



ARIZONA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



One of my students recently asked me a question at his lesson as he was collecting his award items he earned from the Arizona Study Program evaluations, "What does ASMTA stand for?", he asked. I explained that those are initials for the Arizona State Music Teachers Association and that ASMTA is the group that I have served as President of for the last two years and that I am almost finished with my term. My student replied, "Can't you get re-elected?" Now that is a scary thought for any of us who have served as state president. But I digress.

I kept pondering what my student said. What does ASMTA stand for? The Arizona State Music Teachers Association is poised and ready to continue to do great things. We have an outstanding Board of Directors who are positive, professional, and productive. They were all a huge help and support to me as state president and all of us should express our gratitude to them for everything they do for our organization. We just finished a marvelous conference with the theme "Jazz It Up!" Many thanks to Sharon Lamb, conference chair and her PMTA committee who worked tirelessly to have a spectacular conference at the beautiful Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park. The state conference was very well attended. ASMTA was one of only a few states that received an award from MTNA at the national conference in Las Vegas for membership retention and recruitment. ASMTA currently has 520 members. The Board of Directors recently approved a motion for collegiate members to receive a 50% reduction in state dues for their first year of active membership in ASMTA. Hopefully this will result in even more new members!

Having said all of that, what does ASMTA stand for to our individual members? Have your students participated in programs that have made a difference in their music studies? Has our organization made a difference in your teaching career through presentations, colleagues, conferences, friendships and in other ways? It is my fervent hope that the answer to these questions is yes. Our organization cannot thrive or even exist without members and more specifically without members who are willing to serve in various capacities. Does ASMTA mean enough to you to get involved using your time and talents for our organization? I certainly would not be the teacher I am today without the programs, experiences, colleagues and friends that ASMTA offers.

As part of the conference this year, we had a presentation on the history of ASMTA which included information about Nadine Dresskell. Mrs. Dresskell served in various positions including MTNA President, MTNA Vice-President, MTNA Western Division President, and ASMTA President. Nadine Dresskell was my teacher at ASU during the time she was national president of MTNA for four years (1975-1979). One day in studio class, Mrs. Dresskell took time out from her busy schedule as a college professor and MTNA President to encourage all of her students to join MTNA as student members. "A teacher affects eternity; you can never tell where your influence stops." As teachers and colleagues, we may never know the impact that we have had on someone else in their musical journey. Nadine Dresskell thought ASMTA stood for something important also, or she would not have worked tirelessly for so many years in service in so many different capacities of MTNA and ASMTA.

It is my hope that ASMTA as an organization and that we as teacher members can also effect eternity and that our influence will be unending. Students, teachers, colleagues, friends. A Teacher affects eternity. Live, Love, Teach!

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as ASMTA President for the last two years. Best wishes to incoming President Natalya Thran, NCTM. She will be an awesome ASMTA President!

Sincerely Yours,
Melodie L. Acker, NCTM
ASMTA President

ASMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2013-2014

President	Melodie Acker, NCTM
Treasurer	Lynnette Barney
Secretary	Kassandra Welleck, NCTM
First Vice President/President Elect	Natalya Thran, NCTM
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EAMTA	Celeste Innes
EVMTA	Autum Hunt
NAMTA	Chase Coleman
PMTA	Sharon Lamb
TMTA	Ji-Young Kim
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Archivist	Gail Chang
MTNA Foundation Chair	Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson, NCTM
Independent Music Teachers Forum	Paula Dahl, NCTM

WEBSITES

MTNA: www.mtna.org

ASMTA: www.asmta.org

CMTA: www.cochisemusicteachers.org

EVMTA: www.evmta.org

PMTA: www.phoenixmusicteachers.org

TMTA: www.tucsonmusicteachers.org

Upcoming ASMTA Board Meetings

September 26, 2015

10:00 AM

AZ Piano, Phoenix, AZ

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Chyleen Lauritzen, NCTM

I am excited that we are going into our ASMTA conference with a full slate of officers to present at our annual business meeting. Thanks to your support and ideas we have been able to prepare for the coming year in a much better fashion. I am excited about the conference and appreciate Sharon Lamb and her committee and PTMA for their efforts!

