



MusiGram

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

Winter
2022

Debbie Dinkel ASMTA President

Dear ASMTA Members,

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope your year has begun with a bang, with lots of new and exciting plans for the upcoming months. This time of year seems to bring a plethora of concerts and recitals, along with ensemble and festival events.



Our ASMTA Conference will be held June 2-4 at the El Conquistador Resort in Tucson. The theme is "The Hybrid Studio: Teaching in the Post-Zoom Era." Our keynote speaker, concert artist and masterclass clinician will be Charles Albright. Please look at his impressive bio as you check out the details on our website (www.asmta.org/events/state-conference/). Gloria Singleton and Ian Houghton are doing a marvelous job putting the conference together. Look for more information from them and on our website. Plan to attend and invite others to come with you. It'll be very informative and interesting!

The MTNA National Conference will be held online March 26-30. Consider attending. Visit www.mtna.org/conference for more information. For more learning, MTNA is offering many webinars online on a large variety of topics. You can find archived webinars as well as live on Friday afternoons at www.mtna.org.

Springtime also brings awards to our members. Among these are the Local Association Teacher of the Year awards, Honored Teacher of the Year Award, and ASMTA's Honorary Lifetime Award. All of the nominations will be forthcoming.

ASP will be happening in May. Look for Barb Russell's report for more details.

Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or comments for ASMTA. Your input is very important. Our Board works diligently to bring opportunities to teachers and students alike with our programs and activities. Enjoy a beautiful spring! I look forward to seeing each of you at our Conference.

Sincerely,
Debbie Dinkel
ASMTA President
asmtapresident@gmail.com

ASMTA Board of Directors

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Competitions – Performance	Dr. Yali Luo
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Honors Recital	Yelena Golberg
	Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM
Independent Music Teachers Forum (IMTF)	Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, NCTM
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MTNA Foundation	TBD
Publications Editor	Heather Baldwin
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Michelle Wachter
ASMTA 1st Vice President

Welcome to 2022! I hope your year has started off with meaningful teaching moments and music making.

Throughout the fall of 2021, our local associations offered a full slate of educational and performance activities for students and teachers. I was able to attend a few of these recitals over the last few months, and each was filled with wonderful performances from our students. In December, I attended EVMTA's Composers Celebration Concert in person. With over 100 students participating, it was a joyous series of recitals filled with both holiday tunes and traditional repertoire. I also attended NAMTA's December recital and meeting, which was filled with even more holiday arrangements and delightful performances of classical repertoire. Hearing so many students perform live was uplifting, and a wonderful start to the holiday season.

In January, I virtually attended TMTA's and the University of Arizona's masterclass with Dr. Peter Mack. The masterclass session, as well as his lecture, are available on the [University of Arizona's](#) YouTube page, and I highly recommend checking out both. Mack gave scores of helpful teaching tips, and the students presented fabulous performances. Congratulations to all these performers and their teachers!

Despite the continuing challenges of COVID, I hope you get a chance to explore the offerings from your local associations this spring. Students are busy preparing for competitions and recitals, and there are a host of workshops that you can attend. Plus, our state conference will be a wonderful chance to come together in person to celebrate music and learn about new tools and techniques that can enhance our teaching. I hope to meet many of you there in June!

I wish you all a musical and safe 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Wachter
ASMTA 1st VP

Ian Houghton
Gloria Singleton
ASMTA Co-3rd Vice President

ASMTA Conference June 2-4, 2022
Hilton El Conquistador, Tucson

Call for Presenters and Proposals!

Do you have a topic you would like to present at ASMTA Conference? Send us your proposal! The hybrid theme is meant to encourage the discussion of both new technologies and 'traditional' topics in music education. We look forward to hearing from you and what you would like to share with your colleagues.

