



MusiGram

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

Spring
 2023

Debbie Dinkel
 ASMTA President



This is my final article as President as I'll be handing the reins over to Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk on July 1st. I've had a wonderful time being President and have thoroughly enjoyed working with our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs while getting to know so many of our members. I look forward to continuing to work as Immediate Past President alongside Radmila and Tanya Eldridge, our 1st VP. I know they'll be awesome in their positions.

We just completed our annual Conference which was a huge success. The topic was Celebrating Indigenous and Other Under-Represented Composers. Dr. Jelena Vladikovic was our Conference chair and did a wonderful job putting it together with the help of her committee. I personally want to thank everyone who took part in making it a successful and effective Conference. Every session gave great insight and revealed new and time-tested ideas. The Honors Recital was a brilliantly organized and performed event. Our teachers can be very proud of their students.

Next year's Conference will be held in Flagstaff from May 30 to June 1, 2024. Dr. Silvan Negrutiu will be the Conference chair. It's already on my calendar.

I want to thank Cassandra Weleck, Michelle Wachter, Lynnette Barney, Lynn Moser, Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, and all of the Board members for helping me along the way. I am so appreciative of the comradery we have had in the spirit of working together toward the goals of ASMTA and MTNA.

I hope you each have a delightful summer and I'll see you in the fall.

Sincerely,
 Debbie Dinkel
 ASMTA President
asmtapresident@gmail.com

ASMTA Board of Directors

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EVMTA (East Valley)	Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM
NAMTA (Northern Arizona)	Chase Coleman
PMTA (Phoenix)	Nellie Cronin
TMTA (Tucson)	Jayme Bigelow

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Archivist	Open
Arts Awareness	Astrid Morales
Competitions – Composition	Devin Gardner
Competitions – Performance	Dr. Yali Luo
College Faculty Forum	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
Communications Coordinator	Nina Tahbaz
Honors Recital	Rong Lucchesi Yu Wu
Independent Music Teachers Forum (IMTF)	Peter Davis
Membership	Nina Tahbaz
MTNA Foundation	Christy Porter Becky Rogers
Publications Editor	Heather Baldwin
Student Chapters	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
Technology	Nancy Keuper
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Michelle Wachter
ASMTA 1st Vice President

It is with bittersweet emotions that I write this final report as 1st VP, as I will be moving back to the east coast later this summer to be closer to family. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone I've met and worked with in this organization for their passion, expertise, and kindness. I have loved hearing your students perform over the years, fully enjoyed talking with each of you at conferences and meetings, and been overjoyed to see the incredible events you have organized for your members.

I know each local association has been busy this spring with student recitals and festivals, presentations, and meetings that bring music and learning to our students and the community. It is with much sadness that I leave, but I am grateful for everything you do for our students, our community, and this organization, and I am sending you all my best wishes for your future musical endeavors.

With gratefulness,
Michelle Wachter
ASMTA 1st VP

Nina Tahbaz
ASMTA Membership Chair



I hope that everyone is having a great summer!

As of May 21, 2023, the total number of members is 430. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newest members:

- Andrew A. Brothers
- Annika Wiener
- Belinda Ashcroft
- Carol Lancaster Donigan
- Eunbin Ko
- Inez Stempski
- Jane Hartono
- Jonathan Chase Moore

- Juliana Balinski
- Kaitlyn Arae Hudson
- Karen Janusz
- Lumilius M. Canete
- Mi Hee Hubbard
- Selin Eskandarian
- Wesley Glenn Skinner
- Yinglan Zhao

Membership renewals are now open for the 2023–2024 year. If you have not renewed your membership yet, please do it at your earliest convenience to retain access to 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. If you want to keep your listing on ASMTA's Find-a-Teacher list for 2023–2024, 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 two years. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you! As I am stepping down, Cassandra Weleck will be the new Membership chair for the upcoming year. During the transition time, you are welcome to continue contacting me at ninatahbaz55@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Nina Tahbaz
ASMTA Membership Chair

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Yu Wu

ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs

James R. Anthony Honors Recital 2023

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the 2023 ASMTA James R. Anthony Honors Recital. The competition was held on Saturday, June 3rd at the Madison Baptist Church and the Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak.

Special thanks to the conference chair, Dr. Jelena Vladikovic, NCTM, our adjudicators, and teacher and parent volunteers for helping the day run smoothly. Additionally, we would like to thank 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 the Arizona State Music Teachers Association.

