



MusiGram

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

Spring
 2024

Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk
 ASMTA President



Congratulations on completing another school year! After many months of hard work, it is time to take some very deserved rest and spend relaxing time with your family and friends. It is also time to start planning for next year, so get your creative ideas going.

I was very fortunate to attend the MTNA Conference in Atlanta in March as the representative for ASMTA. It was a great conference and also an opportunity to learn about innovations in music, new aspects of pedagogy and some new repertoire. Of course, it was incredibly fun to mingle with other MTNA members and to participate in association meetings and events. Several of our members presented at the conference and congratulations to all of them for wonderful presentations. (Lynnette Barney, Jennifer Foxx, Tiantian Liang, Daniel Linder, and Silvan Negrutiu). Follow the link below to access a document with a number of conference handouts available digitally. [MTNA Conference Handouts Link](#)

On June 2nd, we successfully concluded the 94th ASMTA Conference in Flagstaff and James R. Anthony Honors Recital, which was a true showcase of talent and dedication. There were around 80 attendees at the conference and 57 students participated in the Honors recital auditions. I am profoundly grateful to our esteemed conference chair, Dr. Silvan Negrutiu for bringing us all together with his visionary leadership. We are truly fortunate to have him and his extraordinary NAU team who dedicated countless hours to preparing this gathering on the beautiful campus of Northern Arizona University. I also appreciate the work of Dr. Karali Hunter, who ran her first Honors Recital very successfully with the help of her co-chair Chenbaixue Yang. My favorite things at the conferences are to listen to wonderful presentations, performances, and master classes, learn many new things and get inspired for future projects. But meeting the teachers from the entire

Continued on page 2

ASMTA Board of Directors

Officers 2023-2024

President	Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM
1st Vice President/Pres. Elect	Tatyana Eldridge
2nd Vice President	Ji-Young Kim
3rd Vice President	Sherin Moustafa, NCTM
4th Vice President	Astrid Morales Torres
Treasurer	Lynnette Barney
Secretary	Lynn Moser, NCTM
Certification	Melodie Acker, NCTM
Arizona Study Program	Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM
RCM Liaison	Dr. Isidora Jovanovic
Immediate Past President	Debbie Dinkel

Local Associations

CMTA (Cochise)	Rosemary Hendrickson, NCTM
EAMTA (Eastern Arizona)	Susan Grove
EVMTA (East Valley)	Dr. Jessica Yam, NCTM
NAMTA (Northern Arizona)	Dr. Jennifer Russell
PMTA (Phoenix)	Snezana Krstic
TMTA (Tucson)	Patricia Scordato, NCTM

Administrative and Committee Appointees

Advertising	Dr. Tiantian Liang, NCTM
Archivist	Nancy Keuper
Arts Awareness	Astrid Morales Torres
Competitions – Composition	Devin Gardner
Competitions – Performance	Dr. Yali Luo
College Faculty Forum	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
Communications Coordinator	Nina Tahbaz
Honors Recital	Dr. Karali Hunter Chenbaixue Yang Peter Davis
Independent Music Teachers Forum (IMTF)	
Membership	Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
MTNA Foundation	Natalya Thran, NCTM
Publications Editor	Emily Ruben
Student Chapters	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
Technology	Nancy Keuper
Website	Susan Traylor

<i>Inside This Issue</i>	
Conference Summary	4
ABRSM News	5
Membership Anniversaries	6
General Meeting Minutes	8

President's Letter, Continued from page 1

state of Arizona is always the best thing! We had a lot of meaningful conversations, made some important decisions during our meetings and had a fantastic evening at the conference banquet.

I am very excited to report about this year's ASMTA awards. Thank you, all the committee members, for taking time to thoroughly review all the applicants. Below is the list of all awarded teachers that were honored at the Gala Banquet during the ASMTA Conference in Flagstaff. Please, congratulate them when you see them. They all deserve our gratitude for everything they do.