Possible Proposal Formats:

- Presentation (individual, group, or panel) 20 or 50 minutes
- Lecture Recital: 20 or 50 mins
- Lightning Talk: 5 mins

Proposal Requirements:

- Exact title of proposed session as it would appear on the program
- Format of proposed session
- 60-word session description for program guide
- 250-word abstract/session description for committee review
- 100 (or fewer) word biography for each and all presenters
- Headshot for program guide (color preferred; minimum 300dpi)

Deadline for Proposals: March 31, 2022

Submit proposals to:

Dr. Ian Houghton at ianhoughtonpiano@gmail.com

Conference Theme:

The Hybrid Studio: Teaching in the Post-Zoom Era

The past two years have required us all to make enormous adjustments to our way of teaching. From online lessons to virtual recitals, music education has adapted to a new paradigm like never before. Consequently, numerous technologies and practices have made their way into our profession with lasting influence and staying power. Our conference will discuss the new technologies that have arisen out of this period along with celebrating traditional topics that remain pertinent as our studios return to in-person normalcy. By sharing these new tools and ideas, we can better adapt to the needs of students and foster greater excellence and enjoyment in the art of music making.

Keynote Speaker, Concert Artist and Masterclass Clinician:

Charlie Albright

Charlie recently played an eight-concert series with the Philly Pops during their holiday series. His agent shared several videos with us and reiterated that Charlie is excited to visit Arizona this summer. Check out these video links:



Silver Bells: https://youtu.be/-h8wV_kNv1Q

I'll Be Home for Christmas: <https://youtu.be/235KAe2r09w>

See Amid the Winter's Snow: <https://youtu.be/czpCvIWUgao>

Touch the Peace: <https://youtu.be/PfyJ20F9bM0>

Liberace-Albright Christmas Medley: <https://youtu.be/3g4YYdJ2fOM>

Bio and information: <https://www.charliealbright.com/about>

Make plans to attend Conference now! You won't want to miss it. Hotel reservation information and booking link are on the ASMTA website. Book now for a great rate at a wonderful resort: <https://www.asmta.org/events/state-conference/>

Astrid Morales Torres
ASMTA 4th Vice President

Dear ASMTA members,

As I continue my first term as 4th Vice President, I am excited to contribute in as many ways as possible. I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with all of you and continue learning from each of you. We are excited to have Dr. Fanya Lin as our new Advertising Chair and I would like to thank Dr. JingHua Pu for all of her hard work in this position.

As the Art Awareness Chair, I have been brainstorming what we could do as an organization to make a difference in this matter. If any of you have any ideas or thoughts on how we can spread awareness throughout our communities, please send them to me directly: astrid.morales@asu.edu.

Have a musical 2022!

Sincerely,

Astrid Morales Torres



Hannah Creviston, NCTM
Collegiate Chapter Chair

MTNA Collegiate Chapter at ASU – Report for January 2022

Last semester, the ASU Collegiate Chapter met once virtually to elect new officers. We also held our Third Piano Pedagogy Day (virtually, again) with Guest Clinician Prof. Gail Berenson. Her topics included “The Role of the Teacher in Keeping Our Students Healthy” and “Strategies for Coping with Performance Anxiety.” It was a wonderful day of learning and sharing.



Respectfully submitted,
Prof. Hannah Creviston
Advisor

MTNA Collegiate Chapter at NAU – Report for January 2022

Last semester, the MTNA Collegiate Chapter at NAU held two meetings. The first meeting included a vote on our new officers, as well as information on the benefits of MTNA for new and potential members. During the second meeting, we brainstormed and prepared for the rest of the year’s activities. In December, members of our Collegiate Chapter played for residents of The Peaks, a senior living community in Flagstaff. The residents loved it so much that they asked if we could play for them every Friday!

Submitted by Melissa La Spisa, President
Collegiate Chapter of MTNA at NAU

Nina Tahbaz
ASMTA Membership Chair

I hope you all have had a good start into the new year 2022!

As of January 18, 2022, ASMTA has a total number of 427 active members. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newest members:



Siyi Chen	Ya-Li Chung Pekowski	Siyuan Zhang
Jisook Park	Chenbaixue Yang	Mikenna Giauque
Dan Dennis	Gabrielle Hubler	Chun-Ya PienTeena
Emily Schuler	Holly Nicole Hornyan	Youngseon Lim
Anjun Zheng	Natalie Paige Mealey	Christian Martin
Chris Fresolone	Lauren Henely-Schulte	Sophia Su
N. Keuper		

Did you know about the Six-Month/Trial Membership for new members? Six-Month/Trial Membership is available only to individuals meeting active membership criteria who have never been an MTNA member. The six-month/trial membership is effective January 1 – June 30. The national dues are discounted by 50% during this time with many states and locals also offering a discount. When joining online during the trial period, the dues rates shown will reflect the discounted amount. This membership expires June 30 and will require that full membership dues be paid at that time.

