturday, March 2, 2019 - waiting for contract and confirmation from Gordon College
- REPERTOIRE COMMITTEE - In progress: Official announcement to membership with Required Repertoire List, Rules, etc. is planned for first week of October. - Repertoire theme: Nature
- **Volunteers for event day:**
 - Asking, scheduling, and confirming teacher volunteers has become an enormous job - it's too time consuming, and volunteers are unreliable.
 - New plan is to hire & pay 6 people to be room monitors. They will each be assigned and committed to working half the day (about 3 hrs each).
 - Cost will be covered by raising the registration fee by \$5 per student. (Fees haven't been raised in years!) New fees will be:
 - Group A, B, C = \$35 per student - Group D, E, F = \$45 per student
- **Start the search for replacement for Judged Festival Chair**

- To take over from me when I become President in 2020 - Should have at least 1 year to “shadow” me and learn the job

14. Bay State Piano & Strings Contest Report – Esther & Vera ****TABLED****

1. Possibly expand Bay State piano contest to include conservatory pianist category, and possibly have some cash prize as scholarship to winners.
2. There are not many other contests in Boston area that offer competition in other instruments besides piano and strings, so perhaps MMTA can consider that. I know there is a flute competition for a few Conservatory’s flute majors called Papoutzakis competition. We can consider expanding it to other instruments as well. That leads to question of expanding membership beyond majority of piano teachers.
3. There could be a showcase of all competition winners including piano and strings etc., in nice venue.

15. Music Achievement Evaluation (MAE) Report – Penny via FT

- Should we keep the Indian Hill location? I prefer yes but it depends on how the rest of the board members feel. We had quite successful MAE over the past years at the Indian Hill and seems like the majority of parents and teachers are used to going to that location.
- Should we still have a 2nd location like last year? We probably won't be able to have the Yamaha @ Lexington again this year. Where else can we ask for MAE? The income from the Lexington location just broke even because we didn't need to pay for the rental nor piano tuning.

Discussed: It was agreed that a second location is important.

- Simple certificate of participation? Some parents and students seemed disappointed when they knew the comment sheets were the only thing they received after the evaluation. Any thoughts?

Discussed: Dorothy noted that MTNA certificates were awarded in the past but that the practice had been discontinued. It was agreed that it is up to Penny as coordinator of the program to decide if this practice should be reinstated.

- Proposal: Could MAE follow the model as the eFestival? Benefits of having the evaluation online include:
 - No rental/piano tuning fee
 - Reach to more students in the entire state
 - The possibility of adding different instruments
 - Easy process: Register online with the entry fee and a YouTube link
 - Flexible time for students, parents, teachers, and evaluators

Discussed: The board was in agreement about moving ahead with plans for a virtual option for MAEs.

16. **Cincinnati Summit Report** – Ellyses

This year's MTNA Leadership Summit was held from September 7-9, 2018 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, in Cincinnati, OH. Keynote speaker, Peter Jutras (Editor-in-Chief, *Clavier Companion*) kicked off the summit with the presentation: "The Future of Music Teaching". He started by leading a discussion of what the challenges music teachers are facing today. Mr. Jutras also spoke about the importance of knowing the change in the market and demands nowadays by showing a lot of data in the decrease of college/university in Piano Performance Major (-20%), Acoustic Piano Sale (-64%), Professional Membership (-36%) and Concert Attendance (-10.5) in the the past 15 to 20 years vs. the drastic increase of Recording Streaming Industry, (+3900%), digital piano sale (+97%), Popular Concert Ticket sale (+103%) in the past 10 years. Peter concluded that these data indicate that people are not walking away from the arts, but they are walking away from some of the traditional delivery mechanisms. He believed embracing the diversity in our profession but not lessening the quality of teaching the fundamental and value are the keys to adapt the changes and provide education and resources to our next generation of music teachers.

I had the chance to meet with the state presidents from CT, IA, ID, IN, NE and NV in the State-By-Size meeting. There were concerned about the MTNA website interface and the decrease in membership in general. At the division meeting, I shared the launching of our MMTA's Music Connect Program and how our chair officer Alison Barr worked closely with an attorney for almost a year to get this program in place. It was well received and other states in our division were very impressed by it.

Kaplan Duo (Formed by Eastern Division Director, Nannett Kaplan Solomon and her sister, Iris Kaplan Rosenthal) performed at the banquet on Saturday night. Gary Ingle (MTNA CEO) and Scott McBride Smith (MTNA President) concluded the summit by giving training on Antitrust Compliance Training and presenting the MTNA summit report Sunday morning.

17. **New Business** – board

- Ellyses reported that she and Heather were discussing a recognition event for the 60th anniversary of MMTA in 2020.
- Upcoming Fiscal 2018-19 Meeting Dates:
 - February 8, 2019
 - June 7, 2019
 - Locations TBD

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin Wilks, recording secretary