



MusiGram

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

Winter
 2024

Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk
 ASMTA President



Happy New Year to all! I am so grateful for our great association and to all the wonderful members and volunteers who are willing to contribute their precious time to our association. Below is the summary of ASMTA events and work:

Our new publication editor, Steven DiBlasi, makes sure that we are continuing with the great tradition of our MusiGram that provides lots of information for our members. Also, thank you, Astrid, and Suszy for providing support with publications and a website. Thanks as well to Nina Tahbaz for sending the monthly ASTMA MusiEmail. Do not hesitate to add submissions for the MusiEmail about fun things that are happening in your association.

We are gearing up for the conference in late May. Silvan Negrutiu, the conference chair has already set many things in motion that promise conference in Flagstaff will be great! Check out the conference page at [ASMTA Conference link](#) and enjoy his conference report below.

Our new Honors Recital Chair, Karali Hunter has been very efficient and already posted information on the Honors Recital 2024. Check it out [HERE](#). I am grateful to Tanya Eldridge, our President Elect, for all the preliminary work she has done for this event.

On Nov. 4th, Hanna Creviston and Natalya Thran organized an event, a collaboration between ASMTA and ASU, *The Piano Pedagogy Day and Dennis Alexander Honors Recital*. It was a wonderful gathering of teachers and students honoring a featured composer and a wonderful musician, Mr. Dennis Alexander.

The MTNA State Competition was held on Nov. 11, at ASU. Competition chair and 2nd Vice President, Yali Luo, had her hands full since there was a larger than usual number of participants and kudos to her, Devin Gardner, and other volunteers for putting everything together. Here is the [List of Winners](#).

Continued on page 2

ASMTA Board of Directors

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Technology	Nancy Keuper
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President's Letter, Continued from page 1

On December 11th, Kassandra Weleck, Tanya Eldridge and I participated in the Southwest Division meeting, which was structured as an informal conversation and exchange of ideas among several states that are part of the SW Division. We discussed past and upcoming conferences and how each state deals with the issue of contracts for guest artists. We also talked about insurance for teachers.

We will not have a nominee for MTNA Fellow for this 2024 MTNA conference, but please, let me and Debbie Dinkel know if you have any suggestions for our next MTNA Fellow 2025 and we will get on fundraising. Becky Rogers and Christy Porter did a wonderful job securing donations last year. We are very grateful for their work.

Melodie Acker helped two more members to become NCTM Certified. Congratulations to Karey Miles and Nancy McGuire, newly certified teachers!

On January 9, I was informed by RCM manager, Peter Gowdy that ASMTA qualified for a \$150 scholarship this year based on the number of participants last year. This money is welcomed, and we are grateful for this cooperation while looking forward to continue with it with Isidora Jovanovic leading the charge as RCM liaison.

Do not forget to tune in IMTF and ABRSM workshops (with Peter Davis and Mandarin Cheung Yueh) when announced through our MusiEmail.

In addition to all the mentioned activities, I know that every association is going strong with their local students' and teachers' events and I cannot wait to read the reports by the presidents. Thank you, Rosemary, Jessica, Susan, Patricia, Snezana and Jennifer for your leadership!

I am so grateful for the ASMTA officers and board members who are always ready to answer emails and respond to burning questions. Special thanks to Tanya Eldrige, Debbie Dinkel, Lynnette Barney, Lynn Moser, and Kassandra Weleck! Without them, my life would be so much more complicated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are still looking for additional webmaster person to help the indispensable Suszy Traylor. Thank you, Kassandra, for helping out but one more pair of eyes and "technology" hands would be great. Please, email me if you would like to consider this position. Looking forward to see you at our events!

Sincerely,
Dr. Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk
ASMTA President

Tatyana Eldridge
ASMTA 1st Vice President



Happy 2024! For the past couple of months, I visited several events. There was a very successful annual piano pedagogy day at ASU on Nov. 4th, 2023. Hannah Creviston and Natalya Thran did a wonderful job putting together lectures, presentations and Dennis Alexander's recital where a lot of students performed fun pieces composed by Dennis Alexander.

