



MusiGram

Spring
2025

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

Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk
ASMTA President



Dear Members,

This is my last official report as the ASMTA President. The past two years have been incredibly exciting and filled with memorable moments. Leading an association of this size comes with its challenges, but it has been deeply rewarding on many levels. I never imagined I would meet so many wonderful people or have the opportunity to collaborate on such a wide range of projects and problem-solving initiatives. Having been a member of ASMTA for over 25 years, my goal as president has been to contribute to its growth, guide its transition into the future, expand its reach, and facilitate its functioning. In this report, I would like to outline things that we all did together. I am sure that our next president, Tanya Eldridge, will continue to lead with thoughtful intelligence, meticulous organization, and a balanced, measured approach. I am looking forward to my new position of Immediate Past President.

MEMBERSHIP

It is so nice to see that our membership has increased to over 425 members. I am very grateful to Kassandra Weleck, the outgoing membership chair, who has done so much to boost the membership.

VOLUNTEERING FOR SUCCESS

Our association thrives because of the dedication of our volunteers, whose efforts make our events and programs possible. Finding volunteers who will step into leadership positions has been a challenge. But with the help of Debbie Dinkel (Immediate Past President), we were able to recruit many new members who will continue the great work of those who are stepping down from their positions. I encourage all of you to reach to your local presidents and get involved in any role you can. Sharing

ASMTA Board of Directors

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1st Vice President/Pres. Elect	Tatyana Eldridge
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Immediate Past President	Debbie Dinkel

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EAMTA (Eastern Arizona)	Susan Grove
EVMTA (East Valley)	Dr. Nadia Feeken, NCTM
NAMTA (Northern Arizona)	Dr. Jennifer Russell
PMTA (Phoenix)	Snezana Krstic
TMTA (Tucson)	Patricia Scordato, NCTM
MTO (Music Teachers Online)	João Casarotti

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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, NCTM
Independent Music Teachers Forum (IMTF)	Chenbaixue Yang
Membership	Dr. Peter Davis
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responsibilities is essential to ensuring our association's continued success by allowing us to keep offering the programs and events we all enjoy.

MUSIC TEACHERS ONLINE (MTO)

I am so proud that we have officially created an online ASMTA chapter – Music Teachers Online (MTO). With Dr. João Paulo Casarotti, the new president, I am confident that this chapter will open up new opportunities for ASMTA members and beyond. The plan is to begin with activities in the fall, and I cannot wait to see what they have in store for all of us. Watch for the emails and announcements.

NEW CD ACCOUNT WITH CHASE BANK

In November 2024, we opened a new CD Account with Chase Bank and will continue this investment that can bring us some additional funds in the future.

UPDATE ASMTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Last fall, Cassandra Weleck and I updated the ASMTA Policies and Procedures. If you have a question about your job, you can find a detailed description in this document. For anyone who needs access to the updated ASMTA Policies, please follow the link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zEe6vjeNwZSbnkHgZ5hwCMRaxSozwHXo/view?usp=sharing>

STATE CONFERENCE AND HONORS RECITAL

Traditionally, we conclude our school year with a state conference. It has been a joy for the past two years to be involved with preparing for both conferences in Flagstaff in 2024 with Silvan Negrutiu and the 2025 conference in Mesa with Sherin Moustafa. I have been so fortunate to be working with those wonderful and perfectly organized conference chairs.

The next conference, 2026, will be in Tucson, organized by the TMTA association and our future 3rd VPs, Ian Houghton and Daniel Linder. We are all so lucky that they agreed to run our next conference! I cannot wait to see what they are preparing for all of us.

Karali Hunter and Chenbaixue Yang led another successful Honors Recital event. The Honors Recital evaluations took place in the MCC Music and Dance Department building, and the final winner's recital was at the MCC Performing Arts Center Recital Hall.

DIGITIZING THE ASMTA ARCHIVE

I was working with Nancy Keuper, the technology chair, and Snezana Krstic, the PMTA president, to close the physical storage space we have used in the past. This will allow us to save money for other association activities in the future. Our archive has mostly been digitized and is now stored at the Arizona State University Library. As president, I have securely stored all important physical documents in a drawer in my college office, and I am happy to keep them there for the time being. Meanwhile, Nancy will continue digitizing important archival materials and recycling duplicates and unnecessary copies that are no longer needed.

ASMTA AWARDS 2025

I am excited to report on 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 who were honored at the Gala Banquet during the State Conference. Please congratulate them when you see them! They all deserve our gratitude for everything they do. Of course, we have many other members who also deserve recognition; please know that you are all appreciated!

