

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



Dear ASMTA Members,

Since my last writing to you, our world has been turned upside down due to COVID-19. Schools were closed, non-essential businesses shuttered, and people were ordered to stay home to keep the general population safe and healthy. I know that I've had my emotional ups and downs throughout this time, but I've been grateful for an electronic connection to my family, friends, and colleagues. Learning how to teach online has been interesting, and I'm sure many of you have joined me in that venture – I even hosted my spring recital online! I truly hope that you're able to continue moving forward with your lives as much as possible, and that you're healthy, happy, and musical.

Because of this unfortunate turn of events, many of ASMTA's events for the spring and summer were canceled. Both the ASMTA Conference and Honors Recitals were called off, and the Arizona Study Program's evaluations were canceled for all but the Level 12A students (top level). RCM evaluations were postponed until June and July but are still occurring online instead of in person. I have been happy to see that several local events around the state were held online, and the ASMTA Board of Directors has also moved to meeting online in order to keep our organization moving forward.

One of our biggest messages to all our ASMTA members for the future is make contingencies. As a state organization, we are setting up the ASMTA Conference 2021, Honors Recital 2021, and MTNA Competitions 2020/2021 as I write this. In every instance, we are coming up with contingency plans in case things cannot be held in person. The ASMTA Board has even created a [cancellation and refund policy](#). The MTNA Competitions will be online only this year, [with registration via MTNA](#) due by September 16th at 12pm MST. The ASMTA Conference is planned for May 27-29, 2021 at Arizona State University, with the Honors Recital occurring during that time frame. We hope all of this will happen as planned, but we are making contingencies in case the world has other plans. What contingencies can you put in place for your teaching?

Remember that MTNA has extended your 2019-2020 membership year until September 1st, so your ASMTA membership remains until that time as well. [Don't forget to renew](#)—being together makes us stronger in times of hardship.



**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
<b>3rd Vice President</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
<b>4th Vice President</b>	Susan Traylor, Pro Tem
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lynnette Barney
<b>Secretary</b>	Renee Saxon
<b>Certification</b>	Melodie Acker, NCTM
<b>Arizona Study Program</b>	Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Chase Coleman

*Local Associations*

<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)

I rely on each of you daily to continue doing what you do – spreading the joy of music through teaching, performance, and providing opportunities.

Sincerely

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



**ASMTA 1st VP  
Debbie Dinkel**

Dear ASMTA Members,

This past semester has been very interesting with lots of creative teaching occurring. I applaud all teachers for their heartfelt ideas that have enabled them to continue to teach via electronic methods and other methods. I also applaud Kassandra and the ASP committee for their diligent efforts applied to ensuring that seniors were still able to participate, while the other students received reimbursements and regular communications. It has been a very interesting time requiring creativity and ingenuity.

Thanks to our President Kassandra for regular communications to the membership in general. This has enabled all of us to stay informed to the happenings of ASMTA and MTNA.

Lastly, thanks to all teachers for your constancy of giving to your students the joy of music during difficult times. Continue to inspire!

I want to encourage each teacher in your endeavors.

Your Friend in Music,

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



## Changes in Leadership for 2020/2021

### *Thank you outgoing ASMTA Board Members!*

- \* Jared Immerman – Technology Chair
- \* Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson, NCTM – MTNA Foundation Chair
- \* Francie Schofield – CMTA President
- \* Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM – IMTF Chair
- \* Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM – Arizona Study Program Chair
- \* Dr. Michelle Wachter – NAMTA President

### *Welcome to our new ASMTA Board Members, as of 7/1/2020!*

- \* Melodie Acker, NCTM – Certification Chair
- \* Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, NCTM – IMTF Chair
- \* Benita Rose – NAMTA President
- \* Francie Schofield – MTNA Foundation Chair
- \* Dr. Barbara (Spoelman) Russell, NCTM – Arizona Study Program Chair
- \* Hope Struse – CMTA President
- \* Dr. Michelle Wachter – Membership Chair
- \* Dr. Wei Xing – Arts Advocacy & Awareness Chair

