



Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
ASMTA President



Dear ASMTA Members,

We've finished out another academic year and are now in the throes of summer in the desert. Almost 50% of us are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, allowing many activities we love to start appearing again on the horizon. As we look ahead to 2021-2022, there's a lot of hope that life can start returning to "music teacher normal" again, and we hope that you'll take advantage of your local association and ASMTA events once more.

The 91st ASMTA conference is a wrap! "Music Around the World" was a wonderful online success, and I can't thank the conference chairs, Lynnette Barney and Hannah Creviston, NCTM, enough for the hard work they put into making it successful. Martha Hilley's keynote address by candlelight (see photo on p.5) will stick in my memory for a very long time, and I hope you were all able to enjoy it too. Mark your calendars for 2022 – our 92nd ASMTA conference will be in Tucson on June 2-4. Look forward to seeing colleagues in person again!

We've had a great year with our new partnership with RCM. In total, RCM and ASMTA hosted 5 webinars to learn more about the program and its offerings, including a session on the violin program in April. Many thanks to all of you that participated in these webinars – please look forward to more in the coming year.

Thank you for the opportunity to have been your ASMTA president. These past 3+ years have been intense, fulfilling on so many levels, and an incredible ride. I had no idea I'd be "Pandemic President" when I agreed to be president elect so many years ago! It is very exciting for me to welcome Debbie Dinkel (CMTA) into the role of president for 2021-2023 – she brings a different perspective to the position as a violinist and MBA recipient, and I can't wait to see where she leads ASMTA.

Continued on p. 2...

ASMTA Board of Directors

Officers 2020-2021

President	Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
1st Vice Pres./Pres. Elect	Debbie Dinkel
2nd Vice President	Dr. Yali Luo
3rd Vice President	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
4th Vice President	Susan Traylor, Pro Tem
Treasurer	Lynnette Barney
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Certification	Melodie Acker, NCTM
Arizona Study Program	Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM
Immediate Past President	Chase Coleman

Local Associations

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

Administrative and Committee Appointees

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



... continued from p. 1

Please continue to be the amazing music instructor that you are, and I look forward to seeing you again in the near future.

Sincerely,

Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
ASMTA President
asmtapresident@gmail.com



ASMTA 1st VP
Debbie Dinkel

Dear ASMTA Members,

As the 2020-2021 ASMTA year comes to an end, we have all experienced a very unique year with new challenges and opportunities. Among these have been the continuation of developing new technological methods of reaching our students to provide instruction, encouragement, and inspiration. Although some of it has been exhausting, so much more has developed into additional ways of teaching and reaching out to students, fellow teachers, and our communities. The investment of time and efforts is well rewarded in the eyes and attitudes of our 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 am looking forward to becoming your new President in July and working with each of you in one capacity or another. I want to offer a huge thank you to Kassandra Weleck for her wonderful leadership these past three years as President. I'm so grateful that she'll continue as Immediate Past President to advise me along the way. She is and has been a truly remarkable leader and representative for ASMTA.

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



ASMTA Archivist,
Shalvi D'Archangelo

Continuing our
93-Year Collection of Archives!!

Take a peak at the Archives link:
<https://repository.asu.edu/items/38832>

Grad students in University Music Departments are already researching our online documents. Most of our existing files are from ASMTA and PMTA, however all other ASMTA local chapters have their reports in the MusiGRAMs since 1961. Everyone is invited to participate in our further documentation of Music History in AZ!



Inside This Issue

President's Letter	1
Board of Directors 2020/2021.....	1
1st VP; & Archivist.....	2
2nd VP.....	4
3rd VP & 4th VP;	
2021 James Anthony Honors Recital.....	5
Advertising & Membership.....	6
Independent Music Teachers Forum & Collegiate	
Chapter	7
Arizona Study Program	8
Local Associations.....	10-12
MusiGram Deadlines.....	11

Changes in Leadership for 2021/2022

Thank you outgoing ASMTA Board Members!

- * Kassandra Weleck, NCTM —President
- * Hannah Creviston, NCTM —3rd VP (with Conference Co-Chair, Lynnette Barney)
- * Susan Traylor—4th VP
- * Christopher Oill and Tanya Eldridge—Honors Recital

Welcome to our new ASMTA Board Members, as of 7/1/2021!