2025 Janice McCurnin-Beatrice Searles Honored Teacher Award

TMTA – Lynnette Barney

2025 Local Association Member of the Year

CMTA - Alma Stacey

EVMTA - Marcia Havlovic

PMTA - Peggy Rostron

TMTA - Cassandra Weleck, NCTM

NAMTA – Chase Coleman

50th Anniversary of MTNA Membership

Paula Dahl, NCTM

Dorothy Dungan, NCTM

Fran Kaspar, NCTM

Paul Lorenze, NCTM

Kathy Rood, NCTM

MTNA Foundation Fellow Recipient 2024-2025

EVMTA - Melodie Acker, NCTM

MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominees 2025-2026

TMTA - Raymond Ryder, NCTM

TMTA - Kassandra Weleck, NCTM

Please consider donating to the MTNA Foundation for our future Fellows, Kassandra and Raymond. Any amount counts. [DONATE.](#)

I would like to thank all my ASMTA friends for their support and help through my presidential term, and I am looking forward to taking the position of Immediate Past President for the next two years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk, NCTM
ASMTA President

Tatyana Eldridge

ASMTA 1st Vice President

Dear Teachers,

In the spring semester, I emailed local presidents regarding the "ASMTA Local Member of the Year" award. Five of our local associations presented their nominees:

1. Alma Stacey – CMTA (Cochise)
2. Kassandra Weleck – TMTA
3. Marcia Havlovic – EVMTA
4. Peggy Rostron – PMTA
5. Chase Coleman – NAMTA

Congratulations to these wonderful teachers!

In March I attended the national conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was a wonderful journey that was filled with great presentations, interesting master classes and very high-level competitions. Also, attending any conference gives a chance to meet new people and old friends as well as getting more ideas about different aspects of music.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatyana Eldridge
ASMTA 1st Vice President

Ji-Young Kim

ASMTA 2nd Vice President

Dear ASMTA Members,

I am pleased to report that the preliminary round of the 2025 ASMTA Honors Recital Auditions went smoothly in late April/early May. This year, there was a record number of applicants, 123 applicants as compared to 73 last year! As you can see in Karali's report, 5 out of 6 piano solo divisions had to have a preliminary round audition by video recordings.

The Preliminary Round Auditions were held by video recordings and the students who did *not* advance to the final round received comments from a judge.

The final round of auditions was held on Saturday May 31 at the Music Building of Mesa Community College. The Winners' Recital was held at 5pm on the same day in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) on MCC campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Ji-Young Kim
ASMTA 2nd Vice President



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Sherin Moustafa

ASMTA 3rd Vice President
2025 Conference Chair

Dear Members,

What an incredible time we had at our 95th State Conference PianoPreneur held at Mesa Community College's Performing Arts Center from May 29th through 31st. We had nearly 100 registrants, were supported by 36 generous donors, hosted 11 exhibitors, and offered over 60 silent auction items. Many thanks to the amazing support of our community, we raised approximately **\$18,500** over the three-day event.

If you are on Facebook, be sure to check out the fun moments captured by attendees using the hashtag **#ASMTA2025**. Photos taken by our volunteer photographer, Ed Horta, have also been completed and distributed.

The majority of the conference sessions have been video recorded, and they are currently in the post-editing stage. These videos will be archived upon completion.

Sam Bennett of PianoWorks (Atlanta, GA) has extended an exclusive teacher and student discount on Hidrau Hydraulic Benches, and ASMTA receives 5% of all the proceeds until May 31st, 2026.

A heartfelt thank you to our conference committee and all the volunteers who helped make this year's conference a success! As I pass down the baton to next year's conference co-chairs, Ian Houghton and Daniel Linder in Tucson, I want to wish them every success in planning an unforgettable 96th State Conference, which many of us are already looking forward to!

Thank you,

Sherin Moustafa, NCTM
ASMTA 3rd VP & 2025 Conference Chair



Astrid Morales Torres

ASMTA 4th Vice President

Dear ASMTA Members,

I hope all of you had a wonderful time at the state conference! Brava Sherin Moustafa for organizing it!

As part of our DEI resources, I interviewed Arizona-based composer Karalyn Schubring. This interview will be available on our website, and I would like to thank Ms. Schubring for sharing her expertise with us.

It has been a pleasure being your 4th Vice President and Arts Awareness Chair for the past four years. I would like to thank all of you for your support in our DEI resources, and it has been such a rewarding experience collaborating with this amazing group of music educators.

Sincerely,

Astrid Morales Torres
ASMTA 4th Vice President



A Conversation with Karalyn Schubring

By Astrid Morales Torres



Karalyn Schubring's composition students won the MTNA competition for Arizona and represented us at the Southwest Division MTNA Competition.

Karalyn Schubring (b. 1999 in Gilbert, Arizona) is a dedicated composer, pianist, teacher, and improviser whose work centers around inspiring others to engage imaginatively with music. Since beginning her piano and composition studies at a young age, her music has gained national attention, garnering awards from organizations such as the American Composers Forum (ACF), the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), YoungArts, and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). In addition to being invited to perform her piece for piano and euphonium on National Public Radio's "From the Top" program, Karalyn has been commissioned to write music for award-winning ensembles and musicians. A dedicated performer of new music, Karalyn is a founding member of the mixed quartet "Front Porch" that encourages people to build relationships with contemporary music and the people who create it. Karalyn holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Composition from the University of Michigan, where she studied piano with Dr. Matthew Bengtson and composition with Kristin Kuster, Evan Chambers, and David Sheng.

