

**Kassandra Weleck, NCTM**  
**ASMTA President**



Dear ASMTA Members,

Welcome to the best time of the year in Arizona. It's Tourist Season, as my family has affectionately named it, and it's definitely in full swing. I hope you'll get a chance to get out and enjoy the weather, the activities, and the people you enjoy being with (even if they're tourists).

After discussion with the board, and receiving positive feedback from ASMTA membership, ASMTA has voted to approve adoption of the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Certificate Program as an official national assessment program. Official adoption occurred on February 20, 2020. I am so excited at the opportunities this program gives our members – every instrument available to be evaluated, ear training and sight reading, music theory, technique, standardized levels recognized nationally and internationally, and opportunities for teachers themselves. [You can discover more about RCM](#) and how it can benefit your studio online, or you can come to the [ASMTA conference](#) in May at Arizona State University and learn more in person. Remember: [Arizona Study Program](#) is still a fully-supported evaluation program in Arizona, and ASMTA still backs it and its mission 100%.

The MTNA Competitions in November were a great success. We have six competitors that are in the national competitions in Chicago next month: Junior Strings, Young Artist Woodwind, and Chamber Music – Winds. ASMTA is proud to sponsor these young musicians with travel grants, and we wish them the best of luck in the competition as they represent Arizona. Arizona is proud to be represented at the [MTNA National Conference](#) in presenters as well. If you are attending the conference, I encourage you to see the following:

- **Hannah Creviston, NCTM** – *Voices Silenced: Piano Music of Composers Killed in the Holocaust*, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:15-3:15pm
- **Jennifer Foxx** – *Tidying Up! Sparking Joy in the Music Studio*, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:10-11:30am
- **Dr. Lisa Zdechlik, NCTM** – *Creative Approaches to Teaching Keyboard Repertoire*, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am-12:00pm

(ASMTA President—cont'd on p. 2)



**ASMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Officers 2019-2020*

<b>President</b>	Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
<b>1st Vice Pres./Pres. Elect</b>	Debbie Dinkel
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Dr. Yali Luo
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<b>Arizona Study Program</b>	Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Chase Coleman

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<b>CMTA (Cochise)</b>	Francie Schofield
<b>EAMTA (Eastern Arizona)</b>	Janice Holladay, NCTM
<b>EVMTA (East Valley)</b>	Sherin Moustafa NCTM
<b>NAMTA (Northern Arizona)</b>	Dr. Michelle Wachter
<b>PMTA (Phoenix)</b>	Dr. Stuart Foster
<b>TMTA (Tucson)</b>	Marie Sierra

*Administrative and Committee Appointees*

<b>Advertising</b>	TBD
<b>Archivist</b>	Shalvi D'Archangelo
<b>Arts Awareness</b>	Dr. Wei Xing
<b>Competitions – Composition</b>	Devin Gardner
<b>Competitions – Performance</b>	Dr. Yali Lao
<b>College Faculty Forum</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM Tanya Eldridge; Christopher Oill
<b>Honors Recital</b>	Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM
<b>Independent Music Teachers Forum</b>	TBD
<b>Membership</b>	Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson, NCTM, Pro Tem
<b>MTNA Foundation</b>	Susan Traylor, Pro Tem
<b>Publications Editor</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
<b>Student Chapters</b>	Jared Immerman
<b>Technology Website</b>	Susan Traylor

(ASMTA President —cont'd from p. 1)

Finally, I hope to see many of you in the coming months at local association meetings, competitions, festivals, evaluations, recitals, and our state conference. You each are a valued member of the ASMTA community, so I encourage you to take advantage of the resources at your fingertips! I know personally that I rely on my colleagues, the calendar of events my local association puts out, and that ever-handy discount for copies from MTNA at Office Depot the most. What is *your* favorite part of ASMTA membership? Drop me a line and let me know.

If I can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to reach out. Have a wonderful spring in the southwest.