An amazing lecture/recital was presented by Dr. Dian Baker and Professor Eckart Sellheim on October 12th at PMTA general meeting. As a duet, they performed pieces composed by Fanny Mendelssohn, which are seldom played. Those who attended the meeting were exposed to the often-overlooked musical world of Fanny Mendelssohn.

Christopher Oill gave a wonderful and humorous presentation at the EVMTA general meeting on November 16th, 2023. The audience was engaged with the presentation, and everyone found something new and helpful through the interactive lecture/performance. In addition, I attended January's PMTA meeting where Professors Eugene and Elisabeth Pridonoff demonstrated a master class with some of the best PMTA students. Their comments were extremely insightful and helpful to the students who received them.

All the events which I attended were of high quality and very professional. I only wish that more teachers would attend these events. I hope together we can find a way to bring the interest of learning something new and a sense of curiosity to our teachers.

On January 12th, 2024 the letter regarding "ASMTA Local Member of the Year" was sent to all local presidents. The letter included some suggestions for qualification as well as criteria.

Respectfully submitted,
Tatyana Eldridge
ASMTA 1st VP





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Yali Luo

ASMTA 2nd Vice President

The 2023 MTNA State Competitions was held on Nov. 11th at ASU. Out of the state winners that competed in the division competitions in January, two are going on to the national competition in following categories:

- Junior String Category – Joshua Lee, violin, Student of Jooyeon Han
- Young Artist Brass Category – Jacob Kittleson, tuba, Student of Deanna Swoboda

Finals will be held on March 16-20, 2024 in Atlanta, GA.

Thank you,
Dr. Yali Luo
ASMTA 2nd VP

Silvan Negruțiu

ASMTA 3rd Vice President
& 2024 Conference Chair

**94th ASMTA Conference in
Flagstaff, AZ
Teaching Artistry
NAU Kitt School of Music
May 30 – June 1, 2024**



Conference Summary

The 2024 ASMTA Annual Conference will take place in the Kitt School of Music at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff on May 30 – June 1, 2024. The 2024 Conference theme is “Teaching Artistry,” with a focus on all elements related to the art of music pedagogy and artistic performance practice. More details are available on the [conference website](#).

Call for Session Proposals

The call for session proposals is active on the conference website, with a submission deadline of **February 9, 2024 at 5:00PM MST**. All submissions will be notified of status by the end of February 2024. All ASMTA members are invited to submit session proposals. Conference session proposals are welcome in the following formats: presentation, lecture-recital, panel discussion, workshop, performance, and showcase performance. If you would like to be considered for a conference session, please submit your proposal by following the link below:
[Call for Session Proposal & Online Submission Form](#)

Conference Highlights

The Conference artist will be **Alon Goldstein**, a pianist with an impressive performing and teaching career, former student of Leon Fleisher, who currently holds the position of Jack Strandberg/Missouri Endowed Chair in Piano at the UMKC Conservatory. For more details about the conference artist, please visit [his website](#). Goldstein will perform a recital the evening of Friday, May 31st, teach a masterclass, and tentatively deliver a session on career development for young pianists.

The national representative to the Conference will be MTNA President **Peter Mack**, who will attend the conference on Thursday, May 30th, to deliver the keynote address at the beginning of the Conference and official remarks during the evening banquet.

This year’s Conference also presents celebrated composer and teacher **Catherine Rollin** as the commissioned composer. Rollin will compose a new ASMTA-commissioned pedagogical piece that will be premiered at the Conference. She will also deliver a presentation on musical intuition and expression. Conference attendees will receive an engraved copy of Rollin’s new piece. For more details about the commissioned composer, please visit [her website](#).

Conference Venues

State-of-the-art **Kitt Recital Hall**, along with a couple of larger classrooms in the Kitt School of Music, will serve as the Conference spaces.

The Conference hotel is **Embassy Suites by Hilton Flagstaff** (706 S Milton Rd), offering a special Conference rate if booked by May 7, 2024, or until the number of reserved rooms will be reached. You may book your conference hotel now by accessing this [reservation link](#), which is also available on the Conference website.