This is a bitter-sweet time for me. This is my last ASMTA board meeting. I served 6 years as president of EAMTA and then 2 years each as President Elect, President and now Immediate Past President.

I joined MTNA in 1999. Although we moved to Arizona in 1996, I did not become associated with EAMTA until later, because I wanted my students to play in one of their events. At first I felt intimidated to be a part of the association, because I didn't have the credentials I felt I should. Jan Hunt was the local president and encouraged me and even talked me into being the next president of EAMTA. I found out that association with other teachers gave me new ideas as well as friends who were having the same types of teaching problems I was. When I attended the state board meetings, as part of my duties as president, I felt the compassion and concern from teachers around the state. They wanted me to succeed and offered help when I asked.

I feel that attendance at state and national conferences also opened my eyes to what was possible in the music studio. I have been able to attend national conferences in Cincinnati, Salt Lake, Austin, Seattle, Toronto, Denver, Milwaukee, NYC and Anaheim as well as numerous state conferences. My teaching methods changed as a result. I felt that as I heard what other teachers were doing, I wanted to try some of their methods to see if I could see improvement in my students. My association with MTNA, ASMTA and EAMTA has made me a much better teacher. Encouragement from fellow teachers allowed me to pursue and obtain my NCTM in 2005.

I have loved working with Melodie and want to express my appreciation for all she has done for ASMTA! She has worked tirelessly for our benefit. I have loved the friendships I have made in ASMTA and wish you all the best!



3rd VP- CONFERENCE

Sharon Lamb

Many prayers, a lot of hard work, and the determination of many participants and their families made this conference a resounding success. Melodie Acker was the key supporter of the first ever West Valley location, and Wigwam Resort's conference facilities were a perfect fit, the hotel amenities, restaurants, and grounds were excellent, and the service provided by ever pleasant staff members was amazing.

More than 300 attended the conference, including 120 regular registrations, presenters, exhibitors, sponsors, 45 West Valley Youth Orchestra personnel and family members, and 46 Honors Recital participants and family members.

Survey responses (What was the most valuable part of the conference?):

The theme of the conference. The hotel was incredible. Burnout prevention class. Jeremy Siskind's jazz info.

Gail Chang's ASMTA history session was a great session. Connecting with colleagues and the sessions. Composition performances during Southwest buffet. Improvisation information. Camaraderie of teachers. Variety of content in sessions. Jeremy Siskind was fantastic-concert, sessions, everything. Really liked having the Honors Recital prelims on Saturday morning on site as opposed to a different location. Also liked inclusion of Youth Orchestra and MTNA winners performances.

I think that including jazz as a recognized entity gave this conference a fresh approach that was most welcome. No conference should have a narrow focus, which has happened way too often. Three day conferences have the ability to present all genres of music, equally. The sessions, particularly Radmila's, Chase's, Jeremy's, and Dalena's. I particularly enjoyed Dalena's session because it dealt with a topic that we teachers need to do more of-take care of ourselves. I thought having a "theme" that several sessions related to was great! Having the time to attend sessions, network and enjoy a couple of days of soaking in why I do what I do - was very beneficial. Everyone who I spoke with was quite friendly and helpful.

Very refreshing to have it located in the West Valley!!!!!! I enjoyed the Honor's Recital, all the sessions, and exhibit hall. Insights into the composers or authors either living or dead always valuable. The styles of music, a great variety this year. The friends. Don Moses, getting to hear his knowledge.

Jeremy Siskind! His concert, his sessions! Him, personally! If anyone ever thought jazz musicians were aloof or "standoffish", Jeremy dispels that stereotype. He makes playing jazz seem possible. He loves jazz and wants to share his love of it with everyone. What an inspiration and delightful person he is. Thank you for introducing Jeremy and his music, his band, to me. I am hooked:)

Getting a better understanding of how to play/learn to play jazz. All in all, the 2015 conference covered a vast area of piano methodologies in such a short time. Very impressed with the entire conference. I thought this conference was chock full of great options. It was well done and the location was awesome. Thank you for your hard work!