Sincerely,  
Kassandra Weleck  
ASMTA President  
[asmtapresident@gmail.com](mailto:asmtapresident@gmail.com)



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**ASMTA 1st VP  
Debbie Dinkel**

Dear ASMTA Members,

The new year has begun with exciting and new opportunities to inspire and encourage our students and each other. The investment of time and effort will be well rewarded in the eyes and attitudes of the students. Perhaps that is the greatest reward we can receive as teachers - to see our students grow and expand their perspectives and experiences. I want to thank each teacher for your devoted time and efforts in these life changing events.

I have been dipping my hand into grant writing in hopes of helping ASMTA with additional funding for various projects. The first project is the Honor's Recital awards. I have submitted two grants and am hopeful that the results will be positive. It will take several months before we hear back. I plan to continue my grant search and writing.

When the opportunity presents itself, consider inviting a new teacher in your area to your local activities so they see what is offered and potentially available to their students as they become a member.

I want to encourage each teacher in your endeavors and look forward to getting to know each of you better. I look forward to making visits to each local group during the current semester.

Your Friend in Music,

Debbie Dinkel  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
[dinkel2@cox.net](mailto:dinkel2@cox.net)  
(520) 220-5704



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## ASMTA 2nd VP—Competitions Dr. Yali Luo, Chair

The 2019-2020 MTNA Arizona state competition was successfully held on November 2, 2019 at Pima Community College Center for the Arts in Tucson. There were 42 registrations in total. Out of the 42 registrations, 6 were from Tucson, 1 from Sierra Vista, 2 from Sahuarita, 2 from Flagstaff, and the remaining 31 were from Phoenix.

Below are the results of the competition:

### Arizona Junior Performance Piano

Winner: Angelina Zhang, student of Hong Zhu (**Alternate in the division competition**)

Alternate: Tony Kim, student of Yali Luo

Honorable Mentions: Asuka Firdaus, student of Snezana Krstic; Bryan Zhang, student of Kyungsun Choi

### Arizona Junior Performance String

Winner: Jonathan Okseniuk (Violin), student of Jing Zeng (**Winner in the division competition**)

Alternate: Rachel Gardner (Violin), student of Simon James

Honorable Mention: Echo Reed (Violin), student of Susanne Rothaar

### Arizona Senior Performance Piano

Winner: Wiley Skaret, student of Linda Skaret (**Alternate in the division competition**)

Alternate: Miles Fawson, student of Baruch Meir

Honorable Mentions: Austin Kwan, student of Natalya Thran; Tianwei Zhao, student of Qingqing Ye; Sarah Zhao, student of Snezana Krstic

### Arizona Senior Performance String

Winner: Leo Kubota (Cello), student of Tom Landschoot

Alternate: Audrey Wang (Violin), student of Katherine McLin

Honorable Mention: Ethan Yang (Violin), student of Jing Zeng

### Arizona Senior Woodwind

Representative: Andrew Kim (Clarinet), student of Stefanie Gardner

### Arizona Senior Piano Duet

Representative: Rachel Dai and Nathan Lam, students of Yali Luo (**Alternate in the division competition**)

### Arizona Young Artist Performance Piano

Winner: Gavin Laur, student of Baruch Meir

Alternate: Chang Qi, student of Caio Pagano

### Arizona Young Artist Performance Woodwind

Winner: Nathan Salazar (Saxophone), student of Christopher Creviston (**Winner in the division competition**)

Alternate: Matthew Fox (Saxophone), student of Christopher Creviston

Honorable Mention: Dylan Hong (Saxophone), student of Christopher Creviston

### Participating in the Chamber Music Category, students of Christopher Creviston, Arizona State University

helios\_ - Matthew Fox (Soprano Saxophone)

Tanner Bayles, (Alto Saxophone)

Gabe Robles, (Tenor Saxophone)

Bonson Lee, (Baritone)

### List of Judges:

- Piano - Kim Hayashi (Tucson) Walter Cosand (Phoenix), Stephen Cook (Phoenix)
- String - Lauren Roth (Tucson), Rebecca Bartelt (Tucson), Molly Gebrian (Tucson)
- Woodwind - Edward Goodman (Tucson)

The competition went smoothly as past years. There are six competitors (three entries) moving on to the nationals.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Yali Luo, State Performance Competition chair



**3rd VP—Conference**  
Hannah Creviston, NCTM

Lynnette Barney and I are excited to co-chair the 2020 ASMTA Conference at ASU on May 28-30, 2020. The guest artist is Dr. Cathal Breslin and the guest clinicians include Brian Chung, Dr. Melissa Martiros, and Clinton Pratt.