The Conference banquet will take place on May 30th at 6:00PM at **High Country Motor Lodge** on West Route 66, with dinner served in Ryder Room and a full cash bar available in the lobby.

The Conference registration will be available on the website in March. We look forward to welcoming all of you and to providing a truly unique and inspiring conference experience in Flagstaff this May!

Sincerely,
Silvan Negruțiu, DMA
3rd VP & 2024 Conference Chair

Astrid Morales Torres
ASMTA 4th Vice President

I am looking forward to our state conference at NAU! I will be contacting our DEI committee to start planning Zoom activities this semester. If you would like to be part of this or if you have any students interested in being involved, please feel free to contact me.



Respectfully submitted,
Astrid Morales Torres
ASMTA 4th VP

Melodie L. Acker
Certification Chair

Congratulations to **Nancy McGuire, NCTM!** Nancy recently completed the Five Teacher File Projects to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music through MTNA. Nancy's certification is in piano.

Make plans now to attend the ASMTA conference in Flagstaff May 30-June 1. There will be a certification session at the conference. I hope to see many teachers at the certification session.

If you would like to become an NCTM, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
Melodie L. Acker, NCTM
Certification Chair

Barbara Russell
Arizona Study Program Chair

As of January 6, 2024 our enrollment numbers for the 2024 ASP evaluations are as follows:

- EVMTA 958
- PMTA 269
- TMTA 213
- EAMTA 19
- CMTA 17
- NAMTA 10

TOTAL 1,486 students



Late enrollment closes on February 15, 2024 and we anticipate some additional late enrollments.

The ASP Committee approved an increase in ASP materials including Theory Workbooks to \$15. Copying ASP Theory Workbooks is an ongoing issue and will continue to be a topic at ASP Committee meetings.

Continued on page 7

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ASP Chair, continued from page 5

ASP had a financial review conducted in March 2023 by Kris Curtis, PTP, KHM Bookworks, LLC. Ms. Curtis reviewed ASP Bookkeeping, Quick Books, and Treasurer procedures. Notable were her recommendations to perform monthly reconciliations and obtain approval from local or state chairs on all disbursement requests.

The issue of fixing or replacing the ASP Access Database is still unresolved but being addressed. Susan Traylor has been in contact with TenutoWeb, a competition registration and scheduling system designed for music teacher associations and non profits. The web designer is currently looking at our ASP Access database to determine the cost and work needed to make the improvements.

ASP awarded Rebecca Ong the Arnold Bullock Award in the amount of \$400.

The ASP Committee looks forward to a wonderful year of evaluations in 2024!

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Russell, NCTM
ASP State Chair

Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh
ASMTA ABRSM Liaison



Happy New Year! I trust that we have all enjoyed our winter breaks and are already back in the groove of our teaching routine.

On October 1, 2023 ABRSM launched its rebranding to affirm its commitment to provide objective and meaningful benchmark evaluations for learners of ALL ages, including the neurodivergent learners, with globally recognized qualifications, including the newly revised Diploma Exams in *Music Performance, Teaching*, as well as *Instrumental & Choral Directing*. If you're attending the MTNA National Convention in Atlanta in March, be sure to stop by **ABRSM's exhibit (booth# 600)** for a free gift, to check out ABRSM publications, and to learn about the different ABRSM offerings which may suit your teaching and studio needs.

The **Second ABRSM High Scorers Concert** is being planned for **Sunday, February 25 at 3pm at the Steinway & Sons in Scottsdale**. The concert will feature candidates who had successfully passed their face-to-face Practical Grades & digital Performance Grades exams with *Distinction* during 2023. Watch for additional details, including ticket information, in upcoming *EVMTA Newsletters* and *ASMTA MusiEmail*.

The 2024 Face-to-Face Practical Grades Exams in Arizona will be held **April 28-29 at the Steinway & Sons in Scottsdale**. Booking period opens on January 23 and closes on February 6. I will be hosting the following exam support workshops on Zoom:

- [Tuesday, February 6 at 10:30am – Developing Musicianship Skills](#)
- [Tuesday, March 5 at 10:30am – Understanding the Exam Marking Criteria](#)
- [Tuesday, April 16 at 9:30am – Tips for a Good Exam Day Experience \(please note the time for this particular session!\)](#)

Register to attend one or more of the above sessions to receive an ABRSM cotton tote bag.

