



# MusiGram

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

Spring  
2022

## Debbie Dinkel ASMTA President

Dear ASMTA Members,

We've arrived at the end of another productive and growth-filled year, for both our students and ourselves. Take some time to reflect on the accomplishments from this past year and use them as stepping stones for similar or new events for the new year. But first, take a break during the summer to relax and renew yourself. Whatever your plans are, I wish you great enjoyment and relaxation.



We just completed our annual Conference which was held on June 2-4 at the El Conquistador Resort in Tucson. The theme was "The Hybrid Studio: Teaching in the Post-Zoom Era". Gloria Singleton and Ian Houghton were wonderful leaders with their amazing organizational skills and their constant cheerfulness. If you attended the conference, please be sure to thank them for their enormous efforts. Our keynote speaker, concert artist and masterclass clinician, Charlie Albright, was fantastic! His energy and enthusiasm were and are incredible. It was a great pleasure to see him in action. How do fingers move that fast? It's a mystery to me! I hope all who attended enjoyed the classes, the displays, the concerts, the Gala, the silent auction, and everything else about the conference. The setting was magnificent, up against the Catalina mountains. A special THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way to make this such a wonderful and successful conference. I deeply appreciate your time and efforts and dedication! I thoroughly enjoyed this in-person conference and truly appreciated getting to know so many of you better. We have a fantastic group!

During the Gala dinner, we celebrated and acknowledged various teachers for their accomplishments: Local Association Teacher of the Year awards, Honored Teacher of the Year Award, and ASMTA's Honorary Lifetime Award. They were all very appreciative of the honor given.

The ASP program was very successful this year. Please review Barb Russell's report for more details. Thanks to the

ASP board for all of their time and efforts to ensure a successful event.

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.

Have a wonderful summer and I'll see you in the fall!

Sincerely,  
Debbie Dinkel  
ASMTA President  
[asmtapresident@gmail.com](mailto:asmtapresident@gmail.com)

## ASMTA Board of Directors

### Officers 2021-2022

<b>President</b>	Debbie Dinkel
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Pres. Elect</b>	Dr. Michelle Wachter
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	Gloria Singleton
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<b>ABRSM Liaison</b>	Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, NCTM
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Kassandra Weleck, NCTM

### Local Associations

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<b>EAMTA (Eastern Arizona)</b>	Trisha Simmons, NCTM
<b>EVMTA (East Valley)</b>	Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM
<b>NAMTA (Northern Arizona)</b>	Chase Coleman
<b>PMTA (Phoenix)</b>	Nellie Cronin
<b>TMTA (Tucson)</b>	Jayme Bigelow

### Administrative and Committee Appointees

<b>Advertising</b>	Dr. Fanya Lin
<b>Archivist</b>	Shalvi D'Arcangelo
<b>Arts Awareness</b>	Astrid Morales
<b>Competitions – Composition</b>	Devin Gardner
<b>Competitions – Performance</b>	Dr. Yali Luo
<b>College Faculty Forum</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
<b>Communications Coordinator</b>	Nina Tahbaz
<b>Honors Recital</b>	Yelena Goldberg
	Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM
	Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, NCTM

### Independent Music Teachers Forum (IMTF)

<b>Membership</b>	Nina Tahbaz
<b>MTNA Foundation</b>	Christy Porter
	Becky Rogers
<b>Publications Editor</b>	Heather Baldwin
<b>Student Chapters</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
<b>Technology</b>	Nancy Keuper
<b>Website</b>	Susan Traylor

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**Michelle Wachter**  
ASMTA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

This spring, for the second year in a row, each local association nominated one exceptional teacher from their membership for the Local Association Member of the Year award. On behalf of the ASMTA Board, I would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2021–2022 Local Association Member of the Year award:

Debbie Dinkel—Cochise  
Sherin Moustafa—East Valley  
Marie Zelenka—Northern Arizona  
Jenny Su—Phoenix  
Kay Couch—Tucson

These members have contributed enormous amounts of energy and time to their local associations, as well as to ASMTA. Thank you for all you do! Each were honored by their local association and at the ASMTA conference gala on Thursday, June 2. Please join me in offering them a well-deserved congratulations!