Hotel and parking information are posted on the [ASMTA 2020 Conference](#) webpage. We are waiting to hear about banquet and lunch menus, but will get the registration form up as soon as possible.

**The 2020: Vision for the Future** conference is divided into four tracks:

- Honoring Your Vision (Competitions, Evaluations, and Auditions)
- Moving Your Vision (Movement, Wellness, Listening, Memory)
- Expanding Your Vision (Early Childhood, Adult Learners, Students with Special Needs)
- Having Fun with Your Vision (Improvisation, Recreational Students, Ensembles, Lead Sheets)

Respectfully submitted,  
Hannah Creviston, NCTM  
2020 Conference Co-Chair



### Spring 2020 Publication Deadlines

MusiGRAM submissions—June 10, 2020

MusiGRAM Published—June 15, 2020



**4th VP Pro Tem —  
Website & Publications**  
Susan 'Suszy' Traylor

It is true. Ask a busy person to get something done, and it will get done. Many of you are active members of ASMTA and/or your local association. (If you are not active, and wish to be, let me know.) Still juggling too many different positions (your 4th VP of Website and Publications, ASP Technology Chair, and PMTA Piano Ensemble Co-Chair), I was in need of help. So I asked our very busy President, Cassandra Weleck, if she would be interested in learning how to maintain the web page updates on our website, essentially relieving me of some of the load. To my surprise, she willingly agreed. The training took about one hour (or less), and she was off and running. (She caught on very fast.) She has been doing a great job these past few months. Thank you, Cassandra!

This is not to say that we gave up looking for a new 4th VP of Website and Publications. If you are interested, please don't hesitate to contact me for information. But it is important for you to know that I am working hard to parse out the duties of the 4th VP so that the burden is shared by several people, not just the burden of one person.

Analytics on the ASMTA emails tells us that only 50% of our almost 500 members open the emails to read them, and no more than 20% of those click on the links in the emails (i.e. the link to the MusiGRAM). (Of course, it is possible that some members just read the MusiGRAM which is posted on the website.)

I sometimes wonder, if all our members appreciate the MusiGRAM newsletter? I suspect some members think they can get this information via emails only, or on Facebook, or that it just is not important. Personally, I believe the MusiGRAM is not only an important vehicle of communication to our members in the present day, but it is invaluable to future ASMTA members. It is the best way to document our ASMTA footprint for generations to come.

If you like reading the ASMTA emails and, specifically, if you like to read the MusiGRAM, remember to "click" to open the email and "click" on the link to read it. Our analytics are letting us know you are interested.

If you need help with the ASMTA.org website, especially, the Member login and Dashboard, the ASP Technique videos, or ASP Online Store, contact me, Suszy Traylor, [suszy2@aol.com](mailto:suszy2@aol.com) or [info@asmta.org](mailto:info@asmta.org).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan "Suszy" Traylor  
4th VP Pro Tem —Website & Publications



## 2020 James R. Anthony Honors Recital Tanya Eldridge and Christopher Oill, Co-Chairs

## ASMTA Partnership with RCM Certificate Program

Dear Members,

We are pleased to announce that the website is almost ready for your online registrations for the 2020 ASMTA James R. Anthony Honors Recital. Visit <https://www.asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/> to review the guidelines. Please read all of the guidelines carefully, as much has been altered.

The preliminary round submission period will end at 11:59 pm on Friday, April 24, 2020. The final round will be on Saturday May 30, 2020, beginning at 9:00 am, at the ASMTA Conference location, ASU Music Building, 50 E. Gammage Pkwy, Tempe, AZ. The Winner's Recital will be held on the same day, at 4:30 pm.

We would like to once again thank Margaret Ruccolo, who has previously donated awards in honor of James Saverio Ruccolo to Intermediate 1 Division solo pianists, and Intermediate 2 Division solo pianists. This year, she has generously offered to expand her award to include one Advanced 1 Division solo pianist, and one Advanced 2 Division solo pianist.