### *MTNA Southwest Division Director (as of March 25, 2020)*

- \* Natalya Thran, NCTM – Gilbert, AZ (former ASMTA President)

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

**MTNA Competition 2020 — Congratulations!**

**Jonathan Okseniuk**, violin (student of Jing Zeng)

- \* Arizona State Winner - Junior Strings
- \* Southwest Division Winner - Junior Strings
- \* National winner - Junior Strings

**helios\_**, saxophone quartet (coached by Christopher Creviston)

- \* MTNA Chamber Winds National Finalist

**Nathan Salazar**, saxophone (student of Christopher Creviston)

- \* Arizona State Winner - Young Artist Woodwind
- \* Southwest Division Winner - Young Artist Woodwind
- \* National finalist - Young Artist Woodwind

**Brayden Wagner**, composition (student of Natalya Thran)

- \* Southwest Division Honorable Mention - Junior Composition

**Angelina Zhang**, piano (student of Hong Zhu)

- \* Arizona State Winner - Junior Piano
- \* Southwest Division Alternate - Junior Piano

**Wiley Skaret**, piano (student of Linda Skaret)

- \* Arizona State winner - Senior Piano
- \* Southwest Division Alternate - Senior Piano

**Rachel Dai & Nathan Lam**, piano duo (students of Yali Luo)

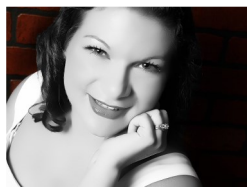
- \* Southwest Division Alternate - Senior Piano Duet

AZ piano will no longer host MTNA state competitions due to the concern of coronavirus.

The national office is still planning to have the state competitions this fall. However, at the same time, they are also discussing contingency plans accordingly.

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





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

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our 2020 State Conference had to be cancelled. We hope you are all enjoying the wonderful Virtual Conference being shared by MTNA. Please mark your calendars for the next ASMTA Conference hosted at Arizona State University on May 27-29, 2021. Lynnette Barney and I will continue as co-chairs. We look forward to an exciting time together.

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



**Congratulations to the following  
ASMTA member who received her  
Music Teachers National Certification**

Meily Jamie Mendez, NCTM, 2020

**Certification  
Melodie L. Acker, NCTM**

We have a member who became certified in June. Meily Jamie Mendez for Tucson is now a National Certified Music Teacher. Congratulations!

Please contact me if I can help you with certification [melodieacker@cox.net](mailto:melodieacker@cox.net), 480-246-2192.

Melodie L. Acker, NCTM  
Certification Chair



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

With nothing new to report to you about your website and publications, and in the context of the topsy-turvy days we have all been experiencing, I decided to share with you, instead, a snapshot of what my life as a piano teacher, fellow ASMTA member and board member has been like these past few months. Due to space limitations here, I have written a separate article, with photos, on Page 11.

Please do see the brief section I added in honor of Beethoven's 250 Anniversary, which I hope you will find as uplifting as I have. And, for a bit of piano lesson amusement, I must share with you this recent New York Times Magazine post by Christopher Niemann, "The Unexpected Solace in Learning to Play Piano", which all music teachers will surely appreciate ([click here](#)). Enjoy!

If you need help with the ASMTA.org website, especially, the Member login and Dashboard, the ASP Technique videos, or the 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



**Fall 2020 Publication Deadlines**

MusiGRAM submissions due September 20, 2020

MusiGRAM Published—September 30, 2020

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

Dear members,

We are happy to confirm that we will be co-chairs again for next year's Honors Recital. Also, We are pleased to announce that Margaret Ruccolo will fund the James Saverio Ruccolo Award again for 2021. We are very thankful for her continued support!

We're looking forward to a great event next year, and hope you are too. Meanwhile, you may review the guidelines on the ASMTA website, and feel free to email Christopher Oill at [oillmusic88@gmail.com](mailto:oillmusic88@gmail.com) with any questions. Stay well, and be safe!

