

Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
ASMTA President



Dear ASMTA Members,

I hope your fall has been productive, educational, and fun. We are moving into my favorite time of year – being able to spend time outdoors without sweating to death! Here’s hoping you can get plenty of outdoor time as well as time with your instrument and/or in your studio.

As we move forward, I want to let you know about something ASMTA has been discussing. We are considering recommending the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) evaluation programs in Arizona to our members. RCM offers evaluations at every level of study in over 20 different instruments and arts in Canada and the United States. It combines studies in repertoire, technique, musicianship, and theory for evaluations, which are held three times per year. RCM will give a portion of every registration from an ASMTA member student back to our organization, provide support to all teachers interested in enrolling students or themselves (there are teacher and performer certificate programs available too), and it allows ASMTA to have evaluation programs in place for instruments other than piano. The ASMTA board will be voting in January 2020 as to whether or not to recommend RCM – we would love to hear your feedback (positive, neutral, and negative) via email at asmtapresident@gmail.com.

Please note: this does NOT mean we are changing or eliminating Arizona Study Program. ASP is still the evaluation program of ASMTA and will continue to receive support into the future. Part of our ASMTA constitution states “the purpose of this organization shall be to promote higher standards of musical instruction...in the state.” (Article III, Section 1) In keeping ASP, as well as potentially recommending RCM, we feel that this fulfills our desire to ensure that there are programs available for teachers and students that fit the varying types of teachers and students all over our state. We want to ensure that opportunities for growth are continually provided for everyone.

Personally, I am very much looking forward to the MTNA Performance Competitions at Pima Community College Center for the Arts on November 2nd. Everyone is welcome to attend and listen to some of the best students in the state perform. Winners will represent Arizona in their respective categories in the Southwest Division competition in January (online only). My travel plans are being formulated for the MTNA National Conference in Chicago, held March 21-25, 2020 at the Chicago Downtown Marriott Magnificent Mile.

(ASMTA President—cont’d on p. 2)



ASMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Competitions – Performance	Dr. Yali Lao
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Honors Recital	Christopher Oill; Tanya Eldridge
Independent Music Teachers Forum	Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM
Membership	TBD
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Publications Editor	Susan Traylor
Student Chapters	Hannah Creviston. NCTM
Technology Website	Jared Immerman Susan Traylor

(ASMTA President—cont'd from p. 1)

Finally, I think the ASMTA conference at Arizona State University May 28-30 is going to prove amazing as always, so I hope you'll join me there!

Please reach out to me if you have any comments, questions, concerns, or ideas for ASMTA. I'm always happy to hear from members. Have a wonderful fall and I look forward to seeing you in the near future!

Sincerely,
Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
President, Arizona State Music Teachers Association



**ASMTA 1st VP
Debbie Dinkel**

Dear ASMTA Members,

This new music 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 you devoted time and efforts in advance to these life changing events.

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 upcoming year.

Your Friend in Music,

Debbie Dinkel
1st Vice President
dinkel2@cox.net
(520) 220-5704



**ASMTA 2nd VP—Competitions
Dr. Yali Luo**

The 2019 MTNA State Competitions will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at Pima Community College Center for the Arts in Tucson.



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



The 2020 ASMTA Conference will be held at ASU May 28-30. The theme is "Vision for the Future".

Lynnette Barney and I are co-chairing and have begun to post information on our website:

<https://www.asmta.org/events/state-conference/>

Our guest artists/teachers are confirmed: Dr. Brian Chung, Dr. Melissa Martiros, Clinton Pratt and Dr. Cathal Breslin. We are very excited for a slightly different format and will be issuing a call for proposals very soon!

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



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

Right Stuff?

If you are thinking, “Suszy Traylor. Didn’t she step down as 4th VP of Website & Publications?” You are right. Why, then, am I still here writing to you as 4th VP Pro Tem? Because we have not yet found the person with the “right stuff” to assume the 4th VP position and share the webmaster work with me. (Yes. I will stay on as your ASMTA co-webmaster.)

Don’t misunderstand. I would love to stay on as your 4th VP. I am not patronizing when I say it is truly an honor to serve you and to work alongside some wonderful people, your ASMTA Board of Directors. However, like some of you, I simply found myself over-committed (PMTA Piano Ensemble Co-Chair, Arizona Study Program Technology Coordinator, full studio, and personal commitments). So, I am not retiring or going away. I am merely cutting back my commitments to a more manageable level.

