



ARIZONA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

# From Our President



I hope many of you were able to attend the 85th Annual ASMTA Conference in Tucson at the Beautiful El Conquistador Resort. It was truly an outstanding conference.

There were many amazing presenters at the state conference. Glenda Austin's presentation on William Gillock was very interesting and inspiring. Lee Galloway had many ideas for us in his sessions on making a living as an independent music teacher. We were so fortunate to have Dr. Baruch Meir as our Conference Artist. His concert was absolutely incredible! Dr. Meir's Master Class was excellent; he had such a great rapport with the students. I'm sure the students who had the privilege of performing for Dr. Meir will have great memories of their experiences in that Master Class. There were many other sessions and exhibits to choose from as well.

I would like to thank the ASMTA Conference Committee for contributing their time and talents to ASMTA. The conference would not have happened without all of you! The committee includes Diann Lopez, 3rd Vice President and conference chair, Ashley Ricks, 4th Vice President and Conference Book publisher, Karen Van Sickle, Silent Auction, Exhibits, Ji-Young Kim, and Gloria Singleton, Christine Harper, Catherine Allen, Lois Spangenberg, Lynette Barney, and Cassandra Weleck, NCTM, Extraordinary Volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers, MTNA as an organization made up mostly of volunteers. MTNA has over 20,000 members. What would happen if few or none of the MTNA members were willing to volunteer their time and talents on any local, state, division or national level? What programs, events, evaluations, or competitions would you be willing to give up if there were no members to organize these events? Who would step up to take responsibility for programs that benefit our students? Think about it.

Everyone has many demands on their time; everyone is busy. Anyone can have circumstances that change instantly. This past year as ASMTA President has been extremely challenging for me both personally and professionally and my life has changed dramatically in the last year. Should my circumstances excuse me from being a volunteer, or for that matter from being a leader? Should circumstances excuse any of us from service? As a member of our organization are you willing to let someone else take on more just to lighten your load in life? Think about it.

A thousand thanks to the ASMTA Board of Directors for their outstanding service and support of our organization this year. We are so fortunate to have a stellar group of leaders who are so dedicated to our students and to ASMTA. Thanks again to all of you and I look forward to serving with you for another year as President of ASMTA.

Finally, congratulations to Dr. Yali Luo on the birth of her baby boy on Friday May 23rd! Yali serves as 2nd Vice President in charge of competitions.

Melodie L. Acker, NCTM  
ASMTA President



# ASMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2013-2014

# Leadership

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>President</b> .....                            | Melodie Acker NCTM                |
| <b>Treasurer</b> .....                            | Lynnette Barney                   |
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| <b>First Vice President/President Elect</b> ..... | Natalya Thran, NCTM               |
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| <b>EVMTA</b> .....                                | Autum Hunt                        |
| <b>NAMTA</b> .....                                | Chase Coleman                     |
| <b>PMTA</b> .....                                 | Sharon Lamb                       |
| <b>TMTA</b> .....                                 | Ji-Young Kim                      |
| <b>Second VP- Competitions</b> .....              | Dr. Yali Lao                      |
| <b>MTNA Perfomance</b> .....                      | Dr. Yali Lao                      |
| <b>MTNA Composition</b> .....                     | Kassandra Welleck NCTM            |
| <b>Honors Recital</b> .....                       | Dr. Raymond Ryder NCTM            |
| <b>Third VP- Conference</b> .....                 | Diann Lopez                       |
| <b>Fourth VP- Publications</b> .....              | Ashley Ricks                      |
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| <b>Membership</b> .....                           | Natalya Thran                     |
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| <b>Immediate Past President</b> .....             | Chyleen Lauritzen NCTM            |
| <b>Arizona Study Program</b> .....                | Bobbi Stoutenburgh NCTM           |
| <b>Certification</b> .....                        | Pam Allman NCTM                   |
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| <b>Archivist</b> .....                            | Gail Chang                        |
| <b>MTNA Foundation Chair</b> .....                | Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson, NCTM |
| <b>Independent Music Teachers Forum</b> .....     | Paula Dahl, NCTM                  |

### WEBSITES

MTNA: [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)

ASMTA: [www.asmta.org](http://www.asmta.org)