Christopher Oill and Tatyana Eldridge  
ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs



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>

**ASMTA Archivist  
Shalvi D'Arcangelo**

I hope you have all been staying healthy and safe during these crazy times.

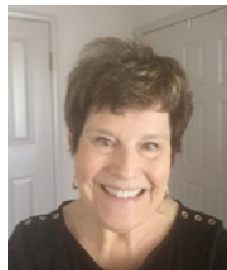
I am now working from home and have had more time to devote to making sure our archives are as organized as I can make them. I reached out to Renee James, curator at ASU, to make sure our archives are up to date with all electronic copies of items I have sent her and to see if I could update our archives with physical copies of items that I still have in possession. Her reply was that the archives at ASU are closed due to COVID-19 and are not receiving any deliveries at this time. Once they re-open I will reach out to Renee again and verify our archives and make arrangements to send any physical copies of materials I still have.

Please stay well!

Shalvi D'Arcangelo  
ASMTA Archivist  
[musckplayer@gmail.com](mailto:musckplayer@gmail.com)



**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 to all from beautiful Sierra Vista. We have had the most gorgeous weather here especially the evenings.

As to any news from the Foundation there is very little for this report. Our first quarter donations were zero. That was a first that I can recall. However, I have faith that we will have a better showing as the year progresses.

This has been a difficult past three months and I hope you and your families are all doing well. I am in the throes of online teaching and enjoying it. My husband is doing much better.

I am hoping that next conference 2021 we will have a fun activity to fund raise for the Foundation. There are great plans in the works!! (thanks to Cassandra W)

My best to all,  
Rosemary Isabell-Hendrickson, NCTM  
MTNA Foundation Chair Pro Tem —ASMTA



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

I would like to thank the ASMTA for a privilege to be an IMTF chair for the last four years. It was my pleasure to periodically meet board members and discuss issues related to piano teaching and association leadership. I accepted a position of a Vice President for my local, EVMTA association and I am happy to report that Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh will become a new IMTF chair. I am sure that her depth of knowledge, wisdom, and musical talent will greatly contribute to the ASMTA leadership.

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





**ASMTA Technology  
Jared Immerman, Chair**

Hello, happy June and happy summertime!

It sure has been quite a whirlwind these past few months of 2020! The unexpected school and business closures, due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) international outbreak and pandemic, put a screeching halt to everything. For musicians, this meant an unprecedented number of cancellations of performances, lessons, classes, conferences, and more!

I am including this information mostly as a reflection for the ASMTA archives—since we all lived it, of course! If you are a musician or teacher from the future—a time traveler looking back on this article—welcome!

Over the past couple months, there has been an incredible amount of ingenuity, creativity, and flexibility in the transition and implementation of live online lessons. It is amazing to consider that this ability of remote learning was impossible just a short decade or so ago, before telecommunication applications like Zoom and Skype even existed.

Speaking of which, below are two online groups specifically related to the discussion of tips, challenges, shortcomings, and successes in online teaching. They were both created in March 2020, in response to COVID-19 and the grand shift to online learning. There are surely other groups out there on this topic, but these two have been ones I have enjoyed following:

**Music Educators Creating Online Learning:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mecol>

**Music Education During Coronavirus:**  
<https://www.reddit.com/r/MusicEducatorinCV19/>

To continue the momentum of sharing brand new projects, here are three stellar new programs that a few of my friends just created this year in 2020:

**Jeffery White** started a podcast called *Maniacal Melodies*, now joined by co-host Anthony Perkins, where they interview music students, teachers, performers, and composers – many of them local to Tucson. Learn more about Jeffery’s and Anthony’s podcast here:

<https://www.channel1138.com/maniacalmelodies>

(Cont’d...)