2024 ASMTA Honorary Life Members

EVMTA - Paula Dahl, NCTM

CMTA - Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson NCTM

PMTA - Jo Ann Stone Smelser, NCTM

2024 Janice McCurnin-Beatrice Searles Honored Teacher Award

EVMTA – Dr. Karali Hunter, NCTM

2024 Local Association Member of the Year

CMTA - Rebecca Brock Williams

EVMTA - Marla Bradford, NCTM

PMTA - Stuart Foster

TMTA - Gloria Singleton

NAMTA - Marie Zelenka

The nominating committee decided that our next MTNA Fellow for 2024-2025 will be **Melodie Acker, NCTM**, our current board member and MTNA Certification Chair. Congratulations Melodie on your nomination! To ensure the nomination succeeds, we need to collect \$1500 in funds. I kindly ask you to please visit the [Donation](#) page and donate whatever amount you can in her name. The donations to the MTNA Foundation directly support various programs that benefit both teachers and students.

I feel very fortunate and honored to be the president of this wonderful association because of all the amazing members who are my inspiration. I would like to thank all outgoing board members that made our ASMTA association much better and more successful.

- 2nd VP – Yali Luo (who will still serve as chair of the MTNA Competitions)
- 3rd VP – Silvan Negrutiu
- Publication/MusiGram Editor – Steven DiBlasi
- ABRSM Liaison – Mandarin Chang-Yueh
- MTNA Foundation Co-chairs – Becky Rogers and Christy Porter

And to all members - thank you for your tireless work throughout the year in helping with association activities and events. I am looking forward to one more year of great cooperation. Wishing you a great summer.

Sincerely,
Dr. Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk
ASMTA President



**MUSIC
IS
ELEMENTARY®**

Music Education Starts Here.

Check the Archives

You can peruse the past online by checking:

- (1.) [ASMTA MusiGram Webpage](#) for the past 20 years of MusiGrams or
- (2.) [ASU Repository](#) for the full Arizona State Music Teachers Association Collection

These easily accessible archives are available now!



Parents guide to *success*

Voted the #1 piano store by teachers in AZ

7,000
Pianos sold

4,250
Pianos leased

4,600
Recitals hosted

600
Teachers in our network



In 1929 my great-grandfather started a piano business. Four generations later the Wallace family is still captivated by the touch, tone, and design of great instruments. Our current passion is to make high-end Yamaha pianos more accessible and affordable for families and first-time buyers. Every day we launch another student into the dreamy and rewarding world of music. We couldn't do it without the tremendous talent and teaching expertise of local piano instructors.

We express our loyalty to the teaching community by offering a place to host recitals as well as a retail storefront they can trust. That's why teacher referrals always get the best deals. Price breaks, free delivery, extra tunings, extended warranties and a low pressure sales environment. So come visit us at our Gilbert location, we'd love to meet you and hear your story.

Our products



YAMAHA *Clavinova* DIGITAL PIANOS

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED PIANOS



Finally it's *easy*

We offer 3 different ways to acquire a piano based on your specific needs.



Purchase now



Play period



No interest financing

Phone

480-970-5222

Address

1166 S Gilbert Rd Suite 113 Gilbert AZ 85296

Website

www.myfirstpiano.net

Silvan Negruțiu

ASMTA 3rd Vice President
& 2024 Conference Chair



The 94th ASMTA Conference – *Teaching Artistry* took place at the NAU Kitt School of Music in Flagstaff on May 30 – June 1, 2024.

The 2024 conference presented a program of forty+ events over three full days, including presentations, lecture-recitals, panel discussions, exhibitor showcases, and performances. Among the many highlights were the guest artist sessions, including Keynote Speaker Peter Mack's keynote address on May 30th, Commissioned Composer Catherine Rollin's presentation and world premiere performance of the commissioned work titled *Falling Leaves* on May 31st, and Conference Artist Alon Goldstein's presentation on May 30th, recital on May 31st, and masterclass on June 1st. We celebrated another successful year for ASMTA and its members at the Annual Gala & Banquet Dinner, which took place in the Ryder Room at High Country Motor Lodge on May 30th. To conclude the conference, we witnessed the incredibly talented young musicians of Arizona, who competed and performed wonderfully in the 2024 James R. Anthony Honors Recital, expertly organized and managed by Karali Hunter.

Conference registration and attendance have exceeded our projections and expectations. The 80+ conference registrations translated into over 60 total nights booked at the conference hotel (compared to the projected 50 nights) and 70 participants attending the Gala (compared to the projected and initially budgeted 40 participants). In addition to the increased registration numbers, we are deeply grateful to the NAU Kitt School of Music, NextGen Pianos, ASMTA Presidential Fund, MTNA, and Alfred for their generous sponsorship that helped cover this year's conference expenses, while providing a healthy base budget for the 95th ASMTA Conference in 2025.