- * Debbie Dinkel—President
- * Dr. Michelle Wachter – 1st Vice President
- * Dr. Ian Houghton and Gloria Singleton— 3rd Vice Presidents (Conference Co-Chairs)
- * Kassandra Weleck, NCTM—Immediate Past President
- * Lynn Moser, NCTM—Secretary
- * Yelena Golberg and Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM—Honors Recital
- * Dr. JingHua Pu—Advertising
- * Susan Traylor—Website
- * Heather Baldwin — Publications Editor
- * Nina Tahbaz—MusiEmail (with Michelle Wachter)
- * Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM—EVMTA President
- * Rebecca Cauthen – NAMTA President
- * Nellie Cronin—PMA President
- * Jayme Bigelow—TMTA President



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

MTNA Competition 2021 — Congratulations!

The MTNA national competition (final round) was held virtually back in March 2021.

Contestants from Arizona State took national first place in Senior Duet Category, second place in Young Artist Piano category, and third place in Young Artist Woodwind category as follows:

- First place winners in Senior duet - Nathan Lam and Rachel Dai, students of Yali Luo
- Second place winner in Young Artist Piano - John Solari, student of Baruch Meir
- Third place winner in Young Artist Woodwind - Matthew Fox, student of Christopher Creviston
- Saadhvi Jayaram, student of Rosa LoGiudice, took first place in Elementary Composition Category

Schedule of upcoming 2021-2022 MTNA competitions —

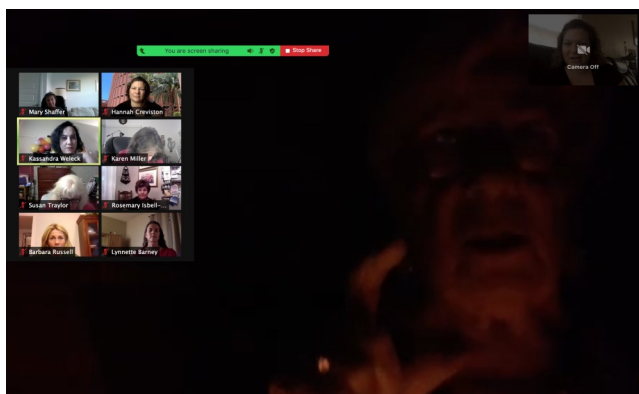
Arizona State: November 5-15 (2021),
Virtual Southwest division: January (2022),
Virtual National: March 26-30 (2022), Minneapolis, MN.

Dr. Yali Luo
2nd VP



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

The 91st ASMTA State Conference was held virtually on Friday, May 28, 2021. We had 45 people register for a day full of learning about “Music Around the World”. There were five guest clinicians who presented on pedagogical repertoire of Honduran, Latin American, Mexican, African-American, Asian and women composers. The day also included a panel on evaluation programs (ASP, RCM, ABRSM and Keyboard Gymnastics) and a full slate of vendor showcases.



The day closed with a “Bring your own Meal” Gala featuring Martha Hilley, who spoke to us via electric candlelight due to a power outage in TX), awards and recognitions for many of our members and a concert featuring AZ’s national prizewinners and performances of repertoire which was featured in the sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Creviston, NCTM, Conference Co-Chair
Lynnette Barney, Conference Co-Chair



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

I am delighted to tell you that starting with the Fall issue of the MusiGram, I am turning the MusiGram Editor reigns over to your new, and most capable editor, Heather Baldwin. (If you haven’t seen the beautiful Conference booklet she put together for this year’s conference, check it out now on our Conference web page or [click here](#).)

I will remain on the board to help maintain the website. 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.

It has truly been my honor serving as your 4th VP.

Susan ‘Suszy’ Traylor, ASMTA 4th VP Pro Tem
- Website & Publications



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

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 ASMTA James R. Anthony Honors Recital. All adjudicators agreed that the students in Arizona are exceptional! If you would like to see the results of the competition, you may visit <https://www.asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/>.

This will be the last year for us as co-chairs, and Yelena Golberg and Mary Beth Shaffer will be taking over. We are glad to have taken part in shaping the future of the event, and we know Yelena and Mary Beth will do a fine job!