So what does it mean to have the “right stuff” to be 4th VP? Generally-speaking, it is someone who wants to become more involved with ASMTA, be a part of something bigger than yourself, to help promote quality music education in Arizona, help ASMTA members by assuming a leadership role. More specifically, the 4th VP oversees the website maintenance, the production of the MusiGram newsletter, the conference booklet, Advertising Chair, Membership Chair, Arts and Advocacy chair and Archivist. The 4th VP attends the three board meetings each year. Technically-speaking, the 4th VP should either have experience maintaining a website (or Word-Press) or be comfortable enough with software and technology to be willing to learn, be organized and detail-oriented.

ASMTA needs to nominate a new 4th VP of Website & Publications, but even then, I will continue to share in the maintenance of the website work as ASMTA’s co-webmaster.

If you think you might have the “right stuff” or if you are even curious about becoming more involved in ASMTA leadership, please contact me or Chase Coleman ccoleman625@gmail.com

In the meantime, 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 or info@asmta.org.

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



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

Dear Members,

Guidelines for the Honors Recital will be updated soon, so keep an eye out. Major updates will be on behavior policies, age requirements, deadlines, repertoire requirements, instrument categories, and entrance fees. We are looking forward to another excellent event!

Christopher Oill and Tanya Eldridge
ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs



**College Faculty Forum and
Collegiate Chapters**



by **Hannah Creviston**
ASMTA Chair

We had a fantastic First Annual Piano Pedagogy Day at ASU on Saturday, October 5th with 41 collegiate members, local teachers and collegiate faculty registered. The guest teacher was Dr. Barbara Fast from University of Oklahoma. She gave three engaging workshops, as well as a masterclass for local students. There was a recital by ASU students, a pedagogical recital of lesser-known music and a group of short sessions by our collegiate members. Dr. Lisa Zdechlik (UA), Dr. Michelle Wachter (NAU) and I also gave short workshops. It was a wonderful day and we look forward to having Dr. Scott Price with us next year!

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Creviston, NCTM



Spring 2020 Publication Deadlines

MusiGRAM submissions—February 15, 2020

MusiGRAM Published—February 29, 2020



ASMTA Technology
Jared Immerman, Chair

Well, I think it is just about that time to start getting in the holiday spirit! In today's tech scoop, we will look at all things online blogs and Facebook groups, to give everyone some ideas for new holiday games to try in your studio. Also, we will take a closer look at Yamaha's latest digital pianos, for those looking to upgrade, or maybe even find a special gift for your favorite musician.

—————**BLOGS**—————

I am always on the search for new music games and activities, especially around the holidays. My students have a really good memory, so they never shy away from calling me out EVERY time I try to repeat the same game or worksheet! Luckily for me, there are many online blogs out there with tons of FREE resources for creative and fun holiday games, as well as great year-round activities too! Here are a few of my favorite blogs, two from local Arizona teachers, Alexa Madison and Jennifer Foxx:

- Alexa Madison: <https://www.alexaspianolessons.com/blog>
- Susan Paradis: <https://susanparadis.com/blog/>
- Jennifer Foxx: <https://musiceducatorresources.com/blog/>

—————**FACEBOOK GROUPS**—————

I also think it is fun to read other musician's ideas and suggestions on Facebook groups. Often times, these groups have a much larger audience than the blogs, offering valuable insights from thousands of people, all in one spot. Here are some of my favorite Facebook groups, two from local Arizona teachers, Alexa Madison and Immanuel Abraham:

- Piano Language Teaching (Alexa Madison): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/551167841947022/>
- iPad Piano Teachers Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/455009054611714/>
- Piano Teacher Central: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pianoteachercentral/>
- The Art of Piano Pedagogy: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123963944408115/>

And, for those string teachers out there, my friend Immanuel Abraham has an excellent Facebook group dedicated entirely to string performance and pedagogy:

- The Violin Guild (Immanuel Abraham): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheViolinGuild/>

Please note: in these groups, you cannot view the content until you join them. But that is very easy to do! They just ask a few questions before you are accepted, to make sure you are a teacher and not a robot!

—————**NEW YAMAHA DIGITAL PIANOS**—————

Yamaha's newest models of digital pianos, the Yamaha Clavinova CVP-800 series, are now available, and they look fabulous! Here is a promo video overview from Yamaha, showing all of the latest features: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnNz81hQi48>

While these digital pianos are quite expensive, I present them for two reasons: (1) to keep everyone updated on the newest releases, and (2), to show the amazing power of the latest piano tech. Yamaha's digital pianos are some of the best in the industry, with an incredibly expansive selection of features, and are built to last a very long time.