As part of my duties as 1st VP, I also attended student performances from the local associations this spring. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the PMTA Piano Ensemble Movie Concert on March 12. Congratulations to all the students involved—you all performed beautifully—and a special thank you to Suszy Traylor and Sue Shiner for all your work putting this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary performance together! I also attended NAMTA's April 2 recital and meeting and heard fabulous performances from students in my local association. It is always a treat to hear students progress throughout the year.

I attended the state conference in June and want to give a huge thank you to Gloria Singleton and Ian Houghton for putting on a fantastic event. I enjoyed meeting many of you in person there!

Finally, I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating summer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Wachter  
ASMTA 1st VP

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**Ian Houghton**  
**Gloria Singleton**  
ASMTA Co-3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

#### **ASMTA Conference Report**

The 2022 ASMTA Conference was a complete success! Over 80 people attended during the 3-day event. With 24

presenters, 28 educational sessions, and 8 great vendors, there was plenty to see, hear and learn. Our special guest artist, Charlie Albright, brought great insight with his presentation, connected with students during the masterclass and wowed us with his absolutely dazzling performance.

The Awards Gala, set with an old west theme and BBQ menu, was well attended and fun. The entertainment by Mariachi Aztlan de Pueblo High School was amazing; they did an awesome job of creating a festive mood. Gary Ingle, CEO of MTNA, spoke about the wonderful role we have as music teachers in the lives of our students, as music has a lasting impact long after they have grown up and moved on. Ken Noble was recognized as a new Lifetime Member and Natalya Thran as the Honored Teacher of the Year. We also recognized each local association's Member of the Year. It was a special moment, celebrating the enormous educational contributions of so many of our members.

Friday morning was highlighted by a student masterclass with Charlie Albright. The four students played wonderfully. After a great afternoon of educational sessions it was on to the main event with a concert by Charlie Albright. Over 100 people attended the concert held in the ballroom, where Charlie amazed with his beautiful renditions of some familiar pieces and his amazing technique. Capping off the concert was a 30-minute improvisation of a three-movement sonata based on 4 notes suggested by the audience. His encore of "Great Balls of Fire" was very fun but the final event was new even to Charlie. Our own Debbie Dinkel challenged him to improvise around a simple melody played by someone else. With no volunteers, Debbie herself stepped up, playing the melody of Twinkle, Twinkle while Charlie improvised around her. It was a uniquely spontaneous and joyful concert!

Saturday continued with the added excitement of the Honors Recital Finals competition. We continued our educational conference sessions while students lined the halls getting ready to compete. The silent auction had many great items and everything was sold and collected, hopefully raising some much needed funds for ASMTA. Closing out the day was the Honors Recital Winners Concert which included harps and some incredibly talented young performers playing to a packed hall.

We hope you were able to attend at least some of this conference as it is always fun to get together to make and experience music. If you weren't able to attend, we hope that next year you will plan to get in on the fun and attend the ASMTA Conference 2023. See you around the state!

Musically yours,  
Dr. Ian Houghton and Gloria Singleton  
Co-3rd VPs

**Astrid Morales Torres**  
ASMTA 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President

Dear ASMTA members,

It was a great pleasure to meet some of you at our 92nd State Conference! I would like to thank Dr. Ian Houghton and Gloria Singleton for their hard work organizing our state conference and for bringing top-notch events. In addition, we are beyond grateful for all the items that local associations, artists and businesses donated for our silent auction. Thank you to everyone who supported us!

Dr. Fanya Lin (Advertising chair) has done an extraordinary job at contacting businesses and we are back on track with advertisement. Inflation is causing hardship globally, but we are actively working on reducing costs and keeping a healthy budget.