Here is Mrs. Ruccolo's exact wording on who the award will go to:

*The students will demonstrate three performance criteria:*

1. *Demonstrates musical talent potential beyond technical craft*
2. *Demonstrates a unique sense of musical communication*
3. *Demonstrates attributes of artistry:*
  - a. *DRAMA Personal Vision and Voice*
  - b. *POETRY Sensitivity and Emotional Nuance*
  - c. *IMAGINATION Curiosity/Innovation*

If you would like to know more about the award and about James Saverio Ruccolo, a PDF with this information can be found in the online [guidelines](#).

Sincerely,  
Christopher Oill and Tanya Eldridge



MTNA:	<a href="http://www.mtna.org">www.mtna.org</a>
ASMTA:	<a href="http://www.asmta.org">www.asmta.org</a>
CMTA:	None
EVMTA:	<a href="http://www.evmta.org">www.evmta.org</a>
PMTA:	<a href="http://www.phoenixmusicteachers.org">www.phoenixmusicteachers.org</a>
TMTA:	<a href="http://www.tucsonmusicteachers.org">www.tucsonmusicteachers.org</a>



As of February 20, 2020, ASMTA has officially adopted the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Certificate Program as an official national assessment program for Arizona.

**This means that RCM will be visible through:** Communication sent via ASMTA, \* Potential sponsorship of events in ASMTA, \* Ads in ASMTA printed and online materials, \* ASMTA web site link (coming soon), and \* ASMTA conference participation.

**RCM will in turn:** Reimburse ASMTA for a portion of every student registered in the state for evaluations, \* Provide support for ASMTA members navigating the RCM program, \* Be represented on the ASMTA Board of Directors, and \* Do more in the future as we develop our relationship together.

One major point to note: **Arizona Study Program (ASP) will continue to be Arizona's official state assessment program.** ASMTA is still fully committed to ASP's mission now and into the future.

We encourage you to [read more about RCM](#) if you're not familiar with it and attend the state conference in Tempe (May 28-30) to learn more in person. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this partnership at [asmtapresident@gmail.com](mailto:asmtapresident@gmail.com).

Thank You,  
Kassandra Weleck, NCTM  
President, Arizona State Music Teachers Association



## Independent Music Teacher Forum (IMTF), Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk

As an Independent Music Teacher Forum Chair, I am looking forward to prepare a conference presentation for the upcoming ASMTA conference in Tempe. The topics might include teaching students with different abilities, how to choose the repertoire, and some other. I have also accepted to help with the conference as a Registration Chair and I am looking forward to see you all there.

Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk  
ASMTA IMTF Chair  
[radmilastudio@gmail.com](mailto:radmilastudio@gmail.com)





**ASMTA Technology**  
Jared Immerman, Chair

Hello, welcome to Tech Scoop by me, Jared. Our story today is all about the NAMM Show 2020, an annual music trade show in January, located in Anaheim, California, hosted by the National Association of Music Merchants.

Let me just start off by saying, wow...this event is HUGE! Over 115,000+ musicians gather every year, from around the world, to witness the latest technological innovations in the music industry.

Over 7,000+ music exhibitors join the show floor, displaying their latest digital and acoustic instruments, pro audio, and accessories. Housed in the Anaheim Convention Center, these exhibits are spread out across 1.6 million square feet (nearly 30 football fields in size)!! I surely got in my fair share of walking, to say the least!

At such a massive event, it was no surprise to see every instrument very well represented. From winds, to percussion, to strings, to keyboards...there were literally hundreds to thousands of everything. I was like a kid in a candy store. A REALLY big candy store!

One neat part of the show was Lounge 88, a huge room filled with all sorts of acoustic pianos. An event called 'Roomful of Pianos' was hosted there, which is a performing ensemble of 30 pianists from around the world, gathered to play special 5-part arrangements commissioned special for the event. Performing in Roomful of Pianos is open to anyone (teachers, university students, etc.), and participating in it is a great way to receive FREE admission to the show and all of its goodness.