I am indebted to the ASMTA Board and the local organizing committee for their support and hard work over the last year, with special thanks to Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk, Kassandra Weleck, Lynnette Barney, and Suszy Traylor, who served as tireless advisers at every step in the process. Steven DiBlasi has our gratitude for his incredible work on the design and printing of the conference booklet. Not least, I would like to thank the members of the organizing committee – Rita Borden (silent auction), Aimee Fincher (venue &

program), Karali Hunter (Honors Recital), Tiantian Liang (exhibitors & program), José Ramón Méndez (program), and Jennifer Russell (registration & program) – without whom the successful planning and unfolding of this year's conference would not have been possible.

Hearty congratulations to the newly-elected 3rd Vice-President & 95th ASMTA Conference Chair, Sherin Moustafa, and warmest wishes as she begins planning for next year's conference, which will take place in Phoenix—East Valley on May 29-31, 2025.

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

Melodie L. Acker

Certification Chair

Two teachers have become certified since July 1, 2023. Karey Miles, NCTM and Nancy McGuire, NCTM are now nationally certified teachers of music through MTNA! Both Karey and Nancy are members of EVMTA.



The certification session at the ASMTA conference focused on writing your teaching philosophy, as well as updates to the Piano Teacher File Projects. There are many resources available on the MTNA website under Certification. If you are interested in becoming a nationally certified teacher through MTNA, please contact Melodie Acker, NCTM melodieacker@cox.net

Will you be the next NCTM in Arizona?

Respectfully submitted,
Melodie L. Acker, NCTM
Certification Chair



TUCSON GIRLS CHORUS

The Tucson Girls Chorus provides outstanding choral education that fosters leadership, a sense of belonging, and affirmation that **each girl's voice matters.**

www.tucsongirlschorus.org



Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh

ASMTA ABRSM Liaison

I hope everyone has had a fruitful year of teaching, learning, and music-making. As the academic year nears its end and summer approaches, I would like to recapitulate some of the ABRSM events this past spring.

Alongside the monthly exam support workshops, Arizona held its Second ABRSM High Scorers Concert this past February at the Steinway & Sons in Scottsdale. The concert, featuring candidates who had successfully passed their face-to-face Practical Grades & digital Performance Grades exams with *Distinction* during 2023, was well attended.

In March, Representatives of the Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern USA, along with ABRSM's Director of Business Development from the London head office hosted an exhibit booth at the MTNA National Convention in Atlanta (March 17-19), providing MTNA members the opportunity to learn about ABRSM and its offerings.



In a *Meet & Greet* Workshop held during the Spring Exam Tour, the ABRSM visiting examiner Dr. Anthony Whittaker-Mahoney and I demonstrated a full practical exam and explained the marking criteria, which focuses on the objective assessment on the five key elements of PITCH, TIME, TONE, SHAPE & PERFORMANCE in music, regardless of instrument/voice that all ABRSM examiners follow.

As my term as ABRSM Liaison ends on June 30, I will be stepping down from the board. On behalf of ABRSM, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the interest and support ASMTA has shown in ABRSM the past two years. I would also like to thank both the ASMTA board and membership for the opportunity to serve the organization. As a reminder, all ABRSM assessments and resources are open to the global community with no membership requirement and that as the ABRSM Representative for the Southwestern USA, I shall remain the local official point of contact for all matters concerning ABRSM.

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

Kassandra Weleck

ASMTA Membership Chair



Membership renewals are now open online at [MTNA](#). Make sure you renew prior to June 30th for the 2024-2025. Congratulations to those that won our \$25 Amazon gift card renewal drawings for the spring:

April 5-15 - Melodie Acker, NCTM (EVMTA)
April 16-30 - Yuerong Gong (PMTA, EVMTA, & ASU)
May 1-30 - Linda Stansbury (PMTA)

Congratulations to all our new members for 2023-2024, as well as those celebrating anniversaries.