During the conference, I received several ideas on how we can plan events to support our organization and spread awareness throughout our communities. More information coming soon.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,  
Astrid Morales Torres



Membership Chair for the past year. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you!

Sincerely,  
Nina Tahbaz  
ASMTA Membership Chair

**Hannah Creviston, NCTM**  
Collegiate Chapter Chair

**MTNA Collegiate Chapter at NAU – Report for May 2022**

This past semester, the MTNA Collegiate Chapter at NAU met on February 24 to discuss events for the spring. We went to Killip Elementary on March 24 to work with young music students in Marie Zelenka's classroom. During this visit, we primarily helped students with rhythm exercises. We also went to the BASIS school on April 1 to perform for the students.

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

**Nina Tahbaz**  
ASMTA Membership Chair

Welcome to summer! As of May 1, 2022, the total number of members is 443. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newest members from January to May:

April Layher	John Rodriguez
Jinxuan Tan	Sujie Zhao
Karen Mezich	Wenxin Guan
Louanne Oppel	Yaowen Mei
Jennifer Hudson	



Membership renewals are now open for the 2022–2023 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](mailto:mtnanet@mtna.org). If you want to keep your listing on ASMTA's Find-a-Teacher list for 2022–2023, you must renew your MTNA/ASMTA membership by October 30<sup>th</sup>.

On a personal note, thank you for allowing me to serve as

A large advertisement for Southwest Pianos. It features a circular logo with a piano keyboard and the text "SOUTHWEST PIANOS". Below the logo, it says "Your Home For Fine New & Certified Pre-Owned Pianos". The word "Tempe" is written in a stylized font. At the bottom, it lists brands: "FAZIOLI • PETROF HAILUN • CASIO", "CPO Yamaha, Kawai, Steinway, Bosendorfer, and More!", the website "SouthWestPianos.com", and the phone number "602-551-8252".

**SOUTHWEST PIANOS**

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**SouthWestPianos.com**

**602-551-8252**

**Yelena Goldberg**  
**MaryBeth Shaffer, NCTM**  
 ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs

**James R. Anthony Honors Recital 2022**

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the 2022 Arizona State Music Teachers Association James R. Anthony Honors Recital! The finals were held on Saturday, June 4, at the El Conquistador Tucson Resort.

Special thanks to conference chairs, Gloria Singleton and Ian Houghton, our seven adjudicators, and teacher and parent volunteers for helping make the day run smoothly.

Additionally, we would like to extend our gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their generous monetary award contributions: Margaret Ruccolo for the James Saverio Ruccolo Awards, the Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Fund, Arizona Study Program and Arizona State Music Teachers Association.

Link to the Honors Winners Recital program: <https://www.asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/>. The results of the competition are as follows:

**Elementary Piano 1**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Award: **Lynette Chun** (Sherin Moustafa, teacher)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: **Yihan Yang** (Svetlana Arakelova, teacher)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: **Landon Frolov** (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

Honorable Mention: **Max Hao** (Ji Sun Lee, teacher)

**Elementary Piano 2**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: **Alexis Dyché** (Ji-Young Kim, teacher)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Award: **Daniel Rakes** (Natalya Thran, teacher)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: **Ayla Takeda-Moreno** (Svetlana Arakelova, teacher)

Honorable Mention: **Lucy Lu** (Yuerong Gong, teacher)

Honorable Mention: **Vania Dutta** (Sherin Moustafa, teacher)

**Intermediate Piano 1**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Award: **Kyle Gu** (Yuerong Gong, teacher)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize & James Ruccolo Award: **David Li** (Natalya Thran, teacher)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: **Aiden Zhou** (Tatyana Eldridge, teacher)

Honorable Mention: **Meddy Quan** (Svetlana Arakelova, teacher)

Honorable Mention: **William You** (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