Periodically, ABRSM also hosts free teacher development webinars via its [Teacher Hub](#). Your online ABRSM account provides you with access to this great resource, whether you are an independent or a group/classroom teacher. [Creating an online ABRSM account](#) is free so come and explore the [ABRSM Teacher Hub](#).

Follow us on [ABRSM Southwestern USA](#) for the latest news and updates specific to our region and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh, NCTM
ABRSM Liaison

Isidora Jovanovic
Royal College of Music Liaison



Progress has been made with establishing contact with an RCM representative. Our RCM contact is [Carrie Campbell](#). Thank you, Cassandra Weleck, for making this happen!

A webinar promoting RCM has been scheduled for April 2nd. Thank you Peter Davis for making this happen!

Ms. Campbell has been informed of both the webinar (which she will take part in) as well as the contacts and information needed to participate at the ASMTA conference in Flagstaff in May.

Again, a huge thank you for Peter and Cassandra helping with moving all this forward.

Sincerely,
Dr. Isidora Jovanovic
RCM Liaison

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Debbie Dinkel
ASMTA Immediate Past President
Happy New Year!



One of my job requirements includes pursuing the ASMTA Honored Teacher of the Year Award. I have contacted each Local President and will follow up with each one for this wonderful program. The deadline is in March for the Presidents to get their information to me. I'm looking forward to reading the letters and other information. The chosen Honored Teacher of the Year will be presented at our Conference in Flagstaff.

We chose not to pursue any MTNA Fellows this year, but will do so for next year, beginning in the Fall. I will work with Becky and Christy on this program starting then.

Sincerely,
Debbie Dinkel
ASMTA IPP

Kassandra Weleck
ASMTA Membership Chair



Since September's meeting, ASMTA has had sixteen new members join our community, including 5 collegiate members. That brings our total amount of members up to 384. I have sent information about ASMTA to each of these new members, and answered questions from several regarding access to the ASMTA website.

Remember new members receive a 50% discount from now until June 30th, so if you have a friend who teaches music who may be interested in becoming a member, now is the time to encourage them to do so at a lower price.

I have put together the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion web page on our ASMTA website with resources provided from several members. No one has given feedback about the content as yet. I would sincerely appreciate someone looking it over and giving comments on both content and how it appears visually. Many thanks for Astrid Morales for spearheading this project in the first place.

Continued on page 10

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APR 27 & 28, 2024 TUC



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Membership, continued from page 9

Debbie Dinkel (Immediate Past President) and I have gone through the ASMTA Policies and Procedures handbook to update it for most recent practices. If you receive an email from one of us inquiring about the specifics of your position, please understand it is for the benefit of this handbook and anyone that may have your position in the future. We hope to be able to present it at this February 2024 board meeting for review by everyone, and have corrections made prior to approving it at the board meeting in May 2024 at the state conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
Membership

Hannah Creviston

College Faculty Forum

Students and Faculty from University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, Mesa Community College and Arizona State University attended and participated in the 4th Annual ASU/ASMTA Piano Pedagogy Day with Mr. Dennis Alexander hosted at Arizona State University on November 4, 2023.

There were 44 students and teachers in attendance for the Workshop, as well as an additional 45 students who participated in the Dennis Alexander Honors Recital. Thank you to all of the teachers who sent students and a huge thank you to Natalya Thran for organizing everything!

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Creviston, NCTM
Collegiate Chair



Peter Davis
Independent Music
Teachers Forum Chair



We have three webinars scheduled for this spring, all on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

- Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, February 27: Beyond 'Good Job!' - Providing Students with Meaningful Feedback.
- Dr. Pamela D. Pike, March 5: Practice Techniques

- Dr. Isidora Jovanovich-Driscoll, April 2: What RCM Has To Offer Teachers

We are also rolling out the email of excellent articles and Practical Pedagogy Pointers. Watch for these. These will be drawn from great historical teachers as well as our current ASMTA teachers. If you have ideas for a 75-80 word presentation of 4-5 tips on a particular topic, please send these to peter.davis@ibcs.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Davis, IMTF Chair



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LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson
President, CMTA

Greetings to all from the land of Sandhill cranes and hummingbirds,

We are very happy to welcome two new teachers to our association. Alma Stacey comes to us from California and James Higgs lives in Tucson and teaches at Cochise College in Sierra Vista. They will be wonderful assets to our group, and we are excited to have new blood, so to speak.