Sincerely,

Honors Recital Co-Chairs
Christopher Oill and Tatyana Eldridge





Advertising
Mary Beth Shaffer,
NCTM, Chair

ASMTA would like to thank the following businesses, schools and organizations for supporting us through advertising this year! ASMTA is pleased to announce that a total of \$3385.00 was raised for our organization.

ASMTA Local Associations:

CMTA
TMTA
EVMTA
EAMTA
NAMTNA
PMTA

ASP (Arizona Study Program)
ASU (Arizona State University)
Az Piano
Chapin Piano Service
Classics Unlimited Music LLC
Faber Piano Adventures
FJH Music Company
Match My Sound
Mesa Community College
My First Piano
PianoFonics
Piano Marvel
RCM (Royal Conservatory of Music)
Stilwell Pianos
Southwest Pianos
The Practice Space Platform

Submitted by,

Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM,
Advertising Chair



Membership Chair
Michelle Wachter, DMA

Welcome to summer! As of June 27, 2021, ASMTA has 436 total registered members. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newest members:

Paula Beatty	Stephanie Krueger
Caitlyn Bergen	Silvan Negrutiu
Colette Fallon	Sarah Pignatello
Camille Green	Emily Ruth
Richard Greer	Georgie Sears
Gail Holdeman	Yinglan Zhao

Membership renewals are now open for the 2021–2022 year. Please renew by July 1 to retain uninterrupted access to all member resources, educational opportunities, publications, and services. MTNA has provided three easy options to renew: online at the [MTNA website](https://www.mtna.org), by calling MTNA at (888) 512-5278, or by emailing mtnanet@mtna.org. If you want to keep your listing on ASMTA's Find-a-Teacher list for 2021–2022, you must renew your MTNA/ASMTA membership by October 30th.

On a personal note, thank you for allowing me to serve as Membership Chair for the past year. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you!

Sincerely,

Michelle Wachter, DMA
ASMTA Membership Chair



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



Dear ASMTA Members,

The Independent Music Teachers Forum continued to reach out to local associations and collegiate chapters with the presentation of *Assessments Part I - An Overview and Assessments Part II - A Closer Look at ABRSM* at the joint NAMTA and the Collegiate Chapter at NAU meetings in February and April respectively. NAMTA president **Rebecca Cauthen** graciously invited all ASMTA members to attend the April meeting, to compliment an earlier webinar for the general membership on *ABRSM Exams & Its Range of Assessment Programs* in February.

Additional virtual workshops on Zoom were held February through April to address the interests and concerns that are mainly pandemic-driven as expressed by ASMTA members in the November 2020 online survey. In February, **Jodie Carter** from Henderson, NV presented a selection of games, for use in both in-person and virtual lessons, to enhance student engagement and concept reinforcement, as well as shared ideas in student recruitment during the pandemic, in *Fun Music Games to engage Students*. In early March, EVM-TA member **Mary Beth Shaffer** worked with a beginning level student in a 45-minute virtual demonstration lesson, followed by a Q&A discussion. Later that month, former ASMTA/TMTA member **Jared Immerman** introduced members to recording equipment and helpful tips in preparing videos for a variety of virtual events, including the Arizona Study Program and the Honors Recital.

A panel discussion *Recruiting Students during the Pandemic* was originally planned for late April, but as COVID vaccinations became more widely available throughout the state and more teachers returned to in-person teaching, such a session was deemed less relevant and, therefore, cancelled.

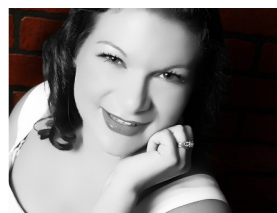
Looking ahead, IMTF will work with local associations to bring workshops on other topics suggested in the November 2020 survey: *professional networking & the business of being an independent music teacher; recruitment strategies & ideas; dynamic lessons for all ages & levels of students; the holistic curriculum: theory & musi-*

cianship skills as part of a student's musical diet; technology in the classical music studio; and injury prevention for musicians. So, watch for updates in upcoming monthly MusiEmail and local MTA newsletters.

As always, feel free to contact me at cmk467op53@cox.net if you have any questions or concerns.