CMTA: [www.cochisemusicteachers.org](http://www.cochisemusicteachers.org)

EVMTA: [www.evmta.org](http://www.evmta.org)

PMTA: [www.phoenixmusicteachers.org](http://www.phoenixmusicteachers.org)

TMTA: [www.tucsonmusicteachers.org](http://www.tucsonmusicteachers.org)

### Upcoming ASMTA Board Meetings

September 27, 2014

9:30 AM

AZ Piano, Phoenix, AZ

## **In Memoriam: Elizabeth “Beth” Hanley, 1920-2013** **ASMTA President, 1970-1972** **MTNA Southwest Division President, 1974-1978**

Elizabeth was born in Chicago, Illinois, on August 26, 1920, to Charles and Ethel Morley. She was the second child of four: two brothers and a sister. Her first grade teacher noticed that Beth had an innate talent for the piano and encouraged her mother to purchase one for her. This was the beginning of a life-long love of music. She began her piano teaching career at sixteen and spent the rest of her life devoted to learning, teaching and playing. At the age of 80, she purchased a harp and learned to play that instrument as well.

Beth met the love of her life and future husband, Kenneth Marvin Hanley, on August 26, 1937, at the Devil's Lake Chateau, in Baraboo, Wisconsin. She was 17 and Marvin was 21. Beth was attending a business school in Chicago, as well as attending the Berning School of Music. Marvin was enrolled at La Cross State Teachers College in Wisconsin.

During World War II, Marvin accepted a commission in the US Army Air Corp. and was transferred to Victoria, Texas. Beth and Marvin were married there on August 26, 1942, at the Post Chapel on Foster Field.

For the next 23 years the two made the Air Force their home, with military assignments in Guam, Madrid Spain, Ohio, New Mexico, Texas and Mississippi. During this time, they raised four children, two boys and two girls: Thomas, Sheryl, Larry and Kathleen.

After Marvin's retirement from the Air Force in August 1963, the family moved to Corvallis, Oregon, and then to Scottsdale, Arizona in 1964. Beth continued teaching piano, and Marvin began his second career, teaching in the Tolleson Elementary School District.

Beth, an MTNA certified independent teacher of piano in Scottsdale, Arizona, was an active member of MTNA at State, Division and National Levels. She served as Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Arizona State Music Teachers Association, Vice President of the Southwest Division of MTNA and National Chairman of the Baldwin Junior Keyboard Achievement Award Competition. She also served four years as President of the Southwest Division of MTNA, six years as the National Chairman of the MTNA Mason and Hamlin High School Auditions, and as a Committee Member of the MTNA Review and Planning Committee.

Beth was a member of MTNA from 1964 until her death on March 16, 2013. She held both National Certification and State Accreditation and participated in the Arizona Study Program. In 2010, at the age of 90, Beth was still teaching in her Scottsdale home. She had two advanced adult students, who had been with her for over ten years. They were great friends and their lessons were full of laughter, camaraderie and the joy of music.

Beth was selected for inclusion in THE DIRECTORY OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARTS, American Biographical Institute in 1983 for her roles in the National, Divisional and Arizona State Music Teachers Associations.



# In Memoriam

When her husband passed away in 1983, Beth began working part-time for Clemons Eicken at the Borgata for 8 years. She continued to teach piano. Many of her students were still visiting or writing to her long after they had moved on with their lives. In May of 1991, she gave a speech on the History of the Central District (now PMTA and EVMTA) and the Arizona Study Program.

From the early 1990's, Beth was also a member of the Scottsdale Chapter of the ROAL (Reserve Officers Association Ladies), a support organization for the Reserve Officers Association. The ROA, a voluntary, nationwide patriotic organization of all military branches, focuses on supporting our national security. The voices of the ROAL members help promote and keep a strong reserve force for our country including Reserve training and military readiness. Beth served the Scottsdale Chapter as Secretary and Treasurer for six years and ten years as President, until 2010.

Beth Hanley's memorial service was at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Phoenix, where she had been a member for over 30 years. For many years, she played in the Bell Choir, loving the beautiful music. She was also an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed Friday morning camaraderie with the Prince of Peace "Cut and Tie" group, making quilts for people in need. She loved Bible study and the traditional services at Prince of Peace.