The previous models, the Yamaha Clavinova CVP-700 series, are still a great buy, and are available at a discounted price now since the CVP-800 series release. At the University of Arizona, we have the Yamaha Clavinova CVP-705 in our piano lab, and they are REALLY great!

- Yamaha Clavinova CVP-805—\$9,999.00 https://usa.yamaha.com/products/musical_instruments/pianos/clavinova/cvp-805/index.html
- Yamaha Clavinova CVP-705—\$7,399.99 https://usa.yamaha.com/products/musical_instruments/pianos/clavinova/cvp-705/index.html

All in all, these are a great gift for that special someone, who has an incredibly expensive, but great taste in piano tech! :)

—————**WRAP UP**—————

I hope these resources are helpful to everyone, and give some new inspirational sparks for things to do in your studio. Happy holidays, and we will talk again next year!

Cheers,
Jared Immerman
jimmerman@email.arizona.edu
<https://jared-immerman.com>



Arizona Study Program



**Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM,
Chairman**

The Arizona Study Program is commencing its 61st year of serving teachers and students in the state of Arizona. ASP has evolved from a teacher accreditation program to a massive student evaluation program. The program has been staffed and maintained by ASMTA teacher/volunteers all these years. ASP has gone through many changes during that time. We have had evaluations in other areas - voice and other instruments. Unfortunately, these have fallen away due to lack of interest and staffing. Every once in a while, a very generous person will give of their time to rebuild these former programs, but again only to “fade away”.

ASP has always tried to accommodate all levels of students by helping teachers find ways to make the program accessible to all piano students. We have kept our costs very affordable and at the same time encouraged teachers and students with awards and grants. The committee understands that any program is always in need of updating and improvement and we, as volunteers, do what we can to affect these changes. It is notable that Arizona was named a state affiliate partially due to the success of the Arizona Study Program.

Information about the monetary award for the James Anthony award has been included in the ASP section of the ASMTA Musigrams since the summer of 2018. Local chairs should notify their membership of this important information. Basically the award will be based on available funds. For 2020, the award will remain the same as in 2019. 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. Any other information regard the Anthony award is superseded by the Musigram announce-

ments. I am advising all local association presidents and ASP chairman to remind their participating ASP teachers of the monetary award for 2020.

The Technique Guide is now available for YouTube viewing. Teachers can have access to the video by logging into asmta.org, scroll down till you find:

New in 2019! ASP Levels 1-12 Technique Videos!

Login to your Member Access portal/Dashboard, scroll down the page,

And click on the link to view the videos.

Please visit the Arizona Study Program site at [asmta.org/Arizona Study Program](http://asmta.org/ArizonaStudyProgram) for all current ASP information. You can contact any of your local chairman with any questions you may have. You are also welcome to contact me at bobbist@cox.net.

ASP encourages members to view the Janice McCurnin Teacher Enrichment Grant and the Janice McCurnin Certification Grant programs. These grants are available to participating ASP teachers and can be found on the website at:

asmta.org/ArizonaStudyProgram

ASP welcomes new committee members! Thank you Francisco Naranjo, Treasurer, and Jasmine Carlos, Ribbons and Plaques coordinator, for taking on these indispensable jobs. Thank you to Grace Yen for the several years she volunteered to Ribbons and Plaques.

Arizona Study Program is saddened at the loss of our long-time committee member and dear friend, Gloria Ritt.

Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM
Chairman, 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.

Local Association News



Cochise Music Teachers Association
Francie Schofield
CMTA President

We had our first meetings to discuss our new calendar. Issues have arisen with our big fundraising event Music-in-the-Mall, with few locals perusing the mall causing it to be low on enthusiasm for the performers. We are looking into moving the event to either Hobby Lobby, the PX on post, Walmart or Frys.

Discussion was made on the presenters for our upcoming meetings, as well as looking into a new facilitator to manage our website.

The Francie's Youth Piano Competition is scheduled for Saturday November 9th, and the judges are to be Lori Keyne and Craig Sale. There are 54 students registered.

The annual CMTA concert for the next school year will be a duet/2 piano event.

Preparations for Live @Kino Hall are being finalized, as well as dates and adjudicators for ASP.

Submitted by,
Francie Schofield,
CMTA President



Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association
Janice Holladay, NCTM
EAMTA President

We are a small group but strive to provide quality education and musical experiences for our students. At the end of November we will hold a joint piano recital consisting of solo or ensemble performances.

We are pleased to have a new member, Lynn Goosetree, join our group and happy that she, along with our other teachers are enrolling students in ASP this year.