**Adie Cannon** started a YouTube channel called *AdieTrinity Music*, where she creates videos about beginning music theory and playing the violin and viola – highlighting the values of a well-rounded, motivating, and positive learning experience. Learn more about Adie’s YouTube channel here: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVWnQA4DWxUt0U06\\_un\\_Bw/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVWnQA4DWxUt0U06_un_Bw/)

**Christopher Oill** started a Facebook group called *Practice, Practice, Practice*, where he hosts a space for users to share videos of themselves practicing, to promote the idea that success on an instrument is not instantaneous, but still attainable through dedicated practice. Learn more about Chris’ Facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/273826556986370>

To wrap things up, I should also mention that this is my last article for the MusiGRAM. I joined the ASMTA board as technology chair in July 2018, and conclude my term this month, in June 2020. It was a pleasure to meet everyone, and see a glimpse into the hard work “behind-the-scenes” of the association.

I hope my MusiGRAM articles have been useful, and perhaps even a little lighthearted and entertaining too. If anyone has technology questions in the future, or just wants to reach out and say hi, please do so and stay in touch!

Cheers,  
Jared Immerman  
[jimmerman@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jimmerman@email.arizona.edu)  
<https://jared-immerman.com>



### 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).



## Arizona Study Program

**Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM,  
Chairman**



Covid-19 caught all of us unaware!! Evaluations were cancelled for 2020 except for Level 12A students. This was an enormous undertaking but with a dedicated committee, 76 Level 12A students were evaluated on May 16, 2020, by eight of our highly respected ASP adjudicators. The performance part of the evaluations was done by submission of YouTube videos. The adjudicators commented and gave their ratings on specially prepared fillable Student Evaluation Forms. The theory testing was done by a specially prepared fillable test sent to students from ASP via their respective teachers. I could probably go on and on about the trials and tribulations, etc., but the telling could either make you anxious or bore you! However, it all happened and the comments from parents, teachers, adjudicators, and especially the students, made all the work so worthwhile. Thank you to Victoria MacDonald, David DeSoucey, Fran Kaspar, and especially to Barb Russell, Suszy Traylor and myself for all their input and hard work. None of this would have happened without Suszy's great knowledge of the internet, computers, and a world foreign to most of us!!! "Packet 3" which includes all student tests, evaluation forms, ribbons, trophies and Anthony awards have been distributed.

Enrollment fees paid for the 2019-2020 evaluation year were refunded to 229 teachers. A few teachers donated their refund to ASP at a total of \$140. Refunds were not given to those Level 12A students who completed evaluations. Thank you to ASP Treasurer, Francisco Naranjo, who had the work of issuing all those checks! Also, thanks to the local chairman who supplied Francisco with the information he needed to effect this big job.

Because of the process ASP has in place for awarding students the James Anthony Senior Award, Fran Kaspar has developed a system so that no student enrolled for 2020 will lose the year's work due to Covid-19 cancellations. We are generously counting this year as valid, without regard to category or level, if the student was enrolled. In addition, ASP wants our students to know that we appreciate their hard work and their desire to participate in the Arizona Study Program. Therefore, a certificate was made available to every student enrolled in the 2019-2020 evaluation year to acknowledge the

student's participation in preparing for the 2020 ASP evaluations. These blank certificates were made available to all local ASP association chairman to distribute to those teachers in their association.

Because of Covid-19, we are all faced with so much uncertainty in the future. ASP is making plans to continue our wonderful program and we will keep everyone well informed. Please watch for our announcements.

Thank you to Jasmine Carlos and Robert Avril for their work on the ASP committee. They are resigning from their positions as of June 30, 2020. We welcome Jill Tabata to the ASP committee as our Ribbon, Trophy, and Plaque chairman. We welcome Dr. Andrew O'Brien to the ASP Committee serving as a co-chairman for EVMTA. In addition, another long time committee member, former ASP state chairmen, and local ASP/PMTA co-chairman, Carol Hill, NCTM, will be retiring from her position as local ASP/PMTA co-chairman. Carol has dedicated many, many hours to the Arizona Study Program. She first started as being the "student tester" of the program in her high school years with Janice McCurnin and Dr. Anthony as they were developing ASP!