Elizabeth brought a special beauty to this world, a beauty made of love and laughter, caring and devotion, an amazing woman who touched many lives and brightened many days. Her love of life, appreciation for beauty and many other amazing qualities made her the great lady she was. She will be remembered by those who knew her as a gracious lady who dearly loved her family and friends, music and home, flowers and the beautiful sunshine of Arizona.

Beth is survived by her four children, Thomas Hanley (Doreen), Sheryl Baer (Richard), Larry Hanley and Kathy Hanley. She also has seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



Prepared by Gail Chang, ASMTA Archivist

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Chyleen Lauritzen, NCTM

In my position as immediate past president of ASMTA, I am chair of the nominating committee and the six local association presidents comprise the remainder of the committee. There are two areas where nominations occur. These two areas are in electing officers to fill positions on the ASMTA Board and in the Honored Teacher award.

In our by-laws Article V Section 1 it states that "The First VP, 2nd VP, 4th VP, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected in odd years at the annual Membership Business meeting at the annual State Conference. The 3rd VP shall be elected each year at the annual Membership Business meeting at the annual State Conference." The First VP is president-elect and will become president after the current president's term expires. The 2nd VP is over competitions, both state and MTNA competitions. The 3rd VP is over the annual conference. The 4th VP is over all publications. The secretary and treasurer are also vital to the functioning of the ASMTA Board. This year, our secretary spent considerable time assisting the president in various duties and in editing the revision of our ASMTA Policies and Procedures Manual. The treasurer works to make sure we comply with all financial obligations as a non-profit. These are each elected positions with a 2-year term, with the exception of 3rd VP whose term is one year. There are also numerous appointed offices within the ASMTA. Some of these positions have been vacant for some time.

In our recent 2014 ASMTA Conference Annual Business Meeting, I presented Natalya Thran as 1st VP- President Elect. This was done at this time, since we had no candidate to present for 1st VP at our 2013 conference. Natalya served unofficially for several months until she was elected at the conference. She will assume her duties as president July 1, 2015. We normally present a new 3rd VP each year as well. Responsibilities for the conference are rotated between the 3 large associations and the 3rd VP comes from the association sponsoring the conference. PMTA will host our 2015 ASMTA conference and will do so with no named chair at this time. EVMTA will host the 2016 conference, and then it will be back to Tucson for 2017. I want to give special thanks to Diann Lopez, our current 3rd VP, and to her committee from TMTA. The 2014 ASMTA Conference was outstanding!

It is my understanding and belief that virtually every music teacher is busy and cannot possibly take on one more responsibility, but we must have those who are willing to serve in these volunteer positions. I recently completed 3 years as president of the women's auxiliary at church. This was an extremely demanding position. It required the help of many as we served the roughly 150 women in the congregation. It is the same with ASMTA. We need those who are willing to step in and help with demanding positions and those willing to fulfill positions that require less time. I found that it was helpful to have a variety of ages and backgrounds on my board at church. It is the same with ASMTA. We need younger teachers who bring vitality and technical expertise and will encourage change and modernization. We also need mature teachers who lend wisdom and experience. We need independent music teachers as well as those who teach in the public schools or universities. We need teachers of all instruments. We need teachers who have taught in a variety of states and can present new ways of doing things, and we need native Arizonans. We need a vast range of teachers to best serve the needs of ASMTA.