In January our teachers will enjoy learning from a guest professor, Dr. Macchioni, from the University of El Paso. We are pleased to work with Eastern Arizona College for this event.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season.

Janice Holladay
EAMTA President



East Valley Music Teachers Association
Sherin Moustafa NCTM,
EVMTA President

EVMTA started the school year off with a well attended Fall Social/Kick Off in mid August. Fifty-four members signed in at the event and 55 copies of our yearbook were given out. We currently have 127 members who paid their dues. Our first student event was held on September 7th. It was the annual party at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa. Students had fun eating pizza, listening to popular music arranged for solo organ, enjoyed a dazzling visual show and learned about the instrument. We had a total of 302 people in attendance, over 50 more attendees than 2018's event, and we generated \$604 in total for the fundraiser.



Since the academic year started, we were able to fill several volunteer positions within EVMTA. I personally feel very grateful for their willingness to help assist and grow our association. We have also changed the format and frequency of our association's newsletter. The newsletter is sent out on the first and third Monday of each month and includes information about upcoming events, deadlines, volunteer opportunities and self-improvement/continued education opportunities. We have received substantial positive feedback from the members as a result of the change.

Our September members' workshop was a piano master class with Snezana Krstic, founder of Arizona Piano Institute, and focuses on late elementary to mid intermediate level students. During the workshop, members learned about and discussed aspects of pedagogically sound and how to engage students during their formidable years of piano development.

October was our ensemble read-through and I am very appreciative of the chairmen of this event. We have found a long-term venue where we can now host our practices. We have also found a reasonably priced vendor that we can rent pianos from for the event. Piano ensemble is a performance opportunity for both children and adult stu-

(EVMTA President—cont'd on p.

(EVMTA President—cont'd from p.6)

dents. An informal event called Music Showcase is for students and will be held at the Superstition Mall and Chandler Fashion Center.

In November, a Fall Recital for students will be held at Redemption Church. Both members and students will have the opportunity to perform at the Composers Celebration Concert, which features the music of sonatas and sonatinas. The Composers Celebration Concert will be held at Arizona Piano Company in Phoenix. For the members' workshop, Jennifer Foxx of Foxx Piano Studio will give a presentation on *Simple Strategies for Common Teacher Problems*. For more information on upcoming events and workshops, please visit www.evmta.org.

Submitted by,
Sherin Moustafa, NCTM
EVMTA President



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

Summer 2019 started with a whirlwind of preparations for the 90th ASMTA State Conference, hosted by NAMTA members in Flagstaff, under the leadership of Rita Borden. The June conference featured clinicians Dr. Robert Duke and Dr. Jane Magrath, guest artist Jeffrey Swann, and several ASMTA presenters and performers. The conference displayed the musical breathe and depth of our state organization and its members, and it was a pleasure to host the conference this year!

NAMTA's first event of the fall was 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 Flagstaff 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 meal together.

October will feature our Halloween Recital, followed by a general meeting, while members of the NAU piano faculty will give a masterclass presentation in November for NAMTA teachers and students. The semester will end with a Holiday Recital given jointly by the Northern Arizona University Collegiate Chapter of MTNA and NAMTA.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Wachter, President



Phoenix Music Teachers Association
Dr. Stuart Foster,
PMTA President



The Phoenix Music Teachers Association (PMTA) welcomed several new board members for the 2019-2020 term: Nellie Cronin, President-Elect; Karen Thomasson, Vice President of Events; Karen Magruder, Recording Secretary; Robert Avril, local Arizona Study Program Co-Chair; Michele Cohen, Dean & Carolyn Elder Competition Co-Chair; and Michael Guida, Yearbook Coordinator and Website/Technology Co-Coordinator.

The first PMTA General Meeting of the year was held on September 12 and was a presentation by PMTA member Olga Gorelik titled, "Solo-Trained and Teaching: The care and feeding of conservatory aspirations without starving yourself." President-Elect Nellie Cronin has planned five other general membership meetings for the year that will include either presentations or master classes by special guests. Other events for teachers: Jennifer

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(PMTA President—cont'd from p. 7)

Foxx has scheduled two Sharing Plus interactive meetings where educational tips and ideas can be exchanged by web conference, and then made available to be seen online at any time; and Jo Ann Smelser has organized three Performance Plus events where teachers have the opportunity to perform for each other in a recital setting.

