



Arizona State Music Teachers Association  
Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Kassandra Weleck, NCTM  
**ASMTA President**



Dear ASMTA Members,

It makes me happy to write you again and see the strength of our organization shining through these pandemic times. I have seen many programs move to online formats, including meetings, competitions, workshops, and performances. Local organizations are trying to ensure that members are receiving needed information, such as resources and communication. I'm proud of the work done by your, our incredible [ASMTA](#) members, to persevere through these trying times.

If you haven't already received a calendar of events from your local association, please reach out to your vice president or president for this. There's so many great things happening this fall! If you have something unique you'd like to share with other members, [let me know directly](#) and I'd love to put you in touch with others than can share your information. [MTNA](#) is offering many webinars online related to our current world as well as other important topics – you can find these archived online as well as watch them live on Friday afternoons. Finally, pick up the phone and call a colleague. What is that person up to? What can you share with them? What can they share with you? Keep that personal connection going in a time when we can't be together – it will make such a difference as we move forward.

I will say this again: being together makes us stronger in times of hardship. I rely on each of you daily to continue doing what you do – spreading the joy of music through teaching, performance, and providing opportunities to others.

Sincerely,

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

## ASMTA Board of Directors

### *Officers 2020-2021*

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<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
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<b>Certification</b>	Melodie Acker, NCTM
<b>Arizona Study Program</b>	Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Chase Coleman

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<b>CMTA (Cochise)</b>	Hope Struse
<b>EAMTA (Eastern Arizona)</b>	Trisha Simmons, NCTM
<b>EVMTA (East Valley)</b>	Sherin Moustafa NCTM
<b>NAMTA (Northern Arizona)</b>	TBD
<b>PMTA (Phoenix)</b>	Dr. Stuart Foster
<b>TMTA (Tucson)</b>	Marie Sierra

### *Administrative and Committee Appointees*

<b>Advertising</b>	Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM
<b>Archivist</b>	Shalvi D'Archangelo
<b>Arts Awareness</b>	TBD
<b>Competitions – Composition</b>	Devin Gardner
<b>Competitions – Performance</b>	Dr. Yali Lao
<b>College Faculty Forum</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
<b>Honors Recital</b>	Tanya Eldridge; Christopher Oill
<b>Independent Music Teachers Forum</b>	Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh, NCTM
<b>Membership</b>	Dr. Michelle Wachter
<b>MTNA Foundation</b>	TBD
<b>Publications Editor</b>	Susan Traylor, Pro Tem
<b>Student Chapters</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
<b>Technology</b>	TBD
<b>Website</b>	Susan Traylor





**ASMTA 1st VP**  
**Debbie Dinkel**

Dear ASMTA Members,

The new ASMTA 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.

We have new challenges at our doors with the virus still lingering. But in the process of refiguring how to accomplish our goals, we are learning new techniques and especially new technologies that will benefit all of us now and later. Hang in there and continue to pursue your goals and ambitions.

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.

Your Friend in Music,

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



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

The 2020-2021 MTNA AZ state competition will be held online via YouTube, November 5-10, 2020. Here are the important dates:

- September 23 — Registration deadline
- November 5 — Videos submission deadline
- November 10 — Announcement of winners

There is no state level competition for chamber music. Division and national competitions will be held online in January and March, respectively. There are 68 registrations this year.

**Guidelines for MTNA Arizona State YouTube Video Competitions**

The Guidelines are very detailed this year due to the change to the “virtual” competition. As such, you must read the Guidelines posted on the State Competitions page of the ASMTA website or by clicking here... [Guidelines](#).

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



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**3rd VP—Conference**  
**Hannah Creviston, NCTM**  
**And Lynnette Barney**  
**Co-Chairs**

We were very excited about the 2020 ASMTA Conference at ASU. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this event had to be canceled.