It was a fantastic conference, from venue (the Wigwam was wonderful), the Wigwam staff was so pleasant and helpful, and always available, the Wigwam food (banquet, lunch, restaurants), the room was comfortable, the size of the resort was not too big.

The sessions were all so well done, a good diverse choice of topics. The West Valley Youth Orchestra was outstanding. What a treat! Everything seemed to flow so smoothly.

Great job, Sharon, Melodie, whomever else assisted. Thank You!

Board Reports

Conference Photos





Conference Photos

Congratulations to our incoming 2015-2017 ASMTA State Board

1st VP/ President Elect- Chase Coleman
 2nd VP/ Competitions- Dr. Yali Luo
 4th VP/ Communications- Sharon Lamb
 Secretary- Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson NCTM
 Treasurer- Lynnette Barney

For a one-year term (2015-2016)

3rd VP/ Conference-Jessica Yam

CERTIFICATION Pam Allman, NCTM







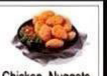




















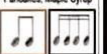


Since May, 2014 the following candidates have successfully received their national certification:

Julie Kang Harvey, NCTM
 Karali Hunter, NCTM
 Janice Holladay, NCTM
 Lisa Zdechlik, NCTM
 Diann Lopez, NCTM

These NCTM members have been asked to attend the state banquet to receive their certification pins.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the State Certification Chairman these last several years. It is my decision to resign from this position at the conclusion of the state board meeting this month.

RHYTHM DEMONSTRATION

 Pop Tarts 	 Hot Cocoa 	 Scrambled Eggs 	 Chicken Nuggets 	 Pork Tenderloin 
 Cinnamon Bun 	 Strawberry Jam 	 Apple Turnover 	 Barbeque Chicken 	 Pizza Casserole 
 Carrot Sticks and Dip 	 Beef Ravioli 	 Rice Crispie Cookies 	 Pancakes, Maple Syrup 	 Cinnamon Applesauce 

FOR MY MUSIC LEARNING FRIENDS.

4th VP- PUBLICATIONS

Ashley Ricks

After two years, my time as VP of Publications has come to an end. I am honored to have had this opportunity to work with so many great people from across our state.

I am excited about the changes and progress we have made over the last two years. In May the board voted to officially change the name of this position to 4th VP of Communications. The new title is more inclusive of all that this position entails in our digital age.

Additionally, we are taking measures to begin making our website, www.asmta.org, more mobile friendly and utilizing features to assist not only the board, but the membership at large. Members now have access to the "Members" section of the website, which is password protected. To protect the integrity of the information, it has been included in the email sent to members with this publication. If you do not receive email, your local president should be able to provide you with the proper login information. Currently, the 2014-2015 directory is available as a PDF download as well as the Policies and Procedures Manual.

I'm thrilled with the progress we've been able to make over the last two years and have no doubt that Sharon Lamb will continue to elevate ASTMA as she takes over as VP of Communications. Many thanks to all our members, for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Fall Edition: Oct. 1, 2015

Winter Edition: Feb. 1, 2016

Conference Booklet: May 1, 2016

Summer Edition: June 1, 2016

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM

Paula Dahl, NCTM

This is my final report as IMTF chairman. It's been a pleasure serving with the wonderful people on the state board. There's not a whole lot to report at this time as the activity has died down for the year.

I was able to publish a teacher survey to which around 36 teachers responded. The number who responded was disappointing considering that I made it easy to fill out the survey online, or download and print it to mail to me. I had to keep the questions generic and I had to avoid forbidden topics which the FTC had said were off-limits. I don't think the survey was all that productive and helpful to the teachers for the above reason, and because so few responded. Because of the latter reason, I don't feel I got a good cross-section of answers from the teachers to draw any conclusions about what they were doing in their studios. Perhaps the future IMTF chairman can do a better job with the survey, or maybe it's not worth doing it at all.