Musically always,

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



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

We are thrilled to announce the Third Annual ASU/ASMTA Piano Pedagogy Day, featuring Guest Clinician Ms. Gail Berenson and ASMTA collegiate members. Join us on Saturday, October 30, 2021 for an exciting virtual event!

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Creviston, NCTM
Collegiate Chapter Chair





Arizona Study Program

**Barbara Russell, NCTM,
Chairman**



Greetings Arizona Teachers! I hope you are enjoying a restful summer after an extremely unique year of teaching. With the 2021 ASP online evaluations behind us, it is time to look forward to the 2021-2022 teaching year. There is much to be learned from the past year, and we must look for the positive strides that were made. These include the participation of 198 Arizona teachers, 1481 students enrolled, the groundwork laid for an online evaluation process, and the ASP enrollment that is now online. What a tremendous benefit this will be for future evaluations.

Please take a moment to recognize and thank your outstanding ASP Local Chairs for their hard work and dedication. These include Karen Miller from Cochise Music Teachers Association, Lara Holt, Debbie Saifi NCTM, Andrew O'Brien NCTM, and Deann Mortensen, Enrollment Chair, all from East Valley Music Teachers Association, Janice Holladay NCTM, from Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association, Rita Borden NCTM, from Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association, Barbara Stoutenburgh NCTM, and Susan Traylor from Phoenix Music Teachers Association, and Karen Van Sickle and David DeSoucey from Tucson Music Teachers Association. These local chairs had the invaluable help of members that volunteered their time and talents to make it all possible.

We must extend our sincere appreciation to the ASP Committee for their contributions as well. These include Sherry Lenich NCTM, our ASP Secretary, Fran Kaspar NCTM, for our beautiful certificates, Francisco Naranjo, ASP Treasurer, for the preparation of all James Anthony Award checks and those for our adjudicators, Susan Traylor, Technology Chair, who made it all possible, and Jill Tabata for the handling of ribbons and plaques.

We also must thank our valued ASP adjudicators and participating teachers that navigated the online process. None of this would be possible without the contributions of everyone involved. Thank you!

Finally, thank you for what you all have taught me over the past year:

*Learn from the past.
Hindsight is a wonderful teacher.*

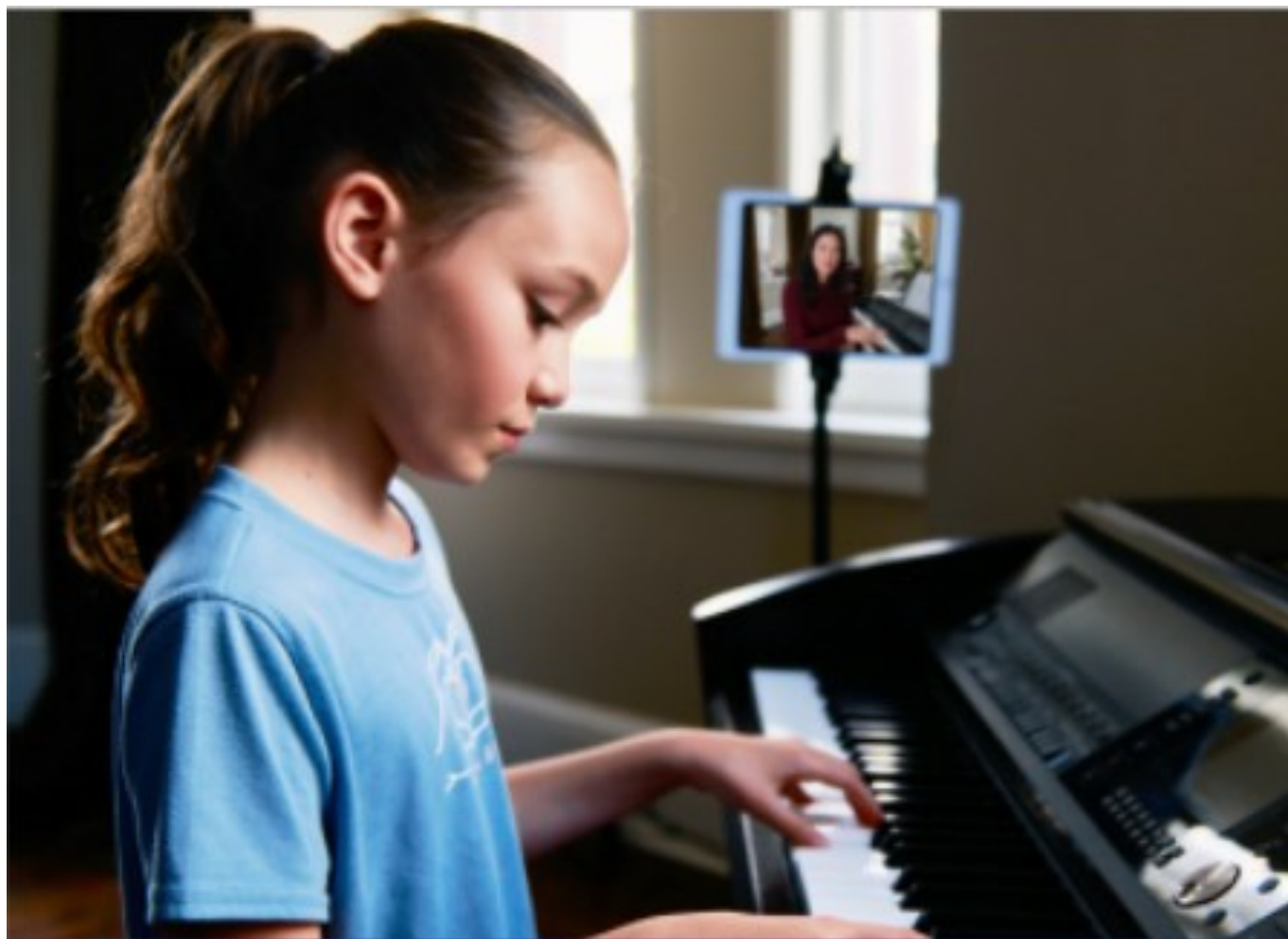
*Embrace change.
Our greatest growth comes from change.*