We are beginning discussions about the 2021 ASMTA Virtual Conference and look forward to bringing you a wonderful time of learning and community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hannah Creviston, NCTM, and Lynnette Barney  
2021 Conference Co-Chairs



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

Have you seen the new look of ASMTA's website? That's just one of the very many projects that have been under way over this past Summer and early Fall. We were able to add a few photos now, some ASMTA-related and others just stock photos. The Member login (Dashboard) is now a little more user-friendly. In case you missed it in the recent MusiEmail, I created a short [Member Login training video](#) with hopes of recruiting more members to use the Dashboard. Along with the new look of the website, you are also seeing a new, more contemporary-style ASMTA logo.

Also new to the website is the Arizona Study Program's Online Enrollment, requiring participating teachers to submit their enrollments "online" starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. Making payments by credit card or PayPal will be convenient for many teachers as well as be a great timesaver for the committee. (Offline payments by check are still accepted, but we are hoping teachers will soon adapt to the online payments.) An "ASP Online Enrollment" training video link will be sent in the October 15<sup>th</sup> MusiEmail, encouraging all teachers who wish to participate in ASP to view it before enrolling. **(You will need to be current on you member dues by October 30th and to know how to log in to your Member Dashboard in order to enroll in ASP.)**

(cont'd...)

I am delighted to tell you that ASMTA's Member Chair, Dr. Michelle Wachter (NAMTA), and your 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Debbie Dinkel (CMTA), have been doing a fantastic job organizing and launching ASMTA's monthly e-Blast, the MusiEmail. Thank you!

I am also happy to welcome to the board ASMTA's new Advertising Chair, Mary Beth Shaffer. She didn't waste any time. Only two weeks after her relocation from Colorado to Mesa, Arizona this summer, she was asking what she could do to help ASMTA. Thank you, Mary Beth!

If you or someone you know is interested in a very interesting position as 4<sup>th</sup> VP on the ASMTA board, please contact me or Kassandra Weleck, President.

If you have any questions about the website, member login, and Membership Directory or Find-A-Teacher listings, let me know at [suszy@aol.com](mailto:suszy@aol.com).

Wishing you all a well!

Susan 'Suszy' Traylor  
ASMTA 4th VP Pro Tem - Website & Publications



**Certification**  
**Melodie L. Acker, NCTM**

Greetings to all ASMTA members!

We have one new Nationally Certified Teacher! Meily Jamie Mendez from Tucson is now an NCTM! Congratulations!

If you are a local certification mentor, please contact me! If you would like to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) with MTNA, please contact me! I am happy to help any teachers with the certification process.

We would love to have several more teachers become certified in 2021!

I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Melodie  
Melodie L. Acker, NCTM  
ASMTA Certification Chair  
[melodieacker@cox.net](mailto:melodieacker@cox.net)

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

**Meily Jamie Mendez, NCTM, 2020**



**2021 James R. Anthony Honors Recital  
Tanya Eldridge and Christopher Oill,  
Co-Chairs**

Hello ASMTA members! Due to the pandemic, the Honors Recital will be virtual in 2021. Students will submit an application and 2 separate videos via YouTube; then they just wait for results and view the final recital from the comfort of their own homes—how easy and fun is that! Here are the dates for the event:

1. Monday, February 22: Registration opens
2. Saturday, April 24: Application must be submitted
3. Saturday, May 8: Videos must be submitted
4. Saturday, May 29: Results announced
5. Saturday, May 29: Winners Recital (Back-up day, May 30, in case of technical issues)

Specific application procedure and online rules will be available soon, at [asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/](https://asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/)

We're looking forward to the event, and we hope you are too!