Over the course of the past 2 years I had articles in the Musigram. One of the articles asked for input from the teachers regarding make-up lessons, to which only 2 responded. I know that we teachers are very busy and perhaps don't have time to read all the articles in the Musigram. Early on, I did receive a couple of emails from teachers who appreciated my articles, so I know that some of them were reading them.

Thank you all for your support and wonderful work!!

Board Reports

MTNA Foundation Chair
Rosemary Isbell- Hendrickson NCTM

Greetings to all! Hoping you all enjoyed the State Conference this year and for those who attended the GRANTing Wishes presentation, thank you for your attendance and input. A reminder to all- MTNA Foundation Grant application forms will be available sometime in late September. Please continue to check the MTNA Foundation website. The applications will be due by the first Monday of January 2016. BUT please get yours in early- the earlier the better.

Carefully read the guidelines and if you have any questions please contact me at thepianobenchaz@gmail.com or Jenny Thompson at the MTNA website. Consider what you would like to do to enhance your teaching and your own performance skills. Be brave and apply for a grant.

ALSO remember to add a little donation to the MTNA Foundation when you pay your annual dues.

ARIZONA STUDY PROGRAM
Bobbi Stoutenburgh, NCTM

Attached is the annual report for 2015. We are excited that the enrollment is up by 100 students! Most of the increase was due to East Valley's increase in student enrollment. The major problem for East Valley is they are over the capacity their facility can provide.

As stated in the last ASP/ASMTA board report, we are preparing a statement re use of copied and/or downloaded music. It has come to our attention that this use is happening throughout the state and we must follow the laws re copyright. Our major problem with finalizing this situation is that it has been difficult to find possible consequences for those ignoring this law.

In process is a video for ASP teachers to view all the requirements and considerations for repertoire for evaluations. This video is being prepared by Suszy Traylor and committee members to be placed on Youtube.

With operating fees on the rise, it was motioned to increase registration fees. **Effective for the 2015 – 2016 evaluation year, the student registration fee will be increased to \$25 for each student.** Late fees will remain the same.

The big news! We just received a draft for the online program to purchase materials. The committee will be having an emergency meeting at this Conference to view the draft.

The ASP Committee has graciously okayed my continuing as ASP Chairman. We are still in search for a Treasurer and a Secretary. For financial reasons, the ASP Chairman should be okayed by the ASMTA board as a matter of record.

With sadness, two of our very diligent and beloved members will be resigning from the ASP Committee. Our treasurer, Georgia Sears, has moved with her family to Texas. Long-time member of the ASP Committee, the ASP/Tucson Co-chair, and my dear friend, Gloria Ritt, will be retiring from the ASP/Tucson Co-chair. We thank Gloria for all her time, patience, advice, and whatever else you can think of that is good that one person can bring to our organization. Gloria will continue on the ASP Committee as a member emeritus!

Level 12 A Students - Senior Recipients of Anthony Award Teacher - Student

Cochise MTA

Kiyono Bernier - Hope Struse
Francie Schofield - Yizhuang Garrard

Eastern Arizona MTA

Janice Holladay - Emily Kempton

East Valley MTA

Pam Allman - Andrew Ferolino
Kandyce Bullock - Samantha Bouchai
Teh-ling Chiang - Rynne McLaren
Walter Cosand - Brigit Fitzgerald
Walter Cosand - Alan Wu
Nadia Feeken - Jinette Park
Autum Hunt - Jonah Handly
Autum Hunt - Hayden Varney
Candy Lam - Michael Lam
Candy Lam - Martin Lam
Yukari Lowrey-Ushioda - Lunden Santana
Jose Salazar - Michael Appel
Ellen Sassano - Emily Smith
Michael Shai - Christopher Hui
Barbara Spoelman - Hannah Lowery
Barbara Spoelman - Jess Soelberg
Kirk Taylor - Ryan Connelly
Natalya Thran - Ashley Malovoz
Natalya Thran - Elizabeth Scroggins