Link to the Winners Recital Program:

<https://www.asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/>

The results of the competition are as follows:

Elementary Piano 1

1st Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Endowment Award:

Austin Fan (Yuerong Gong, teacher)

2nd Prize:

Nicholas Wang (Yali Luo, teacher)

3rd Prize:

Evelina Sensakovic (Rong Lucchesi, teacher)

Elementary Piano 2

1st Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Endowment Award:

Lucy Lu (Yuerong Gong, teacher)

2nd Prize:

Kaili Dai (Natalya Thran, teacher)

3rd Prize:

Landon Frolov (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

Honorable Mention:

Yihan Duan (Svetlana Arakelova, teacher)

Intermediate Piano 1

1st Prize & James Saverio Ruccolo Award:

David Li (Natalya Thran, teacher)

2nd Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Endowment Award:

Alexis Dyche (Ji-Young Kim, teacher)

3rd Prize:

Daniel Rakes (Natalya Thran, teacher)

Honorable Mention:

Aiden Zhou (Tatyana Elderidge, teacher)

Piano Duet

2nd Prize:

Fayfay He & Katherine Li (Natalya Thran, teacher)

Intermediate Piano 2

1st Prize & James Saverio Ruccolo Award:

Kyle Gu (Yuerong Guang, teacher)

2nd Prize:

Mia Lucchesi (Rong Lucchesi, teacher)

3rd Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Endowment Award:

Jessica Frolov (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

Honorable Mention(s):

William Shan (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

Chaeon Lee (Ji-Young Kim, teacher)

Advanced Piano 1

1st Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Endowment Award:

Patrick Carter (Natalya Thran, teacher)

2nd Prize & James Saverio Ruccolo Award:

Yoobin Cha (Soo Yoen Kim, teacher)

3rd Prize:

Bryan Zhang (Kyungsun Choi, teacher)

Honorable Mention(s):

Alicia Lucchesi (Rong Lucchesi, teacher)

Raymond Cheng (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

Aiden Yu (Erin Hales, teacher)

Advanced Piano 2

1st Prize & Pee-Yaw Wilkes Endowment Award:

Milton Lin (Jessica Yam, teacher)

2nd Prize & James Saverio Ruccolo Award:

Brayden Wagner (Natalya Thran, teacher)

3rd Prize:

Noelle Chang (Tatylana Elderidge, teacher)

Honorable Mention(s):

Alicia Bai (Qingqing Ye, teacher)

ADJUDICATORS:

Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh

Dr. Cathal Breslin

Dr. Elias-Axel Pettersson

Dr. Michelle Wachter

Dr. Dani Shraibman

Astrid Morales Torres

Hannah Creviston, NCTM

Collegiate Chapter Chair

MTNA Collegiate Chapter at NAU

Report for June 2023

On February 18, 2023, members of the MTNA Collegiate Chapter at NAU joined the Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association (NAMTA) in hosting Piano Play Day. Prior to the event, students in the Collegiate Chapter met with NAMTA members to plan activities. On the morning of the event, registered pre-college students rotated through multiple activity sessions, all of which were co-led by NAMTA and Collegiate Chapter members. The sessions included adjudicated performances, mindfulness experiences, improvisation exploration, and other musical games. The event ended with a pizza lunch for students and teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

The MTNA Collegiate Chapter at NAU

University of Arizona Collegiate Chapter of MTNA

May 15, 2023

The University of Arizona Collegiate Chapter of MTNA met four times during the 2022 fall semester and twice during the 2023 spring semester. The chapter has six members comprising a mixture of undergraduates, masters, and doctoral students. Undergraduate, Ivan Yang, is the chapter President. This spring, the chapter organized and hosted a workshop on memorization with Dr. Daniel Linder, Assistant Professor of Practice at the UA. Approximately eight university piano students and Dr. Fanya Lin, Assistant Professor of Practice at the UA, attended. Dr. Linder's presentation included handouts, a slideshow presentation, demonstrations and discussion. The presentation was recorded for students who were not able to attend the meeting. Chapter members are planning to attend the 2024 MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Doctoral student and chapter member, Wenxin Guan, will present a lightning talk at the 2023 NCKP Piano Conference entitled, "Piano in Your Mind: Promoting Mental Practice for Sight-Reading in Collegiate Group-Piano Lessons."

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Lisa Zdechlik
Professor of Music, The University of Arizona

MTNA Collegiate Chapter at ASU

Report for June 2023

The ASU MTNA Collegiate Chapter hosted a masterclass for local piano students. Members of the chapter were able to gain experience teaching in masterclass setting. Hyeongji Choi, our Treasurer, competed in the National MTNA Competition Finals in Reno and was able to attend some of the conference, as well. Three members of the chapter are presenting at the ASMTA State Conference in June.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Creviston

ASU MTNA Collegiate Chapter Advisor

Welcome, Steven!