New members in 2023-2024

Tammy Baxter
Vera Boderash
Kandyce Bullock
Eun Ha Cho
Jessica Davlin
Ila Feltman
Andria Fennig
Stefanie Gardner
Taylor Glomb
Christian Hagedon
Jenny Han
Yu Han
James Higgs
Seth Hord
Sabrina Hu
CeCe Huffman
Ashley Jones
Jean-Charles Klein
Sarah Laing
Anne LeBauer
Bonson Lee
Henry Mauser
Kimiko Mori
Joshua Pielemeier
Chun-Ya Pien
Haowen Qi
Abbi Robertson
Jordan Robison
Joletta Sells
Tiffany Smith
Alma Stacey
Richard Sullivan
Jamie Taylor
Laura Thiele
Caitlin Tolman

Rachel Wilson
Isaac Wisdom
Hui Zhou
Qiao Zhu

2019 – 5 Years of MTNA Membership

Taran Argiropoulos
Adrienne Barrett
Hyeri Choi
Sinjung Do
Erin Hales
Kathleen Kelly
Jihyun Kim
Melissa La Spisa
Debbie Leavitt
Mengyu Liu
Baruch Meir
Charmaine Piane-Dame
Jenny Su

2014 – 10 Years of MTNA Membership

Ginny Alvey
David DeSoucey
Diane Ewell
Devin Gardner
Michaela Hyde
Victoria MacDonald
Daphne Mischke
Christy Porter
Hope Struse

2009 – 15 Years of MTNA Membership

Rodney Abriol
Sonoko Barnett
Debbie Dinkel
Qing Nadia Feeken
Christine Harper
Nataliya Willoughby
Jean Wynia
Jessica Yam, NCTM

2004 – 20 Years of MTNA Membership

Astrid Chan
Tanya Eldridge
Garinee Garmanian-Jording, NCTM
Claire Gordon
Lara Holt
Nina Jin-Hessenius
Cheryl Langley, NCTM
Yali Luo
Janet McClary
Francie Schofield
Karen Van Sickle
Wei Xing
Julia Yu

1999 – 25 Years of MTNA Membership

Carolyn Broe
Lori Frazer
Juliana Kraver
Ashley Lane, NCTM
Ursula Newman
Genny Rafferty, NCTM
J. Francisco Renteria
Natalya Thran, NCTM
Mari Tomizuka

1994 – 30 Years of MTNA Membership

Anne Cheney

1989 – 35 Years of MTNA Membership

Pauline Dana
Victoria Harris, NCTM
Stella Saperstein
Gloria Singleton

1984 – 40 Years of MTNA Membership

Debbie Saifi, NCTM
Jo Ann Smelser

1979 – 45 Years of MTNA Membership

Sharon Lovell
Peggy Rostron

1974 – 50 Years of MTNA Membership

Linda Stansbury

50+ Years of MTNA Membership

Linda King (53)

As always, if you ever have any membership questions, please reach out to me at kjweleck@gmail.com. Have a great summer!

Respectfully submitted,
Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
Membership

Instrumental

MUSIC

TUCSON
ARIZONA

Center

SINCE
1999

CREATION DECEPTION PASSION OBSESSION ICONIC 2023/24

2024/25 Season
For AZ Opera
Now Online
[Click Here](#)
To See!



ARIZONA OPERA

azopera.org | 602.266.7464
520.293.4336

Lynn Moser
Secretary

ASMTA General Meeting
Minutes – May 30, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by President Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk in Kitt Recital Hall at Northern Arizona University.



Present: Melodie Acker, David Coste, Peter Davis, Debbie Dinkel, Stuart Foster, Diana Galindo, Susan Grove, Gabrielle Hubler, Karali Hunter, Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson, Kathleen Kelly, Nancy Keuper, Snezana Krstic, Peter Mack (MTNA President), Lynn Moser, Sherin Moustafa, Silvan Negrutiu, Marian Pease, Barbara Russell, Craig Sale, Patricia Scordato, Susan Shiner, Marie Sierra, Gloria Singleton, Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, Nina Tahbaz, Natalya Thran, Suszy Traylor, Cassandra Weleck, and Rebecca Williams.

The minutes from the General Meeting on June 3, 2023, were approved following a motion by Suszy Traylor and a second by Snezana Krstic.

The Treasurer’s Report was prepared by Lynnette Barney and presented by Debbie Dinkel. The current balance is \$89,809.44, meaning that ASMTA is in good financial condition. The Treasurer’s Report was approved following a motion by Cassandra Weleck and a second by Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson.

Election of ASMTA Board Officers – Debbie Dinkel brought forth the following nominees:

- 2nd Vice President – Ji-Young Kim (TMTA)
(Two-year term: 2024-2026)
- 3rd Vice President – Sherin Moustafa (EVMTA)
(One-year term: 2024-2025)

Gloria Singleton moved and Karali Hunter seconded that the above slate be elected. The motion passed.