Northern Arizona MTA

Diana Galindo - Kaylana Mueller-Hsia

Level 12 A Students - Senior (Continued) Recipients of Anthony Award

Phoenix MTA

Sharon Atsalis - Jackson Starmer
Sharon Atsalis - Edmund Wong
Gail Chang - Gabriela Myers
Dorothy Dungan - Joshua Quan
Sherry Lenich - Prathima Harve
Sherry Lenich - Austin Inglett
JoAnn Smelser - Cindy Wang
Barbara Stoutenburgh - Elsie Koutia
Barbara Stoutenburgh - Jonathan Lam

Tucson MTA

Kyungsun Choi - Christian Hagedon
Kyungsun Choi - Shoyoung Shin
Ji-Young Kim - Elizabeth Poss
Gloria Ritt - Eric Zheng
Layla Anderson - Raymond Ryder
Marie Sierra - MacKensey King

Level 12A Students - Non-Seniors Teacher - Student

East Valley MTA

Anne Cheney - Meg Li
Pauline Dana - Derall Riley
Nadia Feeken - Margaret Wong
Ning Guan - Amanda Li
Ning Guan - Gabriel Wang
Juliana Kraver - Bobby Chen
Maria Lee - Emilie Shin
Yali Luo - Alyssa Zhang
Yali Luo - Xenia Zhao
Yali Luo - Richard Zhouren

Level 12A Students - Non-Seniors (continued)

East Valley MTA (continued)

Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk - Mana Azimi
Radmila Stoj.-Kiriluk - Alexndria Goodson
Aemilia Teguh - Feona Dong
Aemilia Teguh - Kelly Tang
Natalya Thran - Kristy Taing
Natalya Thran - Grace Zhang
Fei Xu - Enoch Chou
Fei Xu - Olivia Jensen
Fei Xu - Shenyi Li
Fei Xu - An Phan
Fei Xu - Kevin Tang
Fei Xu - Jessica Zhang
Jessica Yam - Michelle Loui
Hong Zhu - Jessica Zhang

Northern Arizona MTA

Diana Galindo - Abigail Cook

Phoenix MTA

Larry Clapp - Nichole Kyprianou
Snezana Krstic - Elizabeth Hom
Snezana Krstic - Sabrina Rui
Snezana Krstic - Alex Tam
Snezana Krstic - Chris Tam
Snezana Krstic - Sarah Zhao

Tucson MTA

Susan Chu - Xiexin Wang
Ji-Young Kim - Joseph Galasso
Ji-Young Kim - Hannah Lee
Ji-Young Kim - Evan Willmarth

Arnold Bullock Scholarships:

Rachel Ellsworth Hunt

PHOENIX

www.phoenixmusicteachers.org

Susan Traylor, President-Elect

PMTA Piano Ensemble's first concerts at the new venue, Arcadia High School, was a success. This is a beautiful auditorium, with acoustical design perfect for this event, and superb support from their Theatre Director, Richard Fairchild's, CMAS (Contemporary Music and Sound) students so artfully providing special lighting effects and sound. This actually saved money that we otherwise would have had to pay to an outsourced sound and lighting company. This translated to more money for PMTA's scholarship fund!