Following this issue of the MusiGram, I will be handing the reins to Steven DiBlasi, who has kindly agreed to take on the role of ASMTA MusiGram Editor for 2023-25. He will do a fantastic job -- and will likely even get this publication turned in on time, unlike his predecessor. ☺

Thank you all for allowing me to serve this wonderful organization as editor for the past two years. You are an incredible group of teachers and it has been a privilege to work with you!

Kind regards,
Heather Baldwin



Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM

Arizona Study Program

Final numbers for the 2023 Arizona Study Program evaluations indicate that 198 ASMTA teachers enrolled 1,613 students across the state, with 1,428 evaluated. There were 1,131 passing with Superior ratings, and 224 students scored 100% on their Theory exams. Well Done, Arizona teachers and students!

Thank you to our local ASP Chairs for their diligent work and dedication:

- TMTA** Victoria MacDonald
- CMTA** Karen Miller
- EAMTA** Janice Holladay
- EVMTA** Lara Holt, Debbie Saifi, Barbara Russell
- NAMTA** Rita Borden
- PMTA** Tatyana Eldridge, Christina Eide, Dani Shraibman



Additional Thanks to ASP Committee members for their invaluable work and dedication: Susan Traylor, Francisco Naranjo, Johnny Rice, and Fran Kaspar.

LEVEL 12A SENIORS-JAMES ANTHONY AWARD RECIPIENTS

EVMTA

- Ava Bickler (Melodie Acker)
- Brooklyn Brice (Julie Ann Nichols)
- Blake Gonzalez (Melodie Acker)
- Davyn Scott (Julie Ann Nichols)
- Tucker Kirkes (Chris Rice)
- Ivy Stewart (Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk)
- Luci Li (April Feiwn-Wu)
- Ethan Gaytan (Natalya Thran)
- Lucy Alwin (Anne Cheney)
- Marcus Fiandaca (Hanah Charbonneau)
- Osmond Chong (Tsai Ping Chung)
- Noah Ficken (Hanah Charbonneau)
- Julia Lynn Ketcham (Jennifer Shinyoung Ju)
- Meiting Liknes (Anne Cheney)
- Alena Li (Yukari Ushioda-Lowrey)
- Elizabeth Watts (Natalya Thran)
- Sophia Berg (Lara Holt)
- Helen Thomas (Marcia Havlovic)
- Lucy Alwin (Anne Cheney)
- Reese Clark (Julie Ann Nichols)

NAMTA

- Ryan Crane (Diana Galindo)

TMTA

- Drew LeFebre (Kiyono Bernier)
- Megan Yee (Marie Sierra)
- Richard Peng (June Chow-Tyne)
- Sai Konkimalla (Young Kim)
- Wynsstan Hessenius(Nina Jin Hessenius)
- Lincoln Rasmussen (Patricia Scordato)
- Jonathan Liu (Patricia Scordato)
- Harrison Dodge (Marie Sierra)
- Renee Li (Kyungsun Choi)
- John Han (Kyungsun Choi)
- Lionel Yan (Kyungsun Choi)
- Maggie Colombo (Marie Sierra)

PMTA

- Prarthna Reddy (Sarah Elliott)
- Noel Steinbeck (Lesli Hanson)
- Erica Li (Sherry Lenich)
- Ryan Duong (Sharon Lovell)
- Lake Murray (Ursula Newmann)
- Benjamin Ma (Gail Quackenbush)

CONGRATULATIONS, 2023 SENIORS!

ASP, Cont. from p. 5

IMPORTANT ASP UPDATES:

As a reminder, enrolled student levels for **Technic and Repertoire must match**. There has been some discrepancy in the printed policy regarding this correlation. The ASP Committee is working to ensure this is consistent in all printed materials in the future.

The price of all ASP materials, including Theory Workbooks, will increase by **\$5** per item, except for the previous tests and answers, which will go up by \$1 per set. This is effective with our new fiscal year **beginning July 1, 2023**.

The ASP Committee needs a **Recording Secretary**, a vital position to the program. Join the ASP team to support Arizona teachers and students in the annual evaluations by contacting Barbara Russell at barbaraspoelman@msn.com if you can help in this capacity.

We look forward to seeing your students at the ASP evaluations in 2024!

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Russell, NCTM
ASP State Chairman



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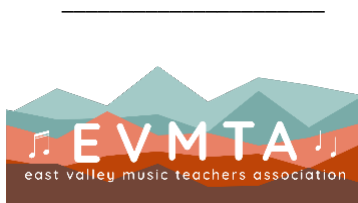
Susan Grove

Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association

EAMTA was pleased to receive an outlying grant for a Master Class and Teacher Tips seminar with Chase Moore, professor of music. The master class was well attended, with about 18 folks viewing it and sharing lunch together.