The PMTA Fall Festival and Competition is scheduled for November 9 and 10, 2019 at Glendale Community College, and will operate under the leadership of Co-Chairpersons, Tanya Eldridge and Barbara Stoutenburgh. Cheryl Langley and Jill Tabata, Student Recital Series Co-Chairpersons, have planned four recitals for the year: October 5, December 7, March 14, and May 2. Sue Shiner and Suszy Traylor, Piano Ensemble Co-Chairpersons, are busily preparing for the PMTA Piano Ensemble registration deadline on October 31, with rehearsals and performances slated for January-February, 2020. Barbara Stoutenburgh will hold two Adult Student Recitals this year, with the first performance taking place on November 2. Music at the Mall, which will be held at Arrowhead Towne Center and at Paradise Valley Mall on December 14, has been planned by Co-Chairpersons Muriel Long and Deborah Offenhauser. The Dean & Carolyn Elder Competition will be held March 28-29, organized by Co-Chairpersons Stuart Foster and Michele Cohen. One Vocal Student Recital has been scheduled for November 9 by Charlotte Gordon and Liz Owens, Vocal Events Co-Chairpersons; and new this year, one Vocal Masterclass & Syllabus Event, to be held April 18, 2020.

PMTA is looking forward to another exciting year of providing opportunities for students and teachers to engage in rewarding and enriching musical activities. We wish for all Arizona local associations a successful and fulfilling year!

Submitted by

Stuart Foster



MTNA: www.mtna.org
ASMTA: www.asmta.org
CMTA: www.cochisemusicteachers.org
EVMTA: www.evmta.org
PMTA: www.phoenixmusicteachers.org
TMTA: www.tucsonmusicteachers.org



Tucson Music Teachers Association
Marie Sierra
TMTA President

Greetings from TMTA!

Our first meeting, held Sept. 8, was well attended and pieces from our Piano Ensemble (to be held March 7 were performed by various members. Most positions have been filled thanks to our generous volunteers, though the Board is still looking for another member-at-large.

This year we will be collaborating with the U of A Pedagogy department once again to bring meaningful workshops to our members and expand our relationship with college students.

In Nov. we will enjoy a presentation by E.L. Lancaster on Alfred's Premier Piano Course and in Feb. we will feature Jane McGraw who will speak on Building Technique.

As in previous years, we will hold 2 Kudos recitals for students in the fall and 2 in the spring. Our Barnes & Noble events in 2 locations are popular with students and parents alike. This is a fundraiser for us as well as a fun performance opportunity.

Dec. 6 will be our festive Holiday Luncheon preceded by a general meeting.

In the spring we also look forward to Festival in the Mall, Command Performance Recital, Senior Recital, Merit Scholarship Auditions and Recital, and ASP Evaluations.

Hope to see many of you at the national conference in March!

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Sierra
TMTA President



Welcome New ASMTA Members

Regular

Rosemary Bullock
Xiaolin Li
Fiona Chang Qi
Molly Janusz
Jennifer Harris
Laura Brown
Lynn Goostree
Mary Ann Ramos

John Solari
Jihyun Kim
David Butterfield
Jung Eun Lee
Bruno Walter
Eliana Bender
Natalya Sobotovych
Tamra Duncan

Collegiate

Grace Polleys
Ziyun Li
Brandon Mejia
Brice Kimble
Doyoun Song
Lirui Xiong
Joel Martinez
Eleni Persefoni Stavrianou
Melissa La Spisa

David Gatchel
Joshua Nichols
Jinyi Liu
Natalie Burton
Andrew Wilson
Holly Johnson
Jocir Macedo
Ka Hou Chan

Reinstating

Natalie Krafft
Michael Shui
Daryl Shay
Baruch Meir
Betty Sackett
Debbie Leavitt
Michael Kaminski
Charmaine Piane-Dame
Stefanie Gardner

Caio Pagano
Tom Landschoot
Krystle Sanchez
Taran Argiropoulos
Jamee Haddorff
Erin Hales
Martha Reed
Jinghua Pu Goldstein

Transferring

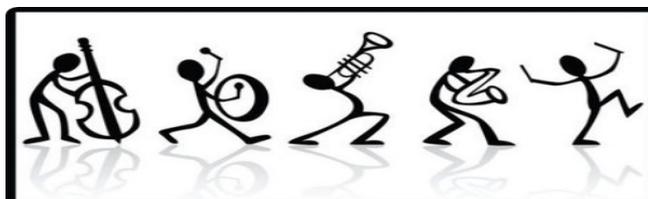
Linda Skaret (Colorado)
Catherine Motter (Colorado)
Cathal Breslin (Tennessee)
Carolyn Kreuzer (Washington)

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
info@asmta.org



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