Appointed Positions on the Board – Debbie Dinkel shared that the following people have agreed to serve for two-year terms (2024-2026):

- Publication/MusiGram Editor – Emily Ruben (Mesa Community College)
- MTNA Foundation Chair – Natalya Thran (EVMTA)
- Archivist – Nancy Keuper (EVMTA)
- IMTF – Peter Davis (EVMTA)

Debbie Dinkel thanked the following people for their service on the ASMTA Board:

- 2nd VP – Yali Luo (who will still serve as chair of the MTNA Competitions)
- 3rd VP – Silvan Negrutiu
- Publication/MusiGram Editor – Steven DiBlasi
- ABRSM Liaison – Mandarin Chang-Yueh
- MTNA Foundation Co-chairs – Becky Rogers and Christy Porter

Awards – Tatyana Eldridge shared the names of this year's awarded teachers:

- Honorary Life Members – Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson, Jo Ann Stone Smelser, and Paula Dahl, NCTM
- ASMTA Teacher of the Year – Dr. Karali Hunter
- Local Association Teacher of the Year
 - CMTA - Rebecca Brock Williams
 - EVMTA - Marla Bradford
 - NAMTA - Marie Zelenka
 - PMTA - Stuart Foster
 - TMTA - Gloria Singleton

Membership – Cassandra Weleck encouraged everyone to renew their membership. She initiated drawings for Amazon gift cards as an incentive for teachers to renew. Linda Stansbury was the winner of today's drawing.

MTNA Foundation Fellow – Natalya Thran announced that Melodie Acker has been nominated as an MTNA Foundation Fellow. She encouraged everyone to donate toward the \$1500 needed for Melodie to become a Foundation Fellow.

ASMTA Conference 2025 – May 29-31, 2025, in Phoenix. Sherin Moustafa is chairing the event, which will have entrepreneurship as the theme.

Adjournment was approved at 1:50 p.m. following a motion by Patricia Scordato and a second by Snezana Krstic.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Moser, NCTM
Secretary



West Valley Chorale

2024-2025 Season

GLORIA

Poulenc Gloria

and seasonal favorites

December 3 & 5, 2024

Puccini

Messa de Gloria

April 8 & 10, 2025

Discover more about [West Valley Chorale](https://www.westvalleychorale.com) online



Let's Play Music

- Want to make more money in less time?**
- Want to retain students for 3 or more years?**
- Want the option to teach during the summer?**



“My Dream Job!”

Let’s Play Music has provided me with the opportunity to work from home, use my degree to make a good income, and grow me personally. It is my dream job. I couldn’t have imagined a better life!

Rachel Alldredge, Maple Valley, WA

“Teacher Support is Unmatched”

The teacher support in this company is far and above any other I have experienced. The mentoring and tools available are simply unmatched. I credit much of my success to the way this company supports its teachers.

Luanne Harms, Peachtree City, GA

“More Money in Less Time”

Teaching private piano lessons was beginning to be too time consuming. I now make more money in less time since I can teach 4-7 students at a time in my classes.

Christine Cho, Calgary, AB, Canada

Apply Now!

Use your smartphone to follow the QR code



Which program suits you?



Ages 0-4

Kindergarten skills
 Music foundation
 Non-sequential semesters
 6-10 students per class
 Mom & me class



Ages 4-7

Foundational music
 Piano skills
 Solfege & ear training
 3-year program
 6-7 students per class



Ages 7-12

Piano technique
 Classical training
 Solfege & ear training
 2-year program
 3-4 students per class

Visit our website for more details
www.letsplaymusic.com

Az Piano

THE ARIZONA PIANO COMPANY

"A Grand Experience"

Arizona's Official

KAWAI
Piano Store

Your Premier Destination
for World-Famous Piano Brands.
Unveiling Elegance, Craftsmanship,
and Excellence!



**THE LARGEST SELECTION OF
NEW AND USED PIANOS IN TOWN**

4134 E. Wood St., Phoenix, AZ 85040

602-437-8445

MON-FRI 10AM-6PM | SAT 10AM-5PM

In-Store Shopping | Curbside pickup | Delivery

"Over 30 Years Serving the Valley"

azpiano.com