It is with great sadness that I am announcing my retirement as Chairman, Arizona Study Program, effective June 30, 2020. It has been my honor to have served in this capacity for eight years. I was invited to the ASP committee in the early 1980's, serving with Janice McCurnin, Dr. James Anthony, and Gloria Ritt among others. At the very same time, it is my great pleasure to announce that Dr. Barbara Russell has agreed to be the ASP Chairman, effective July 1, 2020. Barb will bring tons of knowledge and a deep commitment and dedication to the Arizona Study Program.

**Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM  
Chairman, ASMTA/Arizona Study Program**



# Local Association News



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

The CMTA concluded the school year with our monthly meeting via Zoom held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. This was our first ever Zoom meeting and our first get together since the coronavirus has adjusted our lifestyle. Everyone was in good spirits, and has managed to continue teaching via Skype, Zoom, or Facetime.

At the beginning of the pandemic I met with two of the teachers in Sierra Vista, Pamela Olsen and Hannah Vaughn, who are not a member of the CMTA, and are known for teaching online, and gathered enough pertinent information so that I could share with the other teachers. This included the set-up, positioning of cameras, how to keep track of students, and glitches that may be encountered when teaching online. Though the transition was stressful, it ended up being very beneficial.

Arizona Study Program- Karen M. - Zane Struse will receive the James Anthony Award, achieving Level 12.

Lynn, Ly will perform her 60 minute senior recital in August and will receive \$500 scholarship once she has performed. Janisa Smith, Zane Struse, Kent Shepherd, and Lynn Ly will receive \$200 senior scholarships.

Live at Kino Hall – tentatively planned for November 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Music in the Mall- planned for Dec. 5, 2020 at the food court. Hachenberg’s will supply the piano for this event. Symphony Fundraiser- Music at Twilight- rescheduled for Saturday Sept. 26, 2020. Youth Fundraising recital- Francie S. The event is planned for August 15th at 6 PM if the building is available. •Annual CMTA Fundraising event- discussion of changing the date to January 30, 2021. Debbie D. will check on the scheduling.

We voted on our new president Hope Struse, vice president Moira Hagerlin, Karen Miller as Treasurer, and Rosemary Hendrickson as Secretary.

We said a farewell to Sharon Douglas, who has decided not to continue with the CMTA, and welcome to John Carroll who is our newest member.

We look forward to the next school year.

Francilia Schofield, President  
Cochise Music Teachers Association



**Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association**  
Janice Holladay, NCTM  
EAMTA President

We at EAMTA like many, are just coping with the virus. Many of our students were actually disappointed not to have ASP evaluations. Some of our teachers spent three months teaching via Zoom and now have students taking live lessons. We have all learned a lot about new ways of teaching. One of our teachers will continue doing group theory via Zoom since it really worked well.

We hope by fall we will be able to have our private studio joint recitals. Until then we are working hard to help our students enjoy the piano.

Janice Holladay  
EAMTA President



## Welcome New ASMTA Members

### Regular

Kryste Andrews  
Audrey Christiansen

### Collegiate

Karyne Kurets

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/> or me at [info@asmta.org](mailto:info@asmta.org).

Submitted by,  
Susan ‘Suszy’ Traylor,  
4th VP Pro Tem—Website & Publications







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



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



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, EVMTA held two very successful events. Our Piano Ensemble 33 "What Fun It Will Be" was on February 1. We had a total of 243 students participated, and there was a variety of piano arrangements performed. Students enjoy being in this event year after year and look forward to the awards

for longer participation. This was our first year doing silent auction. All 16 baskets were auctioned off and helped us defray the cost of this event. We also began accepting credit card payments at the event this year. The guests and parents were very pleased to know that we have this option available as many forgot to bring cash with them.