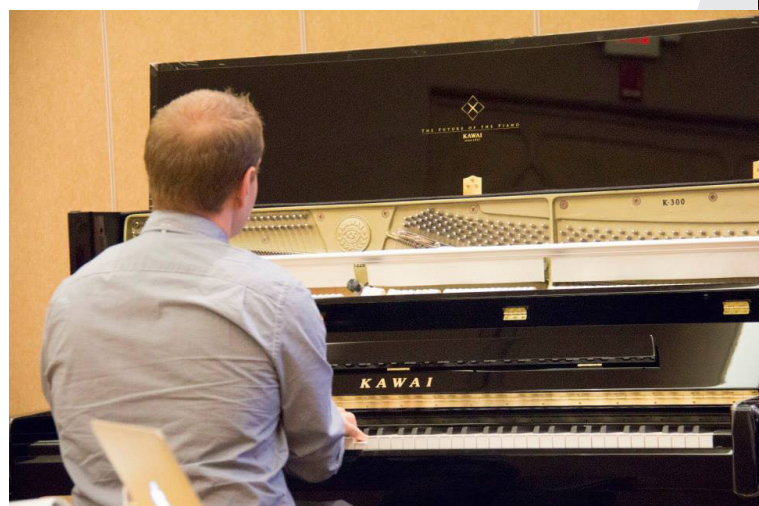
Since many PMTA board members had questions pertaining to the MTNA's Antitrust Compliance Guide as it pertains to PMTA, we had (in the Fall of 2014) sought legal advice from attorney Suzanne Dallimore, a specialist in antitrust law. After several months of doing a market analysis and preparation of her opinion, in March, Ms. Dallimore presented us with her findings and recommendations. Come to the ASMTA Conference on Saturday, May 30th, at 9:00 a.m. to hear Ms. Dallimore's Keynote presentation on "Antitrust for Music Teachers after FTC v. MTNA."

At our general meetings, we enjoyed excellent presentations from Dr. Don V Moses and Dr. Ed Rath on "10 Points for Haydn Performance Practice" (don't miss Dr. Moses' "The Classical Music Festival & Joseph Haydn" at the ASMTA Conference), from Dr. Janice Meyer-Thompson on "Tasteful Romanticism: Finding the Right Touch"; and from Hanah Vutipadadorn on "Fundamentals for Beginning Piano Technique".

We concluded our year with our annual teachers' luncheon at the Iron Works Restaurant, the highlight of which was acknowledging the following PMTA members: Barbara Stoutenburgh, for her 25+ years, dedication and contributions as chair (and co-chair) of PMTA's Fall Festival; Gail Chang, for all her work organizing PMTA history from the ASMTA archives (another ASMTA Conference presentation you don't want to miss); Georgia Sears, being such an outstanding PMTA Treasurer for so many years (as she will be moving to Texas soon); and finally, presenting Jo Ann Smelser with the PMTA Honored Teacher Award for the many years of outstanding contributions she has made to the profession of music, music education and PMTA. Jo Ann Smelser is also the recipient of the 2015 ASMTA Honored Teacher of the Year award, which presentation will be made at the ASMTA Conference Gala Banquet on May 28th.

Of course PMTA is deeply appreciative of all the contributions of all board members and volunteers.

But it is remarkable that we had several "new" PMTA members this past year who jumped right in to join our board. That's the spirit! We heartily welcome to the board new members Hannah Vango (Corresponding Secretary), Olga Gorelik (Fall Festival Co-Chair), Courtney Lowman (Community Outreach), Stuart Foster (Yearbook Coordinator), Nellie Cronin & Cheryl Langley (Student Recital Series), and existing members Yelena Golberg (Dean & Carolyn Elder Competition), and Marcia Garrett (Teacher Referral Service).



Conference Photos

Conference Photos



EAST VALLEY

www.evmta.org

Autum Hunt, President

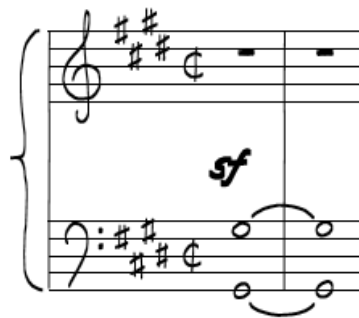
January hosted the EVMTA Ensemble, which was a success this year with record numbers. The event was held at Mt. View High School in Mesa. The teachers who chair this event create a great experience for the students and spectators. The workshop in January was about Balancing repertoire and finding the right choices for advanced students. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk led an engaging discussion.

In the February workshop we enjoyed listening to Andrew Campbell talk about the inspiration and social aspects composers have provided to our students in a collaborative setting.

The Piano competition in March had less competitors than last year. However, it was well done where students had a good experience. Our workshop was a teacher panel. It's always nice to have time to discuss our individual studios with other teachers!