*Accept the challenges of the future.
They will inevitably come and we will endure.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Russell, NCTM
ASP State Chairman





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From the very start of the remote exam, I experienced the presence of the examiner as if in-person. The quality of the call was clear and was maintained without any interruptions throughout the exam. The part I liked best was that I was able to musically enhance my recital pieces with the stress-level being low.

There is nothing better than playing on your own piano for a certifying exam from the comfort zone of your own home!

- RCM Student, Maya Krishnan



Local Associations



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

November 21st, 2020

Live @ Kino

St. Andrews Apostolic Church in Sierra Vista
13 student participants
5 teachers represented
Funded by CMTA

March 6th, 2021

Inge Young Competition

19 student participants
5 teachers represented
Chairperson: Debbie Dinkel
Funded by CMTA

April 10th, 2021

Live @ Kino

St. Andres Apostolic Church in Sierra Vista
22 student participants
5 teachers represented
Funded by CMTA

Senior Recitals spring 2021

May 8, May 9, May 22, May 25, June 5
6 student participants
4 teachers represented
Funded by CMTA

Senior Scholarships Spring 2021

5 student participants
5 teachers represented
Funded by CMTA

Educational Advancement

6 teachers benefited
3 presenters (music composition, technique toolbox, rhythm pedagogy)
Funded by CMTA

Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association

Trisha Simmons, NCTM
EAMTA President

Things have been relatively quiet in the Gila Valley. We weren't able to have our usual workshop this spring. But with the help of the outlying association grant all of our members were able to register for the MTNA virtual conference.

We are looking forward to next fall and returning to all our usual activities.

Trisha Simmons
EAMTA President



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





East Valley Music Teachers Association

**Sherin Moustafa NCTM,
EVMTA President**

EVMTA hosted many activities for students and members this Spring.

In January, our Vice-President Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk presented a workshop on how to teach piano to special needs students. In February, our 2nd Vice-President Dr. Karali Hunter hosted an



intermediate level master class. And in March, Dr. Michelle Wachter from NAU gave a presentation on how to give effective feedback to students. Except for the master class that was hosted as a hybrid, the other two members workshops were hosted virtually. We had approximately 30 members in attendance for each

workshop and have received many positive feedbacks from our members.

EVMTA's February student activity was the Ensemble. However, it was cancelled due to COVID-19.