Best,  
Christopher Oill and Tatyana Eldridge  
ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs



**Collegiate Chapter  
Hannah Creviston,  
NCTM, Chair**

[Piano Pedagogy Day](#) will be held on Saturday, October 3. This year's guest presenter is [Dr. Scott Price](#). There are many opportunities for involvement. For more information or to register, please visit: <https://music.asu.edu/events/asu-piano-pedagogy-day>



**Membership  
Michelle Wachter, DMA**

Welcome to the 2020–2021 year! As of September 27, ASMTA has 351 registered members. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newest members:

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Kryste Andrews      | Ming Luo          |
| James Christ        | Jonathan Moore    |
| Audrey Christiansen | Laura Osborn      |
| Mary DiBartolo      | Shawna Ostler     |
| Philip Godfrey      | Tim Saye          |
| Gregory Klug        | Mary Beth Shaffer |
| Karyne Kurets       | Matthew Tropman   |
| Fanya Lin           |                   |

If you have not yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible to continue to access all member resources, educational opportunities, publications, and services. MTNA has provided three easy options to renew: online at the [MTNA website](#), by calling MTNA at (888) 512-5278, or by emailing [mtnanet@mtna.org](mailto:mtnanet@mtna.org).

REMINDER: If you want to keep your listing on ASMTA's Find-a-Teacher list for 2020–2021, you must renew your MTNA/ASMTA membership by October 30<sup>th</sup>!

If I can be of any help with membership renewals or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch! My email is [michelle.wachter@nau.edu](mailto:michelle.wachter@nau.edu).

Sincerely,  
Michelle Wachter, DMA



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>

**Independent Music Teachers Forum  
(IMTF)**  
**Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh, NCTM, Chair**



Dear ASMTA members,

It is with great pleasure, honor, and humility for me to succeed Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk as State Chair for the Independent Music Teachers Forum. With your guidance and support, I hope to build upon the programs Dr.

Stojanovic-Kiriluk has so diligently developed during her term and further elevate IMTF's role to be a valuable resource for all members, including the instrumental and voice teachers who may be a minority in number in ASMTA, but are every bit vital to our organization, our teaching community, and especially to the students we serve.

You may have already received my self-introduction via email this past summer. However, many of you may still find me a stranger to the organization, I joined ASMTA in 1988 when I first moved to Arizona as a doctoral student at ASU. I was actively involved at all levels of the organization during the early 1990s. I have served as the Arizona Study Program Chair for EVMTA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President for ASMTA, as well as the Southwest Division Chair for the MTNA Wurlitzer-Collegiate Competitions. I was a member in both Central District (now Phoenix) MTA and East Valley MTA until I took a break from teaching to raise a family. Now that I'm empty-nested, I am ready to be more engaged with ASMTA again and hope to be of service to the organization and its members in my new role.

IMTF supports member teachers by providing ideas and resources in areas of, but not limited to, pedagogy and performance, student assessment programs, continuing teacher education, mentoring, professional networking, and business operations.

So August, I have reached out to local association presidents to present at their monthly meetings. East Valley, Phoenix, and Cochise MTAs have already graciously obliged. I hope to complete my visits to the remaining local associations in October. I'll be discussing with Student Chapter Chair Dr. Hannah Creviston at ASU on how best to connect and support, hence mutual benefit, the pedagogy students and member teachers.

Based on the current unprecedented global situation, my proposed areas of focus for 2020-2021 IMTF agenda include health and safety concerns for in-person instruction, remote/virtual instruction, remote assess-

ment programs, competitions via recordings, and scam alerts.

Presently, I'm putting together a survey to poll membership's interest levels in those areas which I'll be emailing to everyone, hopefully before long. I plan to host discussion sessions on Zoom to address those interests/concerns throughout the season. I look forward to receiving your input and to providing relevant support to members throughout the state, especially those in the more outlying parts of Arizona. The year promises to be unpredictable. Nonetheless, I feel confident we can help each other discover ways to overcome new challenges encountered and to provide some form of stability and normalcy, not only for ourselves, but for our students as well as our collective community.