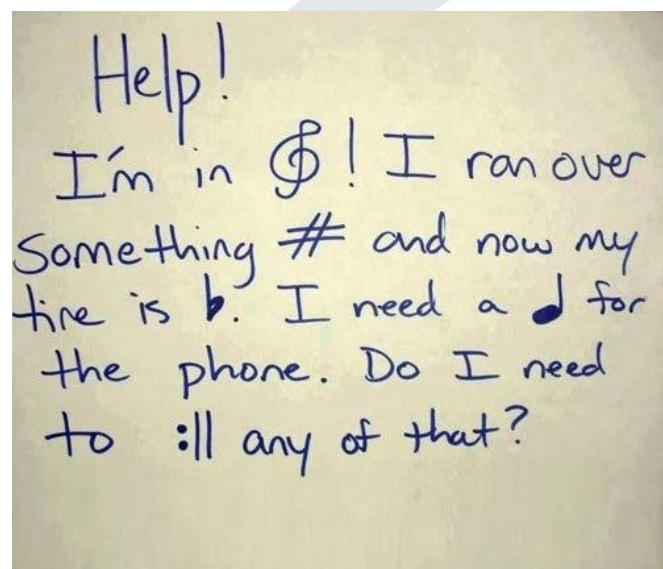
The ASMTA Board will meet at the end of September and as stated in our by-laws, immediately following that meeting, I will meet with the nominating committee to consider a slate of officers to present at the 2015 conference. I live in a small local association and may not know many of you and your respective talents if you have not served on the state board in the last decade or so. It would be wonderful if you feel you could make time to serve. If you would like to have your talents and contributions considered in one of our elected or appointed positions, please let your local president or me know prior to our Sept. 27th meeting. We would appreciate the ability to consider many of you for service within ASMTA.

## 2nd VP- COMPETITIONS

Dr. Yali Luo, NCTM

This years MTNA State Competitons will be held on October 25, 2014 at AZ Piano.

<http://www.mtna.org/programs/competitions/competitions-guidelines/>



## 3rd VP- CONFERENCE

Diann Lopez

If you missed the conference, I'm sorry. It was great, and we had some wonderful presenters, two of the most popular being Lee Galloway and Glenda Austin. Baruch Meir was popular both with the kids in the master class as well as with the audience at his Friday night performance.

Other presenters offered some new and challenging ideas. Several sessions allowed for interaction and ideas from the teachers. I truly was inspired.

The accommodations at El Conquistador were beautiful and comfortable. The food was tasty.

Instrumental Music gave us wonderful, useful, long-lasting goodie bags, plus they loaned us most of the sound equipment that we used. Hachenberg Piano provided lovely pianos for each room as needed.

So many people worked with me in so many different aspects that everything came together very nicely. Let me mention some of those who were a great help:

Ji-Young Kim for her work with exhibitors; Karen Van Sickle for her work with the silent auction; Gloria Singleton for help with the sound equipment; Judith Richardson for organizing help with the registration table. Cassandra Weleck for her suggestions to me before conference, and for taking care of thank you cards after. Christine Harper for her contact with Instrumental Music, for handling the goodie bags, and helping with registration. And finally to Lynnette Barney for going above and beyond the call of duty as State Treasurer, but also for leading an excellent panel discussion, and for making the name tags and meal tickets.

I also appreciated my contact at El Conquistador who worked hard to make this a pleasant experience for all.

Thank you to those who filled in the end-of-conference survey. Most were very positive, but some good suggestions were also made for future conferences. I'm still thrilled when I talk with anyone about the conference! It was a wonderful learning and growing experience for me. It was a delight and an honor.



# Board Reports





# Board Reports



**ASMTA General Meeting  
Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 5:20pm  
El Conquistador Hotel, Tucson, AZ**

Meeting called to order at 5:21pm by President Melodie Acker.  
Meeting minutes from 2013 presented by Secretary Kassandra Weleck. They were approved as read.

Treasurer Lynnette Barney noted the following for the ASMTA accounts:

Balance – \$24,561.48

Checking - \$8,103.68

CD - \$14,719.70

Immediate Past President Chyleen Lauritzen then held voting for vacant board positions.

There was only one office to vote on:

1st VP – Natalya Thran

No nominations from the floor

Vote: unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm by President Acker.

Members in attendance:

Melodie Acker, ASMTA President

Lynnette Barney, ASMTA Treasurer

Camille Conforti

Paula Dahl, ASMTA IMTF Chair

Dorothy Dungan

Jennifer Foxx

Janne Irvine

Chyleen Lauritzen, ASMTA Immediate Past President

Diann Lopez, ASMTA 3rd V.P.

Ashley Ricks, ASMTA 4th V.P.

Gloria Ritt

Bobbi Stoutenburgh, ASMTA ASP Chair

Natalya Thran, ASMTA 1st V.P.