If you have any questions regarding membership renewals, please contact me at ntahbaz@asu.edu.

Sincerely,

Nina Tahbaz

ASMTA Membership Chair

Yelena Golberg
Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM
ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs

We are pleased to announce that this year’s Honors Recital will be held in person!

Date: Saturday, June 4, 2022

Location: El Conquistador Resort in Oro Valley

Time: TBA

Please note the following deadlines:

1. Applications may be submitted online on the ASMTA website beginning **Monday, February 21, 2022** and no later than **11:59 p.m.** on **Friday, April 22, 2022**.

2. All application fees must be paid either online at the ASMTA web site or by check (payable to ASMTA) **postmarked by Friday, April 22, 2022** and sent to: Yelena Golberg, 5704 E. Aire Libre Ave., #1018, Scottsdale, AZ 85254.

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Honors Recital, Cont. from p. 3

3. If the number of applicants requires that preliminary auditions be held, they will be held via video recordings. Video recordings must be:

a. Posted to YouTube by **11:59 pm on Wednesday, May 4, 2022**.

b. The link(s) to your video(s) must be emailed to Mary Beth Shaffer, mbs723@shafferstudio.net, also by **Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 11:59 pm**.

Special thanks to Margaret Ruccolo for generously providing the [JAMES SAVERIO RUCCOLO PIANO SOLO AWARDS](#) again this year. These awards are offered in memory of Dr. James Saverio Ruccolo, a pianist/composer and a Professor Emeritus of Arizona State University. Dr. Ruccolo was also an active contributor to the Arizona State Music Teachers Association, Piano Division between 1975-1985.

Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to the Pee-Yaw Wilkes Endowment for the [PEE-YAW WILKES ENDOWMENT AWARD](#). This award was established in honor of Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes, a long-time ASMTA member and teacher in the Flagstaff area, who produced some of the highest-caliber competitive pianists during her tenure. The award serves to promote support and encouragement to promising, talented young pianists.

Further information regarding the 2022 Honors Recital may be found on the ASMTA website at the following link: <https://www.asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/>.

Submitted by ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs
Yelena Golberg
Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM



Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh, NCTM

ASMTA Independent Music Teachers Forum (IMTF) Chair

Dear ASMTA members,

I hope everyone has enjoyed a restful winter break and continues to stay well. As we settle into the third year of the COVID pandemic, most member-teachers have returned to in-person lessons. IMTF has planned a slate of Zoom workshops on lesson planning and unconventional repertoire that may bring a bit of relief to our COVID-fatigued existence.

To spice up Valentine's Day, our immediate past-president Dr. Cassandra Weleck will arm teachers with lesson activities and music when students claim they have only one "good" hand in a Zoom presentation of [Lesson & Repertoire for the One-Handed Student](#). Guest-speaker and fellow teacher Ms. Jodie Jensen from Colorado Springs will spark teachers' imaginations with ideas for both individual and group instruction in [Putting Together a Dynamic Lesson](#) on February 28. Further ahead, EVMTA member Dr. Karali Hunter and our First Vice President Dr. Michelle Wachter will engage teachers in a two-part presentation of *Beyond the Conventional Solo Repertoire: Transcriptions, Arrangements, Duets & More*.

State Certification Chair Melodie Acker and I held a first Zoom Town Hall on November 5 to gather feedback from member-teachers seeking MTNA Certification and to address concerns/challenges, as well as to offer guidance and support. A [second Zoom Town Hall](#) is scheduled for February 4, with additional monthly sessions as we continue to develop a series of on-going workshops to better support member-teachers as they journey through their certification process. We aim to unveil these support workshops at the 2022 State Convention.