**Intermediate Piano 2**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: **Jimmy Kwon** (Kyungsun Choi, teacher)

*(Intermediate Piano 2 Cont.)*

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: **Ashley Jo** (Ji-Young Kim, teacher)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: **Chaeon Lee** (Ji-Young Kim, teacher)

James Ruccolo Award: **Sophia Chen** (Natalya Thran, teacher)

Pee-Yaw Wilkes Award: **Jessica Frolov** (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

**Advanced Piano 1**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: **Bryan Zhang** (Kyungsun Choi, teacher)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize & James Ruccolo Award: **Brayden Wagner** (Natalya Thran, teacher)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (tie): **Yoobin Cha** (Soo Yoen Kim, teacher)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (tie): **Milton Lin** (Jessica Yam, teacher)

Pee-Yaw Wilkes Award: **Raymond Cheng** (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

Honorable Mention: **Stephanie Lobodanescu** (Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, teacher)

**Advanced Piano 2**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Award: **Jisue Choi** (Kyungsun Choi, teacher)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize & James Ruccolo Award: **Jarron Deng** (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: **Renee Li** (Kyungsun Choi, teacher)

**Strings – Harp**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: **Audrey Zhang** (Alla Yashneva, teacher)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: **Kayla Lee** (Alla Yashneva, teacher)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (tie): **Emma Busby** (Alla Yashneva, teacher)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (tie): **Emma Holmes** (Alla Yashneva, teacher)

Honorable Mention: **Naomi Goodrum** (Alla Yashneva, teacher)

**Adjudicators (Preliminaries)**

Dr. Fanya Lin, piano

Dr. Frank Huang, piano

Dr. Janice Saffir, piano

**Adjudicators (Finals)**

Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, piano

Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, piano

Dr. Raymond Ryder, piano

Dr. Daniel Linder, piano

Dr. Alexander Tentser, piano

Chase Coleman, piano

Dr. Christine Vivona, harp





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

Dear ASMTA Members,

Reflecting on my time as your IMTF Chair, I hope I have addressed some of our transitory concerns as we navigate the ever torrent of uncertainties COVID had brought about. From workshops on wrestling with technology to discoveries of gems in unconventional repertoire on Zoom, culminating in the panel discussion at our recent in-person state conference in Tucson, I have renewed respect and appreciation for my fellow ASMTA members, who generously shared their knowledge, experience, time, and candor.

One of the highlights as IMTF Chair is collaborating with my brilliant colleagues, building connections and fostering partnerships, all with the ultimate intention of benefiting ASMTA members and their students. I'm excited to announce that ABRSM exams has formed a one-year trial partnership with ASMTA, offering global assessments to its members' students, in addition to the state and North American assessments of the Arizona Study Program and the RCM Certificate Program respectively.

The crowning moment of being your IMTF Chair, however, is none other than working with State Certification Chair Melodie Acker in a joint effort to recruit and encourage more member- teachers to consider seeking MTNA Certification. Even though we are still in the most infantile stages of offering comprehensively structured guidance, my new role as ABRSM Liaison positions me to continue offering support and guided pathways for teachers to achieve national certification.

As my term as your IMTF Chair comes to an end this month, I hope I have contributed meaningfully, regardless how minuscule it might have been, to this wonderful organization. I would like to thank the entire ASMTA Board for its guidance and support this past two years. I have learned tremendously from each of the board members and have grown to embrace the professionalism and camaraderie of our organization more than ever. Indeed, it has been an honor and a privilege to be of service to ASMTA. My sincere thanks to each and every one of you for being part of my professional existence.

Stay cool and enjoy a glorious summer!

Respectfully submitted & musically always,  
Mandarin G. Cheung-Yueh  
IMTF Chair

**Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh, NCTM**  
ABRSM Liaison

Hello ASMTA Members!