Susan Traylor

Kassandra Weleck, ASMTA Secretary

Cecilia Whitby

Pee Yaw Wilkes

**CERTIFICATION  
Pam Allman, NCTM**

Pins have been ordered and received for the three candidates who received national certification in 2013. They will be presented to them personally since none of them will be in attendance at the convention banquet.

An example of a completed application was sent to one candidate and a completed application will soon be posted on our state website.

National has sent notification of one candidate applying for certification.

Arizona has 497 members with 58 being certified. This puts Arizona in the 11.7 percentile with a ranking of 37th nationally

**PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

Winter Edition: Feb. 1, 2014

Conference Booklet: May 1, 2014

Summer Edition: June 1, 2014

Fall Edition: Oct. 1, 2014

#### 4th VP- PUBLICATIONS

**Ashley Ricks**

It has been a great year in publications. I have enjoyed getting to know more of the membership through working on all of the various publications this year. I look forward to continuing to learn more about our ASMTA members over the next year.

Most of us should be renewing our membership this month. If you have not already done so, please take the time to check the information on your renewal card. If any information is incorrect, please take the time to correct it with MTNA. The next directory will be published this fall. The information that is provided on your MTNA membership renewal form is what will be printed in the directory! If you have any questions about updating or fixing your information, please contact me at 520-226-9531 or at [4ricksvoice@gmail.com](mailto:4ricksvoice@gmail.com).

MTNA Foundation Chair

**Rosemary Isbell- Hendrickson NCTM**

The weather has turned HOT ! And I hope you are all enjoying 'cool' summer music programs.

Many thanks to each of you who contributed to our MTNA Foundation raffle. We raised \$110.00 ! AND many thanks to the two Chicago Stores in Tucson and to Milano's and Linton Milano's in Mesa for their gift card/certificate donations. Please visit their stores, shop and express your thanks to them as well.

Remember if you have not paid your MTNA dues as yet- PLEASE add a little to the Foundation donation line. Every bit helps. There is an article on page 44 of the American Music Teachers Magazine that you should read. It lists all the grants that have been given this year. Your name or the name of your association could appear on that list in the future. At the next conference in 2015 we will have an overview of how to apply. Of course you can do that beforehand. Please go to the Foundation website thru MTNA and check out the details. Feel free to contact me if you have questions as well.

Congratulations to our raffle winners!

Debbie Dinkle, Melodie Acker, Cecilia Whitby and Bobbie Stoutenburgh

I have emailed donation receipts to each person who signed up to receive one. If you did not receive it as yet please drop me an email at [thepianobenchaz@gmail.com](mailto:thepianobenchaz@gmail.com) and let me know.

Many thanks for your support.

Regards to all

Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson NCTM

MTNA Foundation Chair- ASMTA

#### INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS

**FORUM**

**Paula Dahl, NCTM**

I have received all the responses to the IMTF survey and will be compiling the results over the summer for publication in the Fall Musigram.

33 responded to the survey online; 5 responded by snail mail for a total of 38 responses.

Here is the breakdown of responses by district:

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| EVMTA        | 19 responses |
| PMTA         | 3 responses  |
| Tucson       | 13 responses |
| Northern     | 0 responses  |
| Eastern      | 2 responses  |
| Cochise      | 1 response   |
| Student      | 0 responses  |
| Unaffiliated | 0 responses  |

In looking back over some of the previous teacher surveys, I found that in 1987 there were 58 responses; in 1989, 49 responses; and in 2006, 49 responses. In 2006 there were a comparable number of members to now, so the number of responses received for this survey were not all that great. It was around 8% of the membership. The number of responses was disappointing, given the fact that it was online, making it convenient and easy to take, it wasn't lengthy, and it was publicized by the districts.

#### ASMTA Archivist

**Gail Chang**

Gail Chang, ASMTA Archivist, is attempting to complete her year-long project of updating our Archives. There are some missing items, most notably: the 1978 50th Anniversary Convention bulletin.