During the pandemic, most members moved their teaching studio to a virtual platform. We had to cancel all events and activities since the middle of March, but were able to postpone and host Senior Recital and Award Ceremony on 5/01 through Zoom to celebrate the students' long term commitment to music and their years of participation in EVMTA activities. We had approximately 25 people came to support the event.

Submitted by,  
Sherin Moustafa, NCTM  
EVMTA President



The Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association's spring started off strong with music, collaboration, and learning. At the beginning of February, the first spring student recital was followed by a presentation by David Berry, titled "Harmony for Keyboardists: Exploring Tonal Possibilities from Right to Left."

Members learned about jazz theory and pedagogy, and thoroughly enjoyed the performance that Berry gave to culminate his presentation.

February 29 featured NAMTA's annual Piano Play Day, an event co-hosted by NAMTA and the Northern Arizona University Collegiate Chapter of MTNA. Registered students rotated through multiple engaging sessions that morning, all of which were co-led by NAMTA, NAU faculty, and Collegiate Chapter members. The sessions included a dance class—led by NAU's Andrew Needhammer—adjudicated performances, ear training games, ensemble playing, improvisation exploration, and music theory games. The event ended with a pizza lunch for students and teachers. Students expressed much enjoyment of the event.

Sadly, our April and May recitals and meetings, along with the Flagstaff Spring Piano Festival, had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. We were looking forward to a presentation in May by Henry Flurry, titled "Using a Student's Favorite Piece to Guide Student Composition," but Flurry has graciously offered to move his presentation to next year.

On a personal note, it has been an honor to serve as president for NAMTA. Thank you for a wonderful two years!

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





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



Same as for all chapters, PMTA's 2020 gets divided into events we held and events that were cancelled.

In a stroke of genius, Jennifer Foxx made the topic of our January Sharing Plus meeting teaching online and video lessons. We had no idea how relevant that would become... except Jennifer somehow

knew.

In February, our 68th annual Piano Ensemble concerts were a great success, thanks to the efforts of many people, with Sue Shiner and Suszy Traylor the ones in charge. Also in February, we had a Performance Plus meeting, where teachers get a chance to both try out repertoire and socialize.

We had successful February and March General Meetings. Attendance was already low, though, at the March meeting as people had started thinking about COVID. We also had a successful Adult Student Recital at the beginning of March, an event that we're happy to see has been getting more popular.

Perhaps our "shining moment" this semester was that we were still able to hold our Elder Competition at the end of March. On rather short notice, we turned it into a video competition, all the students submitting videos for our judges to review from their own homes. Overall, a great success, given the circumstances.

Our culminating, end-of-year luncheon in April was cancelled, as were our last two Student Recitals, our Vocal Masterclass & Syllabus event, and, of course, our ASP at the end of April.

Here's to a successful, gradual, reopening of society as the year goes on, and for us teachers, a very careful return to in-person lessons. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

Submitted by  
Stuart Foster  
PMTA President



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

TMTA is looking to fill one board position, that of corresponding secretary. Diann Lopez has fulfilled that responsibility for several years and is wanting to step down but will join us as a member-at-large. Our Vice President, Meily Mendez, is also stepping down due to added responsibilities of caring for her elderly parents. Jayme Bigelow has agreed to step into that position. We also hope to welcome a new member-at-large, Astrid Chan. We will have a quick general meeting via Zoom as soon as we can fill the corresponding secretary position so that our membership can vote on these candidates. Fingers crossed that we won't have to cancel too many activities in the fall and that we all stay healthy! Best wishes to all our fellow teachers!

Marie Sierra  
President, TMTA



### **In Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Beethoven's Birth**



How the world performs Beethoven's 9th Symphony during the social-distancing of this pandemic.