I am now "re-introducing" myself as your ABRSM Liaison, a newly created ASMTA board position. ABRSM and ASMTA have entered into a one-year trial partnership, with the former offering latter's members discounted entry fees to its **digital Performance Grades exams**. As ABRSM's International Representative for the Southwestern USA (AZ, CO, NM, NV & UT), I am here to answer any questions you may have about ABRSM. I can be reached by phone at (480) 451-8003 or via email at [abrsam.azandco@gmail.com](mailto:abrsam.azandco@gmail.com).

Beginning in August, I will conduct a series of informational and training sessions to acquaint you with the ABRSM exam syllabuses and to guide you through the entire process from creating an online account to booking an exam and accessing exam preparation material. Stay tuned for details to come.

Ready to get started right away? Register for the **free webinar Planning Your Performance** for an in-depth look at what makes a successful musical performance with Chief Examiner **John Holmes**:

**Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 1am MST Monday, August 8, 2022 at 8am MST**

Don't forget to check out the main [ABRSM website](https://www.abrsm.org) as well as its [YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqWz8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8) and follow us on Facebook for updates specific to our region on the [ABRSM Southwest USA](https://www.facebook.com/abrsmsouthwest).

Stay cool and enjoy a glorious summer!

Mandarin G. Cheung-Yueh  
ABRSM Liaison



**ASMTA Board – June 2, 2022**

**Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM****Arizona Study Program**

What a busy year for the Arizona Study Program evaluations! The return to in person events after the past 2 years of online evaluations kept us on our toes and adjusting to pre pandemic protocols. What a joy to see students, teachers, and our master adjudicators face to face once again. The evaluation results for 2022 include 195 participating teachers, 1515 students enrolled, 1319 students evaluated, 1031 students passing with a Superior rating, and 106 students scoring 100% on the Theory exam. We are so proud of our Arizona students!

Thank you to the following Local Association ASP Chairman who made these evaluations possible for our AZ students:

CMTA	Karen Miller
EAMTA	Janice Holladay
EVMTA	Debbie Saifi, Lara Holt, Andrew O'Brien
NAMTA	Rita Borden
PMTA	Barbara Stoutenburgh, Susan Traylor, Tanya Eldridge
TMTA	Karen Van Sickle, David DeSoucey

I also want to extend our sincere thanks to all of the teachers that volunteered their time to make the evaluations possible. Our amazing ASP teachers secured venues, enrolled students, mentored teachers, approved repertoire, fed judges, graded theory exams, coordinated schedules, tabulated results, prepared certificates, ribbons, and plaques, trained adjudicators, set up venues, cleaned up venues, monitored theory halls and classrooms, manned information tables, printed materials, delivered materials, wrote checks, ordered awards, and on and on. This program is a machine that requires many moving parts. The annual evaluations could not happen without all the volunteer help. THANK YOU ASP TEACHERS!

Following are the students (and their teachers) who received the James Anthony Level 12 Senior Award for passing Level 12 Category A:

**NMTA**

Grace Ogden (Rita Borden)

**PMTA**

Kate Mills (Lynn Wagner)  
Jacob Tsou (Barbara Stoutenburgh)  
Sophia Gu (Tanya Eldridge)  
Kate Santiago (Lesli Hanson)  
Cierra Johnson (Sherry Lenich)



(PMTA Cont.)

Cade Araza (Sharon Lovell)  
Caleb Johnson (Sharon Lovell)  
Erika Germinano (Rosmary Stelmach)

**EVMTA**

Paige Riley (Susan Martinez)  
Kate Leinenweber (Susan Martinez)  
Ethan Greenfield (Sarah Devieux)  
Isabel Garcia (Jessica Yam)  
Emily Hao (Tsai Ping Chung)  
Erica Day (Nadia Feeken)  
Annelise Hartman (Jessica Heidt)  
Jake Murray (Julie Ann Nichols)  
Caleah Udall (Julie Ann Nichols)  
Paul Castleton (Barbara Russell)  
Anyar Ardiles (Barbara Russell)  
Amanda Xu (Natalya Thran)  
Annie Qin (Natalya Thran)  
Zachary Wang (Natalya Thran)