Finally, I continue to work closely with Debbie Dinkel, Cassandra Weleck, and Dr. Michelle Wachter on finalizing the Terms of Agreement with ABRSM in adopting its exams as an assessment program for ASMTA's members and their students, upon which a series of Zoom sessions will be scheduled to familiarize teachers with the different subjects, exam formats, syllabuses, and exam preparation support ABRSM offers.

To register for any of the above events, simply click on the hyperlinks or watch for announcements and reminders in the upcoming issues of MusiEmail.

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

Your ASMTA IMTF Chair,
Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh

AmazonSmile

Did you know... You can support the Arizona State Music Teachers Association through your Amazon purchases! Simply (1) log into AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) with your Amazon account, (2) search for ASMTA (Arizona State Music Teachers Association – Tucson, AZ) in the charities available, and (3) set it as your charity of choice. Eligible purchases will then provide a percentage back to ASMTA.

Log in and start donating today!

Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM
Arizona Study Program



Happy New Year! The coming of a new year brings promise and hope to the future. It is an opportunity to improve in all that we do. Yet, it also offers a moment to reflect on the past and use knowledge gained to better our future.

As we move into 2022, the Arizona Study Program Committee has approved the return to in-person evaluations for ASP this spring. It seems a lifetime since we gathered in person with participating students, teacher volunteers, esteemed adjudicators, and all those who play a part in the ASP evaluation process. It will be an exciting time to reconnect with one another face to face.

Over the past two years as we have been forced to conduct evaluations online, we have indeed made positive strides in the entire ASP process. Foremost, the enrollment process is now entirely online, a task that we have been contemplating for several years. Secondly, the pandemic has forced us to explore the technological possibilities that we may have avoided had we not been forced to educate ourselves. These include the downloading and exchange of fillable forms, eliminating postage costs. In addition, we have improved our skills in the recording process as we learned to submit performance videos with our students and parents.

As we experience these changes, which I view as benefits, we will also need to remain flexible in what a return to in-person may require of us. It will not simply be a return to pre-pandemic procedures. There will be changes, many unforeseen at this point, but we can navigate the new process for the benefit of our students. For example, we must comply with ASP venue requirements at the time of our scheduled evaluations this April and May. This may be the required wearing of masks and maintaining appropriate social distancing. Teachers will be notified of any venue requirement changes if we receive any new protocol instructions. Fundamentally, we will need to comply and cooperate with our venues for the benefit of in-person evaluations. This is little to ask in exchange for a return to a live event.

As we embrace the new year, we must embrace the new challenges. But this we will do together. I wish you health and peace in the coming semester and look forward to seeing you this Spring!

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Barbara Russell
ASP State Chairman



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LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Hope Struse

President, Cochise Music Teachers Association

Greetings from Cochise Music Teacher's Association! As we are just getting started with the new year we hope this find you well and eagerly anticipating what 2022 will bring us.

Most of our annual events have been scheduled for 2022.

To start back a little, CMTA hosted a 'Music in the Mall' complimentary to all students as a holiday concert. It was a huge hit with close to 40 performers sharing their music throughout the morning in our local mall. We are extremely grateful to Hackenberg's Pianos for generously donating their time (for moving) and instruments (on which students performed).

Our Stepping Stones masterclass on piano is set for February, with the strings masterclass date TBD. Following that event will be the Inge Young Competition set for March.

Happy New Year to all.

Cheers,
Hope Struse
CMTA President



through Zoom. It seems that our students were eager to perform for their friends and family. To keep everyone safe, we highly encouraged face masks in our events.

Here are some of the things we did:

Workshops

We had three teachers' workshops last Fall. We hosted on Zoom the wonderful and resourceful Jennifer Foxx with a lecture [Create an Invitation to Learn! Promoting Understanding and Engagement](#), had our Ensemble Music Preview, and a fantastic masterclass given by the ASU professor Dr. Cathal Breslin, who focused on music written by women, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and other underrepresented composers.

Events

Music Showcase – We were so pleased to have 21 teachers and 231 students participate in this event that took place at two different locations, Superstition Springs Mall and Chandler Fashion Center.

Fall Recital – The recital took place at the Hammers & Strings Conservatory and it was a great success. There were four recitals with 16 teachers and 84 students who participated.