Learn more about Roomful of Pianos here:

<https://www.roomfulofpianos.org/>.

OK, so let's be honest, we have not even scratched the surface here about NAMM. My favorite part is—well, to be continued at the May 2020 ASMTA Conference...

All best,

Jared Immerman

[jimmerman@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jimmerman@email.arizona.edu)

<https://jared-immerman.com>

—P.S.—

Discover more about NAMM here:

<https://www.namm.org/>.

See my live journal of the NAMM Show 2020 here:

<https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/18124411873050655/>.

Follow me on Instagram for updates about my 2020 ASMTA conference presentation, and all other things music too: [https://www.instagram.com/jared\\_immerman/](https://www.instagram.com/jared_immerman/).

**MTNA Foundation**  
Rosemary Isabell-Hendrickson, NCTM,  
Chair Pro Tem



*Remember to add an additional \$5 (or more, of course) to the Foundation when you pay your dues this spring. EVERY little bit helps.*

Greetings from Sierra Vista,

There is little news from the Foundation of date. The following are the donations up through the end of the fourth quarter of 2019.

1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2019 – 9 donors total	\$570.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2019 – 10 donors total	\$303.25
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2019 – 2 donors total	\$15.00
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2019 ~2 donors total	<u>\$30.00</u>
<b>Total for 2019</b>	<b>\$918.25</b>

Hopefully 2020 will show a substantial increase. Please remember the opportunities that are afforded our students and teachers through the MTNA Foundation. There are grants available. Please go online at [mtna.org](http://mtna.org) and read of the opportunities.

Just as a point of interest- here is a comparison of nationwide donations:

There is one state that for the year has 0 donations- (I will not mention their name) and another with a total of over \$39,000.00. Just interesting facts and contrasts.

My best to all,

Rosemary Isabell-Hendrickson, NCTM

MTNA Foundation Chair Pro Tem —ASMTA



## Arizona Study Program



**Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM,  
Chairman**

Arizona Study Program is very happy to announce that Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM, has agreed to be the assistant chairman. Barb has been a long time co-chair for EVMTA/ASP and her dedication and commitment to ASP is well-known and so appreciated.

Registrations for the 2020 evaluations are now closed. No new enrollments will be accepted. For those that have registered students, you will be receiving your Packet 2 with instructions and necessary forms in the next few weeks from your local chairman. The deadline for enrolling students in ASP for the 2020 evaluations was February 15, 2020. Also, Student Program Forms for Levels 5 through 12 were due to your local chairman by February 15.

Please note that in the technique area of the ASP evaluations, from Level 6 through Level 12, a student must prepare two major keys and two minor keys with all the criteria stated in the technique guides. Please note that the ADJUDICATOR may choose either of those keys – NOT THE STUDENT.

Following are additional reminders. Please contact your local chairman if you have any questions.

- Arrangements or simplifications may not be used for the evaluations at any level unless the arrangement or simplification was done by the original composer.
- Photocopied music MAY NOT BE USED at the evaluations.

ASP has two grant programs available to teachers who participate in the Arizona Study Program: Janice McCurnin Teacher Enrichment Grant Program and the Janice McCurnin Certification Grant Program both of which can provide funds to ASP teachers. The application for this year is due March 1. See the ASMTA website/Arizona Study Program for information and application forms.

To reiterate information about the monetary awards for the James Anthony award: the monetary award will remain the same as last year. For this year, any high school senior completing and passing Level 12 at a Category A is entitled to the James Anthony award. The monetary award will be \$35 for each different level completed with a special award of \$500 for completing all 12 levels at Category A. I am advising all local association presidents and ASP chairman to remind their participating ASP teachers.

As has been mentioned in recent correspondence from our president, Kassandra Weleck, RCM has been named as Arizona's National evaluation program. This

[asmta.org/ArizonaStudyProgram](http://asmta.org/ArizonaStudyProgram)

action does not in any way reduce the integrity and/or the workings of Arizona's State evaluation program – the Arizona Study Program. We will be a vital part of ASMTA as long as the teachers and students of Arizona find us vital to their student programs. ASP is a volunteer program and, as such, we can only operate through the dedication and goodwill of ASMTA members. In the past, we have had some of the programs RCM offers, however, due to lack of interest and/or volunteers to man these programs, these have fallen to the wayside. We have had a program for strings, organ, voice, brass, winds, etc. There was a sight reading program as well. We have almost 2000 students registered for the 2020 evaluations for piano!!!