**TMTA**

Hera Hessenius (Nina Jin Hessenius)  
Camille DeWilde (Greg Robinson)  
Nayeli Himenez (Dr. Kim Hayashi)  
Taylor Gantz (David DeSoucey)  
Tiffany Luu (Dr. June Chow-Tyne)  
Jisue Choi (Dr. Kyungsun Choi)  
Yiru Ma (Dr. Kyungsun Choi)  
Maggie Fu (Dr. Kyungsun Choi)  
Nathan Kuo (Patricia Scordato)  
Nicole Zhou (Dr. JiSun Lee)

ASP is always looking for volunteers to join our efforts. **Presently, ASP is looking for a Ribbons & Trophies Chairman.**

This job entails ordering ribbons in August, plaques in February, and trophies in April; arranging delivery to Phoenix and East Valley (at ASU) for ASP in May and mailing to all other districts by UPS; and counting all remaining inventory after ASP is done. All expenses are paid for or reimbursed by the treasurer. Outgoing Chair Jill Tabata ([jilltabata@gmail.com](mailto:jilltabata@gmail.com)) can walk you through the job throughout the year! If interested please contact state ASP Chairman Barbara Russell at [barbaraspoelman@msn.com](mailto:barbaraspoelman@msn.com).



Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Russell NCTM  
ASP State Chairman

## *What kind of difference could YOU make with \$5?*



This year, when renewing your ASMTA membership, would you consider donating just \$5 (or more!) to the Foundation Fund? Your tax-deductible donation is so important and contributes to:

♪ MTNA/ASMTA Student Competitions

♪ Distinguished Composer of the Year Award

♪ Awards to outstanding teachers and those who have made significant contributions to the furthering of music education in our State!

♪ Teacher Grants\*... and much more!

\*For more information on applying to receive a Grant, please visit the Foundation Booth at our upcoming Teacher's Conference in Tucson. You can also contact Christy Porter ([cport69@msn.com](mailto:cport69@msn.com)) or Becky Rogers ([beckyarogers@q.com](mailto:beckyarogers@q.com)) for more information.

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## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



**Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM**  
President  
East Valley Music Teachers Association



Dear ASMTA members,  
We had so many activities and great participation of our teachers and students in the Spring semester. Here are some of the things we did since the last report:

### Workshops

In January, we hosted a Zoom workshop, *"Diagnose This: Strategies in Solving Technical Problems in Repertoire"* with Dr. Frank Huang from Florida. This presentation explored how to use creative practice approaches and methods in resolving some of the most common technical issues in repertoire. In February, Dr. Stuart Foster hosted a fun, in-person lecture, *"Classical Music Can Be Seriously Funny"* and presented how humor is celebrated in classical instrumental music. Our last workshop of the year was *"Etude Gems of the Intermediate Piano Repertoire,"* given by the fantastic Mary Beth Shaffer. She explored a variety of engaging studies from the early to late intermediate piano repertoire, and their benefits.

### Competitions

We had a greater-than-expected number of students for the traditional EVMTA Piano Competition on March 5, with close to 80 participants. Due to the large number of students, we had to hire two additional sets of adjudicators to cover everything in one day. We are considering preliminary rounds for next year in case we receive a large number of participants.

Our second competition, Jason Sipe Piano Prize Performers Competition, sponsored by AZ Piano owner, took place in a different location, at Metropolitan Youth Symphony Hall due to construction work at AZ Piano. Jason brought a grand Kawai for our students to play. The competition was a great success. The competition was held on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Recitals

We had two wonderful recitals in the Spring: Spring Recital, on March 26 and Seniors recital on April 16, where five seniors received monetary awards based on their activities in EVMTA.