EVMTA's In-Person Spring Recital was held on Saturday, March 20th, and it was a success. Due to COVID-19, we had less people registered with a total of 27 students. We divided the students into two recitals to accommodate for social distancing and to follow the safety guidelines according to the CDC.

EVMTA's Senior Recital and Awards Ceremony was held on April 16th at Hammer & Strings Recital Hall. The event was intimate, about 15 people in attendance for 4 seniors. Each teacher talked about their students' successes and the Senior Awards were given to all 4 very deserving students.

During our April virtual luncheon, members voted for our incoming President Elect, Dr. Jessica Yam. The vote passed and Jessica will officially become EVMTA's Vice-President beginning July 1st, 2021.

Submitted by,
Sherin Moustafa, NCTM
EVMTA President



Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association

Rebecca Cauthen, President

NAMTA has had a quiet year. Several of our teachers have been busy working with students and submitting videos for the Arizona Study Program. We nominated Rita Borden for the 2020 Janice McCurnin/Beatrice Searles Honored Teacher Award. Rita Borden was elected as our NAMTNA member of the year. In February, Mandarin G. Cheung-Yueh gave us very informative zoom presentation ASMTA IMTF: Assessments for Students.

Rebecca Cauthen,
NAMTA President



Fall 2021 Publication Deadlines

MusiGram submissions due September 15, 2021

MusiGram Published— September 30, 2021



Phoenix Music Teachers Association
Dr. Stuart Foster, PMTA President

All of PMTA's general meetings were online this winter/spring, including our end-of-year April "luncheon". In January, we heard Professor Walter Cosand give an outstanding "Zoomclass". The audio may have been less than ideal, but the performers and Prof. Cosand handled it very well, and he had very valuable advice for both students and teachers. Dr. Guy Whatley gave us important insights into understanding and preventing musicians' injuries in February; and Becker KB talked to us in March about achieving the "essential performance mindset", which was inspiring and most certainly gave us a lot to think about. For the April meeting, I think we all were a little unsure how an online "luncheon" would turn out; and the answer was easy: lots of easy social interaction and a fun time, same as if it had been in person! [A tribute, I'm sure, to how we're all quite used to this online communication thing by this time, and adapt to it quickly.]

As far as other meetings and events, we had a successful Sharing Plus meeting at the end of January, which partly turned out to be a walk down memory lane thinking of some of our favorite teaching music; our Performance Plus meeting was canceled, as were our vocal events and the final student recital; but the second student recital was impressive, with links of students' performances being provided to members.

A definite highlight was our Piano Ensemble event – totally different as a livestreaming event, but still fun with a lot of great performances. The event took place at all due to an immense amount of work and creativity from the Piano Ensemble Committee, most notably Francisco Naranjo and Co-Chairs Sue Shiner and Suszy Traylor; not to mention all the time and effort put in by the participants and families involved, who showed great cooperation and willingness to roll with some very different circumstances!

Our second virtual Elder Competition was a great success, with 58 pianists submitting video performances (which is a lot of students for this



competition). We took advantage of it being online to hire excellent judges from other parts of the country (one from Michigan, 2 from Indiana). All performances were made available to our members, a great chance to hear a very high caliber of playing.

Recently, of course, many of us were busy with ASP, first preparing our own students; then helping with the adjudication of others' students.

Submitted by
Stuart Foster, PMTA President



Tucson Music Teachers Association
Marie Sierra, TMTA President

Greetings from Tucson!

Although this year has been challenging, our teachers have worked tirelessly to bring meaningful activities to our students.

In February we held a virtual general meeting where we enjoyed a panel discussion on Teaching Strategies during the Pandemic, during which we shared ideas and learned from one another.

In March we started piano ensemble rehearsals and had a fabulous concert in April, all outdoors and safe! This event was like a breath of fresh air for our students (over 200 of them) and their families.

April 24th was our Festival in the Mall with 46 students and 9 teachers participating. Our final meeting of the year will be held virtually on May 16, when we will vote in new officers and listen to recorded performances by our scholarship winners.

TMTA congratulates and thanks Diann Lopez, our 2021 Teacher of the Year. We will honor her at our meeting May 16.

Looking forward to our State Conference soon!

Marie Sierra
President, TMTA