If you know anyone really wishing to help with ASP, please contact me. We are always looking for volunteers.

**BEST WISHES TO THIS YEAR'S EVALUATING  
ASP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS!!**

Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM  
Chairman, ASMTA/Arizona Study Program



### Attention!

Please do not share your ASMTA website login User Name or Password with others, For instructions on how to share the Arizona Study Program Technique Videos with your students, contact [info@asmta.org](mailto:info@asmta.org).



# Local Association News



**Cochise Music Teachers Association**  
Francie Schofield  
CMTA President

[No news from Coshise this issue.]



## Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association

Janice Holladay, NCTM  
EAMTA President

EAMTA recently enjoyed having Dr. Oscar Macchioni from UTEP in our valley. We were fortunate to have several of our students take a private lesson with Dr. Macchioni. As teachers, we were able to observe and learn from his teaching expertise. He also performed in a recital, gave a Masterclass, and a great workshop on The Art of Practicing. All events were excellent and we highly recommend him as a presenter and very personable teacher.

In April we will have our combined recital where each teacher will have several students perform. We will end April with ASP evaluations and look forward to our summer break.

Janice Holladay  
EAMTA President



**East Valley Music Teachers Association**  
Sherin Moustafa NCTM,  
EVMTA President

EVMTA had a very busy Fall Semester, full of student activities and informative members meetings. At the September members meeting, Snezana Krstic from PMTA, hosted a creative and educational masterclass.

The meeting was very well attended and our participating students also enjoyed the time they spent with Mrs. Krstic.



In October, Music Showcase at Chandler Fashion Center and Superstition Springs Mall was once again a huge success. The event created awareness of our association and provided a great opportunity for our students to share their talent and love of music with local shoppers. We had a total of 233 students who participated at both malls and we generated a total revenue of \$3,390.

In November, we had 50 students who participated in the Fall Recital featuring a wide range of piano repertoire and brought \$530 of revenue from the event. At the end of the concert, there was a raffle for two gift cards, and each performer received a recognition certificate. This was the highest number of participants we have had for this event.

The Composers Celebration Concert was also held in November. The 2019's theme was the Music of Sonata and Sonatina. We had a total of 82 participants and brought in \$1,200 of registrations in registration fees. The 2020's theme is a celebration of Beethoven's music, commemorating his 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Jennifer Foxx of PMTA was our presenter for November members meeting. Her topic was "Simple Solutions for Common Teacher Problems". We discussed the importance of a strong studio policy, setting and keeping boundaries, conflict resolution and ways to resolve confrontations. It was a wonderful workshop, full of brainstorming and great group discussions.

At EVMTA, our members receive two newsletters each month with information about upcoming student activities, members meetings, music events in the East Valley and open volunteer positions. We have received many compliments from the members about starting up this e-

*(EVMTA President—cont'd on p.9)*

(EVMTA President—cont'd from p.8)

mail campaign. Because of it, we were able to have more members purchasing items through Amazon Smile and received a small donation from Amazon. We were also able to fill several volunteer positions within EVMTA and ASMTA. I feel so grateful for our members' eagerness to help our association.

Submitted by,  
Sherin Moustafa, NCTM  
EVMTA President



**Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association**  
**Dr. Michelle Wachter,**  
**NAMTA President**



Our Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association enjoyed a music- and community-filled fall. NAMTA's first event featured our second annual Teacher Social, held on September 14 and hosted by member Diana Galindo. Open to all area teachers, the social was meant to promote community among Flag-

staff instructors, and to discuss the benefits of MTNA with all teachers who may be interested in joining the organization. Those who attended the event spoke positively about the opportunity to meet and talk with other teachers during this busy time of year, and we all enjoyed the delicious, multi-course meal prepared by Diana and her husband Harold. Several student performers participated in our October student recital, which was followed by a general meeting for NAMTA members. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a masterclass in November with members of the NAU piano faculty—Rita Borden, Janice ChenJu Chiang, and Michelle Wachter. Students performed standard pedagogical works and grew musically through the teaching provided by the clinicians. The fall concluded with a Holiday Recital co-hosted by NAMTA and the NAU Collegiate Chapter of MTNA. This recital was filled to the brim with performers, audience members, and rousing holiday music, and provided a fitting ending to 2019.