### Awards

During our traditional luncheon in April, we awarded three of our members for their dedication to the association:

**Ken Noble** – ASMTA Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

**Natalya Thran** – ASMTA Honored Teacher of the Year 2022

**Sherin Moustafa** – 2021 EVMTA Member of the Year Award

We are so happy to have these wonderful members!

We are getting ready to prepare a new musical year, full of exciting events! And we are so happy to announce that we have a new logo!

Thank you.

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



**Chase Coleman**  
President  
Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association

NAMTA had a great year back in person. Our current teacher membership is 16.

Our students' spring recitals on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup> were well attended.

We are currently planning for next year's recitals and are seeking clinicians and speakers for lectures and masterclasses. Anyone who is interested in traveling here to give a class or lecture on a music or music teaching-related topic should contact me at the email address below and I will share your idea with the chapter for approval.

Looking forward to seeing you all in person again.

Sincerely,  
Chase Coleman  
NAMTA President  
[colemanwynnemusic97@gmail.com](mailto:colemanwynnemusic97@gmail.com)





**Nellie Cronin**  
President,  
Phoenix Music Teachers Association



All but one of our winter/spring General Meetings were held in person. How good it is to be all together! In **January**, Dr. Cathal Breslin from ASU gave an insightful and motivating presentation on preparing students for college music auditions. In **February**, we heard Hong Zhu lead an outstanding master class via zoom. The performers were well prepared and played impressive. Hong Zhu's advice raised the students' musicianship to still higher levels and was delivered with grace and kindness. In **March**, Dr. Vanja Nikolovski-Gjumar shared his creative and methodical insights into the art of teaching composing skills to young musicians. Our final meeting, which is our end-of-year **April** luncheon, was a refreshing celebration. Nearly 30 were present! We honored Stuart Foster as PMTA Past President; Jenny Su as PMTA Local Association Member of the Year; Tanya Eldridge as PMTA's nominee for ASMTA Honored Teacher of the Year; Bobbi Stoutenburgh as PMTA Honored Teacher; **Suszy Traylor** as **ASMTA's nominee for MTNA Teacher of the Year!**

PMTA camaraderie and friendships are strong, and our support for one another is palpable. Performance Plus meetings were in full swing with inspiring performances by our teachers. The tone of these gatherings is always warm, encouraging and cheerful.

Our three winter/spring Student Recitals at Grand Canyon University were very professionally run and showcased ambitious students who are eager for extra performance opportunities. All instrumentalists and vocalists are welcome!

A definite highlight was the 70th anniversary of PMTA's Piano Ensemble. Each musical selection was recorded live at Riverton Piano Store in Peoria. These recordings were merged together into an Ensemble movie, an epic event presented as a live Zoom concert in March.

Our Dean Elder Piano Competition was a great success with 40 talented contestants. Our highly respected judges were Dr. Jan Thompson, Dr. Elias Axel-Pettersson and Dr. Jessica Yam. Our final student event of the year, ASP, was beautifully executed and made for a rich finish to a year of musical growth for students and teachers alike.

Respectfully submitted by  
Nellie Cronin  
PMTA President



**Jayme Bigelow**  
President,  
Tucson Music Teachers Association

Greetings from Tucson!

TMTA had a spring semester full of events. In March, our 69th Annual Piano Ensemble Concert returned to Centennial Hall on the University of Arizona campus. It was a wonderful night of beautiful music and felt so good to be back in a great venue! We look forward to our 70th concert next spring.

April brought our local KUDOS recitals and Command Performance, and our year ended with our Merit Scholarship Auditions and concert. Enjoying each of these events in-person was exciting and refreshing.

We especially enjoyed the hard work Gloria Singleton and Ian Houghton put into the ASMTA State conference, hosted here in Tucson.

We hope everyone is making plans to return to Tucson for the MTNA GP3 event at the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music August 5-6. Seeing colleagues is always time well spent!

Happy Summer,

Jayme Bigelow  
President  
TMTA



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