Our Fall activities included every other month program presentations and monthly business meetings. Nov. 11th was our Fall *Live at Kino* highlighting students of all ages and levels. Our December activity was a dinner out for members who were able to join us. It was a small group, but we had a wonderful time and hope to make this an annual tradition. We hold no meetings in December as it is already overloaded.

Music in the Mall was held Saturday, Dec. 10th at the Mall at Sierra Vista food court. It was well attended and we had 37 students participating. We provided t-shirts to each participant as a gift from our association. Mall management is very happy to have us there at Christmas time and provide us with all necessary equipment. Hachenberg's Piano of Tucson provided our piano. We are grateful to them for their support.

January brought us into the New Year with a presentation of teacher ideas and sharing. It was so successful that we plan on carrying it forward to February.

March 23rd will be the annual Inge Young competition with 16 students registered. This event is supported by CMTA and Mark Young, the song of Inge Young, a past teacher and member of the Sierra Vista community. Monetary awards will be presented. Judges will be Craig Sales and James Higgs.

Our new Concerto Competition will have its first round on Saturday, Feb. 24th at Kino Hall. The second round is on April 6th at the same location. This

competition is the hard work of Francilia Schofield, one of our members.

April 27th will bring our Spring *Live at Kono* and May follows with the Arizona Study Program. ASP will be held at Cochise College in Sierra Vista. Our adjudicator is Marie Sierra.

Our May meeting will be a potluck and include voting on new officers and a teachers' recital. At this time we will begin our planning for the August Fundraiser. May will also start our annual Senior Recitals. This year we have four students preparing.

We look forward to being in Flagstaff for the ASMTA conference May 30-June 1.

Sending you our best from Cochise County,
Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson, NCTM
CMTA President



Jessica Yam
President, EVMTA

EVMTA will meet for their board meeting on Feb. 23, 2024. The agenda from our Sept. 29th board meeting included welcoming new and returning members, ongoing financial concerns, member reports and updates, as well as a recap of past events and ongoing planning for upcoming events.



Past events for EVMTA included our Opening Social, Organ Stop Pizza Party, Music Showcase, Fall Recital, Composers Celebration Concert, and Fall Workshops. Upcoming events are on track to be as successfully executed by their dutiful chairs as those that closed out last year for us.

Minutes from the last meeting are available by PDF.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica J. Yam, DMA
EVMTA President

Jennifer Russell

President, NAMTA



In September we had a special day where any chapter members could use Kitt Recital Hall for a portion of the day for a studio recital. This went smoothly and was a memorable experience for all who got to perform on the beautiful 9-foot Steinways and in the world-class hall.

In October we had a lecture-demonstration by Benita Rose called "Introducing Composer Marcos Fernandez-Barrero". In November we had a recital, followed by a masterclass given by Silvan Negrutiu. And in December we held a social event hosted by Diana Galindo. (We held NAMTA meetings in October, November and December, as well.)

We are planning a recital and meeting on February 17 and May 11. These may be followed by a presentation by Tiantian Liang or Jennifer Russell. In April we are planning to hold a Piano Play Day, where students get to be involved in a social setting while performing, playing music games, and learning new music topics.

ASP will be in May, as will the Northern Arizona Piano Competition, which many of us have students involved in. This will be followed by the ASMTA conference, which chapter members will help with, and then the Flagstaff Piano Festival, which will include many of our students.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Russell
NAMTA President



Snezana Krstic

President, PMTA

PMTA started the New Year with a well-attended general meeting on January 11, at Riverton Piano in Glendale.