If members have any Convention or Recital Programs, MusiGRAM newsletters or Directories, photos or articles pertaining to ASMTA activities from 1928 to 2014, please contact Gail Chang. [tritonal@gmail.com](mailto:tritonal@gmail.com) or 602-696-4860

# Board Reports



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# Board Reports





## PHOENIX

[www.phoenixmusicteachers.org](http://www.phoenixmusicteachers.org)

**Sharon Lamb, President**

**YEARBOOK** – Planning is underway for 2014-2015, and board members are currently preparing the yearbook. There will be some modifications due to the MTNA Antitrust Compliance Guide (ACG) distributed by MTNA on June 9, 2014, and we are glad to have received the guide now in order to avoid having to amend the yearbook after it is distributed.

Business associations in any industry must abide by FTC regulations, and the ACG affords MTNA members the opportunity to be well educated on how FTC regulations apply to the music teaching industry. As local association compliance is mandatory to maintain affiliation with MTNA, PMTA board members will be charged with policing the content of meeting presentations and discussions, and the documents provided in the ACG for such purposes will be incorporated in the 2014-2015 yearbook. Other yearbook modifications will include Teacher Referral Services and Competition and Festival policies and practices.

**2015 ASMTA CONFERENCE** – PMTA will host the conference, and the dates are: May 28-30, 2015. At the May 8, 2014 PMTA board meeting and special meeting for all PMTA members on May 10, 2014, ideas for location, theme, featured concert artist, and keynote speaker were discussed. The proposals were reported to the ASMTA board at the May 29, 2014 ASMTA board meeting.

We are very pleased to announce that featured concert artist, Jeremy Siskind will perform and present. The conference theme is: “Jazz It Up” and Jeremy’s contributions will include workshops on improvisation. You may enjoy viewing his improvisation “Unseen Motif” performed at the Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition 2012 on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMxfDI2vLRs>, as well as his Grand Final Performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpbzzSIb28g>. Jeremy’s sponsors are Hal Leonard, and the Yamaha Music Education System division of the Yamaha Corporation of America. You may also wish to use these publications by Jeremy Siskind in your studios this year: “The Magic of Standards” and “Jazz Etude Inspirations.”

A call for 2015 presenters will include workshops on any professional music teaching and music business administration topic and genre. The call for presenters, exhibitors and advertisers will be distributed on September 1, 2014 or earlier, with a deadline of January 1, 2015.



**TUCSON**  
[www.tucsonmusicteachers.org](http://www.tucsonmusicteachers.org)  
**Ji-Young Kim, President**

TMTA had two major fundraising events for scholarship in February and April. In February, our students performed in Barnes and Noble and in April, we had 'Music in the Mall' at the Park Place Mall. Many of our teachers participated their students at these events and both went successfully.

These events gave another chance for our students to perform for the general public and learn from the experience. Also, these performances let the listeners know about TMTA and the joy and importance of music education.

In March, we had about 500 students perform in the TMTA Ensemble Concert and as always, they brought down the house! Our last general meeting was organized by one of our member-at-large, Lynnette Barney. The topic for the meeting was "Summer Lessons at Your Studio". Several teachers gathered to share their methods and new ideas with one another and had a wonderful time getting to know each other even better. On May 10, about 300 students participated in Arizona Study Program and we are looking forward to TMTA Merit scholarship Auditions this weekend (May 17th) and the winners' recital on May 18th, where we will invite our collegiate music scholarship winners to perform for the teacher at the general meeting. TMTA is looking forward to the state conference on 5/29-31 at El Conquistador Resort in Tucson. The 3rd

VP, Diann Lopez has been working hard to get everything organized and many of our local board members and teachers have volunteered their time and expertise to help this conference happen. We hope to see many you at the state conference in Tucson!

**NORTHERN ARIZONA**  
**Chase Coleman, President**

Here in the Northland NAMTA is looking forward to this weeks Arizona Study Program Adjudications and the Sixteenth Flagstaff Piano Festival, which will conclude our activities for the 2013-14 academic year. Our slate of officers will remain the same for the coming year and we will be scheduling recitals and events towards the end of the summer.