We put together a Senior Showcase featuring five seniors from Pima, Thatcher, and Safford. This event was attended by about 100 people.

Susan Grove, President
EAMTA
Cell: 602-781-9567



Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM

President

East Valley Music Teachers Association



Dear ASMTA members,

We had so many activities and great participation from 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 lecture recital, "Petrarca + Liszt = Poetry in Music" with Dr. Elias-Axel Pettersson. Dr. Pettersson took his listeners through the mind of each great artist and showed how poetry was turned into music that moves the soul. In February, Mr. Robert Hamilton, professor at ASU, talked about his new book, *Artistry: Pursuing the Mysteries of Music Performance*. This was a lovely

conversation with members about music. Our last workshop of the year, Open Studio Teaching, was presented by PMTA member Snezana Krstic, who runs a greatly successful piano studio in Phoenix.

Competitions

We had a greater participation of students for the traditional EVMTA Piano Competition on March 4,

with 54 participants. Due to the large number of students, we had to hire two additional adjudicators to cover everything in one day. The competition took place at the beautiful Performing Arts Center at Mesa Community College. We are planning to hold this event at the same location next year.

Our second competition, the Jason Sipe Piano Prize Performers Competition, sponsored by AZ Piano, took place at Metropolitan Youth Symphony Hall due to construction work at AZ Piano. It was a great success with 54 students from 17 different studios who performed in four different recitals. The competition was held on April 15th.

Recitals

Recitals are always a great opportunity for students to get an additional performance opportunity and we had two wonderful recitals in the Spring: Spring Recital, on March 25 with 77 participants, and Seniors recital on April 22, where 8 seniors received monetary awards based on their activities in EVMTA.

Awards

We had our April luncheon where we awarded our EVMTA Member of the Year 2022-2023, Julie Follett, with a nice plaque and beautiful flowers. A relaxing atmosphere with a casual lunch is something that we all appreciate getting closer to the end of the school year.

Our board meeting was on May 24th and we are getting ready to prepare a new musical year, full of exciting events!

Continued on p. 8

EVMTA, Cont. from p. 7

This will be my last board meeting as the president of the EVMTA association. I have been so fortunate to belong to such a wonderful organization. Dr. Jessica Yam will take over the president's position for the next two years and Dr. Nadia Feeken will be the Vice president.

I am looking forward to continuing to contribute to the association's growth and development. Thank you and see you all the ASMTA board meeting.

Dr. Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk, NCTM
EVMTA President
2021-2023



Nellie Cronin
President,
Phoenix Music Teachers Association
www.phoenixmusicteachers.org

PMTA was delighted to top off its 2022-23 season by hosting the 93rd ASMTA State Conference. We're grateful to Jelena Vladikovic for organizing this epic event based on the theme Celebrating Indigenous and Other Under-represented Cultures and Composers. We were deeply honored to have T. Patrick Carrabre and Connor Chee as our featured artists/speakers. We thank all of our excellent presenters, and each of you who were able to join us!



We are pleased to have honored Dr. Christina Eide as PMTA's choice for Local Association Member of the year and are proud that our very own Tanya Eldridge was selected 2023 ASMTA Honored Teacher of the Year!

Our Winter/Spring General Meetings were rich learning experiences and full of PMTA camaraderie. We are thankful for our inspiring presenters: Dr. Stuart Foster, Dr. Jessica Yam, and Carolyn Broe!

As for our Student Events, our winter/spring Student Recitals at Grand Canyon University were very professionally run and showcased bright student musicians who are eager for extra performance opportunities. A definite highlight was the roaring return of PMTA's Piano Ensemble to a live audience setting! Our Dean Elder Piano Competition was a great success with 43 talented contestants. Our highly respected judges were Dr. Andrew O'Brien, Dr. Andrew Campbell, and Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk. Our final student event of the year, ASP Evaluations, ran smoothly at Glendale Community College.

For the past two years, it has been my true pleasure to serve as PMTA President. Now we eagerly welcome Snezana Krstic as our incoming President along with Dani Shraibman as President Elect.

Respectively submitted by
Nellie Cronin
PMTA President



Jayne Bigelow
President,
Tucson Music Teachers Association

Tucson Music Teachers Association is busy making plans for the 2023-2024 year! We look forward to the return of the Performance Festival event in November, possibly including an additional clinician so more performers get wonderful, encouraging feedback. In January, we are hoping to welcome a special guest speaker focusing on impressionism. Looking forward to a great year in Tucson!



Thanks!
Jayme Bigelow
President, TMTA



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