Events for spring 2020 began with a student recital on February 1, followed by an informative presentation by jazz pianist and educator David Berry on "Harmony for Keyboardists: Exploring Tonal Possibilities from Right to Left." NAMTA is looking forward to our upcoming events, which include our annual Music Play Day, student recitals, and a presentation by Henry Flurry in May titled "Using a Student's Favorite Piece to Guide Student Composition."

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Wachter, President  
Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association



**Phoenix Music Teachers Association**  
**Dr. Stuart Foster,**  
**PMTA President**



**Member Events:** At the January 9 General Meeting, PMTA heard an excellent masterclass given by Jan Meyer Thompson, and in February we had a fascinating presentation by Guy Whatley on playing 18<sup>th</sup> century music. At the March meeting, we're planning a presentation on Feldenkrais for musicians. In April we will have our usual end-of-the-year luncheon.

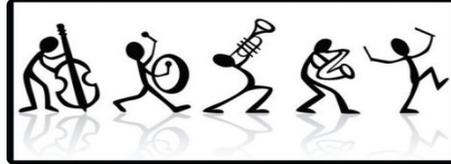
**Student Events:** On January 23, we had a very informative Sharing Plus meeting for teachers on the topic of teaching online and video lessons. The meeting was held online, via Zoom. PMTA had a Performance Plus meeting February 6, which as usual was a great chance to perform for each other, "plus" an opportunity afterwards for socializing. The 68<sup>th</sup> Piano Ensemble concerts were very successful this year (Feb. 8) - it's always one of our most popular events.

In March we'll have an Adult Student Recital, and a little later in the month another student recital. At the end of March is the Dean & Carolyn Elder Competition, our most prestigious event for piano students; and our biggest event for vocal students is the Vocal Masterclass & Syllabus in mid-April. Our ASP rounds out the year April 24 and 25.

Submitted by  
Stuart Foster  
PMTA President



**Tucson Music Teachers Association**  
Marie Sierra  
TMTA President



[No news from Tucson this issue.]



**Welcome New ASMTA Members**

**Regular**

- Sunethra Austin
- Nicole Anais Black
- Sinjung Do
- Tamra Duncan
- John W. Dunning
- Heather Durrans
- Carrie Goettl
- Moira E. Hagerlin
- Jody Laura

**Regular**

- Natalya Sobotovych
- Jenny Su
- Leith E. Walden
- Victoria Reina

**Reinstating**

- Tamra N. Cornwall
- Anna Klinefelter
- So Young Lim
- Mia Laine Lorenzen

**Collegiate**

- John A. Carroll
- Hyeri Choi
- Jeanette Marie Evins
- Mengyu Liu
- Yujia Luan

**Transferring**

- Bill Walker (Utah)
- Sabrina Hu (Tennessee)

To all of you members who recently joined ASMTA, transferring in or reinstating, I know the Board and all other ASMTA members join me in welcoming you to our association. We hope you find it to be a vibrant group of music teaching professionals sharing our passion for developing quality music education in our communities and beyond.

Many new members find it helpful to also join a local association where they can connect with other member teachers and become involved with more activities and events closer to them. Other new members, such as student members, may be sponsored by an existing member teacher who serves as a mentor who can also help the new member learn about ASMTA events and activities.

If you have any questions about what ASMTA can do for you or how you can help ASMTA by becoming more involved, please feel free to contact any of the ASMTA Leadership <https://www.asmta.org/about-us/leadership/>.

Submitted by,  
Susan ‘Suszy’ Traylor,  
MusiGRAM Editor & Membership Chair (pro tem)  
4th VP Pro Tem—Website & Publications  
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