Feel free to contact me to share your concerns, ideas, and resources at any time, or just simply to say "hello." I can be reached at [cmk467op53@cox.net](mailto:cmk467op53@cox.net) or by phone at (480) 451-8003. Email is always the most reliable way to reach me, but if you leave me a message on my voice mail, I will return your call.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Musically always,  
Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh, NCTM  
DMA MM BM FTCL LTCL  
ASMTA IMTF Chair



**Advertising**  
**Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM, Chair**

I would like to extend a special thank you to the following businesses who are currently partnering with ASMTA as advertisers:

Faber Piano Adventures  
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Please make sure to support these businesses throughout this year!

There are still opportunities for businesses to advertise with ASMTA on our website as well as in the 2021 Conference Booklet and MusiGRAM. For further information, please contact me at [mbs723@shafferstudio.net](mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net).





## Arizona Study Program

**Barbara Russell, NCTM,  
Chairman**



Amid the many changes we have experienced in our teaching over the past months, we can rest assured that some things will remain the same: the Arizona Study Program evaluations will occur as scheduled in May 2021.

Your ASP Committee is committed to the longevity of this program for both teachers and students. We do this on the shoulders of all those that have sacrificed both time and energy to make this program a reality for thousands of Arizona students each year.

Why is this important when our students are dealing with so many new changes in their personal and educational lives?

In early Spring when all the changes to our regular routines began to occur, I recall a teacher sharing with me that some students were choosing not to complete instruction for the spring semester because Study Program was canceled, and they felt "what is the point?"

This hit me hard as I reflected that the ASP evaluations are the culmination of the year's efforts for many students. To remove the reward removes the motivation for some. In turn, it affects teacher's incomes, professional interactions, and devalues the work that was done in preparation for an annual evaluation. That is why the ASP evaluations are vital to both teachers and students that need the predictability of curriculum pacing and musical goals. This program was founded on the need for student goals, and this need is more important than ever. We must move forward to define these objectives, despite the challenges we are experiencing presently.

Recently, I highlighted a quote in an article from *American Music Teacher* (August/September 2020) that greatly impacted me. Author Karen Thickstun, NCTM, wrote, "Children's brains are resilient. However, according to Lori Desautels, there are three conditions that the brain cannot handle-**chronic unpredictability**, isolation and physical/emotional restraint-and the pandemic heightens all three (Grieze 2020)".

We have little control over the requirements of social isolation and the physical/emotional restraint mentioned above, but we can affect the progress of chronic unpredictability with our students. How? As teachers and mentors, we put them on track to a regular curriculum that includes mastery and memorization of pieces from all style periods, we continue to teach theory concepts, we supplement their repertoire with technical exercises that make the advancing repertoire a realistic aim, and we continue to encourage them to set short term and long term goals as they work toward their ASP evaluations in the Spring. We need to let students know that some things stay the same, and lead them in defying this

"unpredictability" amid new methods. We have always volunteered to be mentors and examples to our students. We will continue this amid the changes.

Finally, consider the widespread ramifications of ASP going to an online format: students in remote areas that require lengthy travel to participate in ASP evaluations can now participate without the added burdens of travel time and expenses. In addition, we may easily forget that these evaluations are not offered in every state. Some teachers that have moved out of Arizona wish they could still participate. Now they can.

Encourage your students to prepare for the annual Arizona Study Program evaluation. Watch the videos on the ASMTA website in preparation for the online evaluations, check the MusiEblast for video resources, educate your students on preparing videos, reach out to your colleagues to share information, find a fellow teacher to share theory exam testing and grading, embrace the changes and learn all you can. Model confidence and positivity to your students as they prepare for the May evaluations. As a result, the online experience will benefit you as well as your students for the future.

Barbara Russell, NCTM  
Chairman, Arizona Study Program

Thickstun, Karen. "Possibilities in a Disrupted Economy."  
*American Music Teacher*, August/September 2020, p.12.



# Local Associations



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



Our EVMTA Board Members have been working tirelessly during the summer to improve our organization. We are excited to introduce our new website at <https://www.evmta.org>.

A special thank you goes out to our webmaster, Kevin Feeken. Kevin made navigating the website so much easier. A new feature of our website is it can now accept online registration forms, online payments and make it possible to easily download the yearbook in PDF format. The entire layout of the website looks a lot cleaner and easy to read. I invite all of you to check out our new website!