# Board Reports

*ASU Professor Emerita*

## **JAN MEYER THOMPSON**

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**COCHISE**  
**[www.cochisemusicteachers.org](http://www.cochisemusicteachers.org)**  
**Debbie Dinkel, President**

Cochise Music Teachers Association has had quite a busy 2014. This is usually the busier part of our calendar year. In February, we held our Stepping Stones program where students performed for a camera and then two weeks later met with a Master Class Instructor to help them with their technique, performance and overall playing. This year we were privileged to have Kiyono Bernier for our piano students and Hong-Mei Xiao for our string students. They were both wonderful and provided excellent ideas and suggestions for our students. Later on in February, we held our annual Inge Young Competition where students were grouped by their piece levels and competed for cash prizes. Both events were very successful.

On March 29th, CMTA hosted a concert featuring Alexander Tentser on piano and his wife, Anna Gendler, on violin. It was a wonderful concert. Earlier that same day, Alexander led a seminar for teachers, students and the public on Anxiety Performance. That was well attended, too.

We held our Spring Live at Kino performances on April 4th. Several students from our string teachers performed along with the piano students. Our teacher, Sharon Douglas, who heads this event, prepared notes for each composer and piece that was played. I got to read each one before the students performed. It was very informative and interesting.

Our Music in the Mall fundraiser event took place on April 19th. Hackenberg's of Tucson brought a baby grand piano for our use for the day. It's such an amazing thing that they do this. We greatly appreciate it. We let the students and families know throughout the event where the piano came from. This event was very successful and everyone had a great time. We even had a soldier, who was passing by with his buddies, play for a little while during our short break.

I was contacted by Hong-Mei Xiao, the viola professor at the University of Arizona in Tucson, in regards to she and Tannis Gibson offering to hold a concert for our students, teachers, families and the public. They are scheduled for May 10th, offering a free concert. We are very pleased to welcome them.

We began having our Spring Music Festival this year. The first concert of students will be May 4th and the second one will be May 31st. This gives the students one more opportunity to perform and sharpen their skills. Our final event will be our teacher's potluck and recital held on May 15th. This is where we play for one another and enjoy eating together, as well. We will hold a short business meeting while briefly looking into the next year.

We've had a very productive and fulfilling year and we look forward to the new year ahead.

**EAST VALLEY**  
[www.evmta.org](http://www.evmta.org)  
**Autum Hunt, President**

EVMTA has had an eventful year!! !

- ~great turn out with new members and excitement at August opening Social!
- ~Organ Stop Pizza-BEST TURN OUT EVER! :)!
- ~First Workshop with Jan Thompson also a better turnout than before!
- ~new guidelines in place to improve the budget!
- ~ EVMTA Board meeting-discussed new possible events/competitions!

In October, the Music in the Mall event was a great success! Thanks to Melodie Acker, Ellen Sossano, Julie and Stephen Follett, we were able to work past some unexpected roadblocks.

Jason Sipe at AZ Piano was generous with his time and expertise for our November workshop. He taught us with great enthusiasm about the advancements in piano technology! We are so grateful to keep up on all that is happening. The annual Fall Recital, chaired by Laura Dunlap had many participants perform.

Our Holiday social was personal and fun! We learned about each other through games, had a white elephant gift exchange and honored Jason Sipe with a plaque for his dedicated service to our organization.

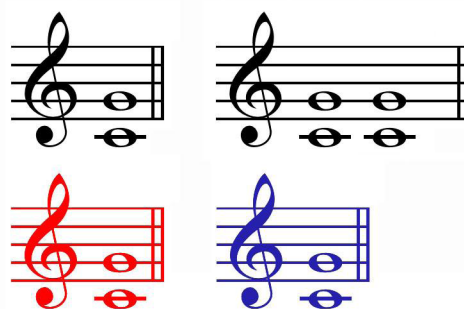
The Composer Celebration Concert had record number participants! Natalya Thran who chaired this event, worked at creating excitement and importance through Russian music.

In January, our new year kicked off with a presentation by Dr. Jan Thompson on Finding the Right Touch and Character (Romantic and 20th Century ). She shared many great ideas and reminders. We appreciated her humor and stylistic approach!

February brought Frank Scott from NAU. He held a masterclass for the non-competitive student. Lim Angela Tchoi gave a presentation in March titled "Skeletal Learning: Preparing Successful Performance and Ownership". She will also be presenting at the State Conference.!

Our April luncheon was held at Crackers and Co. where 11 people attended.

**Music, meet Seuss. Find the rhyme.**



# Board Reports



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