At the meeting we had a chance to enjoy the piano Masterclass led by Elisabeth and Eugene Pridonoff, internationally known pianist and pedagogues and members of the PMTA. Focus was on intermediate and advanced repertoire. All attendees enjoyed the great performances and Pridonoff's profound insights into the nuances of piano playing. It was an inspirational learning experience for all.

PMTA's President-Elect, Dani Shraibman has planned two more presentations for this Spring. On February 8th our presenter will be Henry Welsby. He will welcome us at the newly opened Steinway & Sons Scottsdale and will present their Spirio Player Pianos. On March 14, ASMTA President Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk will discuss various piano methods. We are looking forward to her presentation at Steinway & Sons Scottsdale (14418 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 184, Scottsdale, AZ 85254).

Sue Shiner and Suszy Traylor, Piano Ensemble Co-Chairs, are getting ready for the longest-standing event of this kind in the nation, PMTA 72nd Annual Piano Ensemble Concert. It will be held on February 10, and will feature 258 performers representing 36 teachers.

Jelena Vladikovic, Student Recital Chair has planned two recitals this Spring, on March 2nd and on May 4th. Adult Recital Chairperson Claire Gordon planned the next recital for March 9th.

The Dean and Carolyn Elder Competition will be held on May 11-12 and is organized by Co-Chairpersons Stuart Foster and Michelle Cohen.

On April 11, Hospitality Chair Barbara Cooks will organize the Annual End of the Year Luncheon, one of the PMTA favorite events, always fun and well attended! Anyone interested in joining us? Send an email to barbaracooks@cox.net

PMTA is getting ready for the new, Fundraising Event - Celebration Concert scheduled for April 20 at 2pm at Camelback Bible Church in Paradise Valley. PMTA students and teachers will share the same stage, and we hope this event will be the celebration of talents and community and will become an annual event.

Respectfully submitted by,
Snezana Krstic,
PMTA President



Patricia Scordato

President, TMTA



On December 1, 2023, we had a General Meeting followed by our annual TMTA Holiday Luncheon at Vivace Restaurant. Members and guests enjoyed delicious food, delightful fellowship and superb musical entertainment. The combined operatic voices of Francisco Renteria and Kimberly Chaffin, accompanied by Ji-Sun Lee, were especially glorious and festive.

We're all looking forward to the upcoming workshop with Dr. Catherine Kautsky, "Debussy's Piano Music: Postcards from Paris c. 1900". It is being held at UA Fred Fox School of Music, Holsclaw Hall on January 20th, 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Over the last 20+ years, I have had the privilege of hearing Cathy give several presentations on a variety of topics and always came away with a deeper understanding of the music, composer and history. An excellent example of the breadth and depth of her knowledge is her recently released 24 video set, "[Great Works for the Piano](#)" for Great Courses/Wondrium. Dr. Kautsky is an eloquent, sought-after lecturer and brilliant teacher as well as a consummate pianist, historian, writer and pedagogue. The 11:30 program is preceded by a TMTA General Meeting which starts at 11:00.

There will be a KUDOS (Kids Up-Dating Outstanding Skills) EAST Recital on January 27 at 3:00 PM, held at Christ Church, 655 N. Craycroft. Online registration is currently open.

Members have started the New Year inspired to clean out closets and cupboards and donate their items to the TMTA Savers FunDrive. Christine Harper has organized this event and sent membership a little motivational video by professional organizer Marie Kondo. The drop off date is February 3rd.

Ensemble Rehearsals are scheduled for Feb. 17-18, March 2-3, and March 9-10. The Ensemble Stage Rehearsal and Concert will be held at UA Centennial Hall on March 16th. The theme this year is "Fun and Famous!".

Our "Festival in the Mall" event will be held at the Tucson Mall on April 13th. Our board approved

limiting the length of time per studio since some teachers were using the event in lieu of their own studio recital thus limiting the number of teachers who could have their students participate.

The TMTA Senior Recital will be held on May 5th at 4:00 p.m. at Rincon Congregational Church.

Merit Scholarship Auditions are scheduled for May 18 at Pima College West. Our TMTA General Meeting will be held after the auditions followed by the Winner's Recital.

Respectfully Submitted by
Patricia Scordato, NCTM
TMTA President

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