EVMTA hosted the Zoom Fall Social Kickoff on August 20th. In the past, we had an average of 65 out of the 120 active members attend the in-person event. Due to COVID-19, we had about 40 out of 95 active members attend. However, members were excited about our new website and really like the convenience of registering and making payments online.

Most of our activities this year are going to be hosted online. It is unfortunate that we had to cancel one of our most popular activities, the Piano Ensemble. After laying out many different options, our board members were unable to find a way to host this event given our current circumstances. Despite the cancellation of the Piano Ensemble, our activity chairmen are very much prepared for a great year ahead by offering performance opportunities online.

Submitted by,  
Sherin Moustafa, NCTM, EVMTA President



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



PMTA's 2020-21 is shaping up to be an online year. Our yearbook came out last week, and many of the dates and locations of events are TBD, as we hold out hope that we'll be able to have them in person, but it doesn't look good (especially since major events like ASP and the state conference have already made the decision to go online).

Regardless, our President-Elect Nellie Cronin has put together a wonderful year of programs. Two days ago we had our first General Meeting, where we were treated to a wonderful (online) presentation by our own Linda King titled "Technic Tips For Kids". We know for sure next month's meeting will be online as well, which will feature Dr. Carric Smolnik presenting on the topic of "Collaborative Piano". Most likely, so will November's, with Dr. Radmila S. Kiriluk speaking to us about students with special needs. There are fingers crossed when it comes to our December Holiday Gathering and our scheduled January masterclass, but as mentioned, if ASP and the ASMTA conference are already online.

As far as student events, our October 3 Student Recital (Cheryl Langley and Jelena Vladikovic, co-chairs) will almost certainly be online; our November Fall Festival (Tanya Eldridge and Bobbi Stoutenburgh, co-chairs) will be online, as will our first Adult Student Recital of the year and our first Vocal Student Recital, both scheduled for November 14. Plans are up in the air for our popular Music at the Mall in December. This event is currently chaired by Muriel Long alone, though we have been searching for someone to co-chair with her.

PMTA's greatest drama this year centers around what will be our 69<sup>th</sup> annual Piano Ensemble event, since it is a foregone conclusion that we will somehow maintain our streak as having the longest-running event of its kind *in the country*. The question is how to make it succeed online, and co-chairs Sue Shiner and Suszy Traylor are fearlessly attacking this problem as I write.

Submitted by  
Stuart Foster, PMTA President



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

Hello from Tucson!

TMTA just had the first general meeting for this upcoming year.

We are doing all we can to offer all the programs and events we always offer. Everything is tentative, however, as we wait and see what protocols we must follow.

All meetings are being held virtually until further notice and several events for this fall have been cancelled, including Kudos Recitals and Barnes & Noble Play-a-thon.

We look forward to a Holiday Luncheon in December(?).

Our Piano Ensemble Committee has worked hard to select music, get all pieces recorded and put on our website, and they are looking at options to make this beautiful concert happen in March.

Our new Cancellation and Refund Policy is on the website and we are ready for a year packed with activities. Fingers crossed!

Marie Sierra  
President, TMTA



**Attention!**

You must renew your MTNA/ASMTA dues by October 30th in order for you to continue to receive the following AMSTA Member benefits on the ASMTA website for the 2020/2021 year:

- Member Dashboard login
- Be listed in the Membership Directory
- Be listed on the Find-A-Teacher



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**Cochise Music Teachers Association**  
**Hope Struse, CMTA President**

No Submission from CMTA



**Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association**  
**President TBD**

No Submission from NAMTA



**Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association**  
**Trisha Simmons, NCTM**  
**EAMTA President**

No Submission from EAMTA



**Winter 2021 Publication Deadlines**

MusiGRAM submissions due February 15, 2021

MusiGRAM Published—February 28, 2021