The Spring Recitals were well attended. Students enjoy this recital as preparation for ASP.

April was a busy month with The Music Mystery Madness Party formally called the Carnival was a big hit again! Bananaphones and other creative experiences kept students and parents excited to rotate and learn more! Prize Piano Performers competition ran smoothly. Natalya Thran suggested that we change the name of this event to the Jason Sipe Piano Competition because he is so generous and donates money for the event. This change will be incorporated for 2015-2016 school year. The annual luncheon at Crackers was a nice chance to catch up with each other. We voted and incorporated EVMTA as an AZ Corporation. This will help our events to run smoother, especially Music in the Mall. Thank you to Stephen Follet! Autum Hunt was given a plaque for her 2 years of service as President. Fran Kaspar is President-elect.



NAME THAT TUNE*

* NO, SERIOUSLY. IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN A PIANO STUDENT,
CHANCES ARE MORE LIKELY THAN NOT THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT PIECE THIS IS.

[HTTP://EUGE.CA](http://EUGE.CA)

Autum Hunt

TUCSON

www.tucsonmusicteachers.org

Ji-Young Kim, President

TMTA had three general meetings and four other major events this semester. On January 30, we had a sight-reading workshop with Kassandra Weleck, at Lynnette Barney's Creative Keys Music Studio. We learned about how to teach sight-reading skills to our students at the weekly lessons and Kassandra reviewed many sight-reading materials. On March 27, we had a guest presenter, Dr. Catherine Kautsky from Lawrence University-Conservatory of Music. She gave a captivating presentation on Debussy in Paris both for the piano literature class at University of Arizona and for the TMTA teachers at the Home of Steinway. She also gave a masterclass for advanced high school students, which was very well-attended. On April 18, we had a 'welcome brunch' for all new members, where we answered some of their questions about the benefits of joining TMTA and how to access our website. We had a wonderful time getting to know each other and sharing our experiences in teaching. Our last general meeting of the year will be held on May 17, at the winners' recital for TMTA Merit Scholarship Audition. At this meeting, we will have two of the TMTA collegiate music scholarship winners perform for the teachers.

Other successful events include TMTA Ensemble concert on February 21 at Centennial Hall under the baton of Maestro Tim Kolosick, Barnes and Noble Fundraising Recitals on March 6-7, Command Performance Recital on March 22, and Arizona Study Program Evaluations on May 9.

We are thrilled to have new additions to our board, Marie Sierra and Kassandra Weleck, as our Members-at-large. Our new President will be Cecilia Whitby and our new Vice President will be Gloria Singleton.

NORTHERN ARIZONA

Chase Coleman, President

NAMTA has had a very good year. We will have Arizona Study Program adjudications on May 14th and 15th and the Flagstaff Piano Festival on May 16th and 17th. Our last student recital on May 9th featured fourteen performers, including some demanding works by Prokofiev and Liszt. Our current membership is nineteen teachers.

We will have having a general meeting soon to determine our officers for 2015-2016.

'There's music
in every child.
The teacher's
job is to find it
and nurture it.'
- FRANCES
CLARK

- KEYSTONE
CREATIONS,
EDUCATIONAL SONGS

COCHISE

www.cochisemusicteachers.org

Debbie Dinkel, President

Cochise Music Teachers Association has had quite a busy 2015. 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 Kassandra Weleck work with our piano students, and Sancho Manzano work with 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 March 27th. Many piano students performed. Sharon Douglas, who heads this event, was well prepared and presented certificates to each student at the end. Our Music in the Mall fundraiser event took place on April 11th. 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. This is our big fundraiser for the year.

During our April meeting, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Raymond Ryder to perform a piano master class for some of our teachers. He was very thorough and very interesting. Everyone gained much from his visit.

On a sad note, our fellow teacher and friend, Ruth Coulter, passed away on April 29th, succumbing to the cancer that had plagued her for several years. We will miss her.

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. 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.

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