- Live Performance ([click here](#)) (& scroll to the video)
- Zoom Performance ([click here](#))

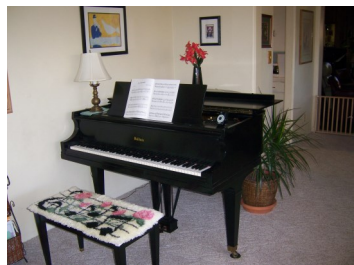


Musicians perform at a safe distance from each other. Picture: Grand Théâtre de Genève/Facebook

## My “New Normal” as an ASMTA Teacher: How the Pandemic Changed How I Teach and Collaborate

By Susan “Suszy” Traylor, *MusiGRAM* Editor

My world changed on March 16. The few weeks prior, I had become acutely aware of the need to wash hands frequently, wipe down piano keys, querying students if I heard a sniffle or a cough.



My husband is one of the especially vulnerable population if caught in the path of any virus. So, I was being extra careful. But when I heard the NBA was cancelling all their games for the rest of the season, and then the school districts were suspending classes for at least the next couple of weeks, I knew this COVID-19 coronavirus was serious. No one had to tell me to cancel piano lessons (but I did) or to stay at home (but I was going to).

And so it went. Within a week, one by one, the ASMTA conference cancelled, the MTNA conference cancelled, the Arizona Study Program cancelled (except for Level 12A students, that is), the PMTA annual luncheon cancelled. Meeting after meeting, event after event, all cancelled.

Luck would have it that I had coincidentally upgraded my computer and internet speed only two weeks earlier. This allowed me to easily, and quickly, start web-streaming my piano lessons. With the help of PMTA colleague, Jennifer Foxx’s many outstanding presentations on how to teach virtually, along with some last-minute YouTube research, ....and Zoom, I was up and running.

Not all of my students signed on right away to the new lesson format, but for those who did, all seemed happy to be able to continue with their lessons. I even dared to host my Spring Recital using Zoom, inviting students, parents, families and friends to collectively view the students’ pre-recorded performances. I was worried that the quality of the sound might be compromised by the “live stream”, so I chose to show recordings of their performances. (I may be more daring next time.)



Along the way I had to make adjustments in my procedures and equipment. I quickly had to obtain duplicate books/sheet music for each student because the video did not allow me to see the students’ music as I would have if I were sitting next to

them. Instead of handing each student their new “Weekly Assignment” page which I would print out at each lesson, instead, I had to remember to email their assignment pages at the end of the day. Although I could have easily just used my small Dell laptop with its built-in web camera and microphone, I found it much easier to see my student’s hands using a larger monitor (which I coincidentally had leftover from my recent computer upgrade. Yay!)

Early on in this new adventure, I had tried using my LogiTech portable webcam/mic. But sometime in late May, my Dell laptop started disliking it and refused to play nicely with it. So, I am back to using my Dell laptop’s webcam. Oh, if all these tech tools could just get along.

I did however, decide to splurge on buying a Yeti microphone. I am unsure yet if this is an improvement as I still have some testing to do (placement, settings and such).

In the meantime, all ASMTA, ASP and Piano Ensemble meetings were held using Zoom, looking like this (Arizona Study Program Committee meeting)...

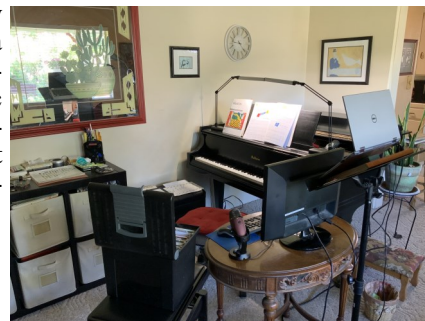


It was so good to see and talk to everyone and share our stories of what we are all going through.

I have not yet returned to in-person lessons, but I do look forward to it. The one thing I miss the most in the live-stream lesson is duet playing. If any of you have figured out how to play duets with your students “adequately” via Internet, let me know.

All in all, virtual technology made my life as a piano teacher during this pandemic not only pleasantly tolerable, but an interesting adventure, too.

If any of you has questions or would like to share a tip, feel free to contact me, Suszy Traylor, [suszy2@aol.com](mailto:suszy2@aol.com).



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