Composers Celebration Concert – The theme of the Composer Celebration Concert was *Celebrations and Festivities!* This was an all-day event and we had 111 students from 21 studios performing almost seven hours of celebration music. Since the event included so many students, we decided to hold our very first toy drive for Banner Children's Hospital. The amount of toys, gift cards and cash we collected was overwhelming! As the event chair, Nadia Feeken, commented, "It's amazing to see everyone spreading love and joy to families going through a tough time during the holiday season." We decided that this will be a tradition for all future Composers Celebration Concerts.

Ensemble 2022

Rehearsals began on January 10 at Mesa Community College. In all, 198 students, three parents, and 11 teachers (participating in the Teacher Group) registered for the event. We are looking forward to our final concert on January 29th.

EVMTA is looking forward to a number of upcoming events, such as two piano competitions, recital, ASP examination, and of course ASMTA Conference in Tucson.

Sincerely,
Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM
EVMTA President
2021-2022

Trisha Simmons

Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association

We were finally able to have our first in-person event in November. It was incredible to see the amazing progress our students made in the last 18 months. We are looking forward to our spring recital and ASP in April!

Trisha Simmons



Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM

President, East Valley Music Teachers Association



Dear ASMTA members,

As of now, EVMTA is going strong with 141 active members. We had a very fun and active Fall semester despite the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19. All our events were in person except for one workshop that was conducted



Chase Coleman

President, Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association

NAMTA is having a good year being back in person with COVID protocols in place. Our current teacher membership is 16. Our students' recitals on Oct. 20 and Dec. 11 were well attended and after the October recital we enjoyed a presentation on lesser-known piano repertoire (with a focus on Czerny) from Dr. Samuel Gingher of NAU School of Music. We are looking forward to recitals in February, March and April, as well as the first Northern Arizona Piano Competition for Northern Arizona piano students and their teachers, to be held at NAU May 21-22. Dr. Silvan Negrutiu of NAU School of Music will chair the competition committee.

Sincerely,
Chase Coleman
NAMTA President

Nellie Cronin

President,
Phoenix Music Teachers
Association



At the January 13 General Meeting, PMTA heard a very wise and insightful presentation by Dr. Cathal Breslin (ASU) on preparing for college music auditions. In February, we will have a master class given by Hong Zhu, and in March, a presentation on composing skills for young musicians. In April we will have our end-of-the-year luncheon.

On January 27, there will be a Sharing Plus meeting for teachers on the topic of musical apps and digital games. The meeting will be held online, via Zoom. A Performance Plus meeting is scheduled for February 3. These meetings give us a great chance to play music for each other "plus" an opportunity afterwards for socializing.

This year is the 70th anniversary of PMTA's popular Piano Ensemble. It will be in the form of a "movie." The "movie" will be recorded in person during two sessions in February then edited and released on March 12. On March 5, we'll have a Student Recital and an Adult Student Recital. At the end of March is the Dean & Carolyn Elder Competition, our most prestigious event for piano students.

Submitted by,
Nellie Cronin
PMTA President



Jayme Bigelow

President, Tucson Music
Teachers Association

Greetings From Tucson!

TMTA has been quite busy making music and supporting our teachers. In October, we held our first KUDOS South recital, reaching students in the Sahuarita area. In November, Kassandra Weleck presented "The One-Armed Pianist" and shared her many ideas for how to make lessons productive for injured students of all skill levels. Earlier this month, we welcomed Peter Mack, MTNA President-Elect for a lecture and master class. It was joy to learn from him! January also saw another KUDOS recital in northwest Tucson. February will be busy preparing for our annual piano ensemble concert, which will be held at Centennial Hall on March 12, 2022.



We are grateful for our partnerships with the University of Arizona, which allowed us to use Holsclaw Hall for the events with Peter Mack, and for Pima Community College, which will host our Command Performance event in April.

We are excited to welcome everyone for the ASMTA Conference in June. We look forward to seeing everyone in beautiful Oro Valley!

Respectfully submitted,
Jayme Bigelow
President, TMTA



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Guided Summer Session: June 8 – August 17, 2022 **Registration Deadline:** June 1, 2022