I got acquainted with Karalyn's works while being a student at Arizona State University, and I have been very fortunate to perform her works for saxophone and piano duet. Karalyn's music is always well received with international audiences, and her vibrant personality is reflected in her music. I would like to thank Karalyn for taking the time to share her expertise with the Arizona State Music Teachers Association.

Tell us about how you started your journey with music/piano.

This is the long version: My dad worked for Intel. The company moved my family out to Malaysia for a year when I was a toddler, and it was there that they were introduced to the Yamaha Music Education System for

piano. When we moved back to Arizona, there happened to be an amazing Yamaha school just fifteen minutes away from our home. I was enrolled in classes at three years old, which is when they encourage all their students to start, and the rest is history!

How did you become a composer? How do you find inspiration for your works?

Yamaha offers a composition program that, at the time, was called Junior Original Concert. Students compose one new work a year and perform and record themselves playing their music to enter it into an annual competition. I started the program at six years old and never stopped composing! My composition education was very much an apprenticeship model. Each week I would observe how my teacher, Tomoko Yonemaru, would transform my little ideas into something that had substance and structure. By the time I was a teenager, I had more and more of the confidence to make those decisions on my own. I'm typically most inspired by my own improvisations. Any ideas that stick out to me as particularly special get jotted down and eventually turned into a full work, then I step back, analyze what the piece means to me, and give it a title.

What is the importance of improvisation for musicians?

I think improvising is meant to be a safe place where musicians can *play*. Sometimes we forget that we're supposed to *play* our instruments, not just use them as skill treadmills! Improvisation also teaches us how music functions as a language. In middle school, I studied Latin, but in high school, I studied German. My Latin studies were very grammar and translation focused, and there was no speaking involved. I developed the skill of translating Latin to English, but the language never came alive in my brain. When I took German, speaking was a huge part of the learning process. I found that my brain would randomly think about German when I was eating lunch or in the shower, and it was always subconsciously seeking to make connections and meaning between German and the world around me. It really lit up my brain in a way that my Latin studies did not. From my experience, I think that if musicians only ever play notated music by others, they will enjoy an intellectual journey with their instrument that is rich with technical skills (like learning Latin). Once you start allowing improvising into your life (like speaking German), your brain engages with music on a whole new level.

What are the challenges of being a woman composer?

Personally, I am grateful to be living in a time where female composers are celebrated and supported. I have not experienced setbacks in my journey because of this. I am grateful to have had several amazing female composition teachers! I know that my composer colleagues who have come before me did a lot of trail-

blazing, and they stuck out difficult learning conditions so that I could enjoy this atmosphere, and I thank them for their tenacity.

In your experience, how can we highlight the importance of programming DEI repertoire? How can we involve more teachers and performers that are not as familiar with DEI repertoire?

In my experience, seeking out DEI repertoire just for the sake of checking a box and patting ourselves on the back is a pretty exhausting process with little reward. There are many databases to wade through, and I sometimes get the sense that it has become more about making yourself look credible as a performer because of who you program versus if you actually connect with their music. That being said, I do think teachers get tired of working through the same books and songs with every student, every single year! The reason we get roped into these repetitive cycles is because we don't know where to look for fresh voices, we're short on time, and we don't know if this unfamiliar music will be able to achieve the same pedagogical milestones. It's not to say that teachers assigning Clementi Sonatinas hate female or non-white composers; they genuinely do not know that there could be other options that serve the needs of their studio.

Let's consider the importance of person-to-person recommendation. Remember the early days of Spotify, when you would log onto Facebook and see "So and so is listening to This Artist on Spotify"? People would see the kind of music their friends enjoyed and be inspired to check it out for themselves. Similarly, I think that organic, person-to-person friendship building and evangelism about the music we like is the surest way forward to a more diverse repertoire landscape.

The next time you are at a conference, I challenge you to go to 1–2 talks where someone plays music by a composer you've never heard of. Hearing them talk about something they've invested countless hours and energy into will most likely pass along a contagious affection for those new-to-you composers. And composers, I challenge you to actively seek out relationships with instrumentalists (professional acquaintanceships, not transactional business deals) so that you can understand how to actively serve the musical communities you seek to be a part of. There are so many bored music teachers out there, and if you found a way to serve these teachers by writing the music their students need to succeed, then you'd get to enjoy a career where people staunchly support your music, and we all would enjoy a more diverse musical landscape.

Any advice you would give to young composers?

You do not need to prove your worth with every note you write; you are already valuable. Your brain is

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automatically more brilliant than you think. Clear music notation counts. Make lots of friends!

If you would like to contact Karalyn or order her music, please visit:
<https://www.karalynschubring.com/>

Check the Archives

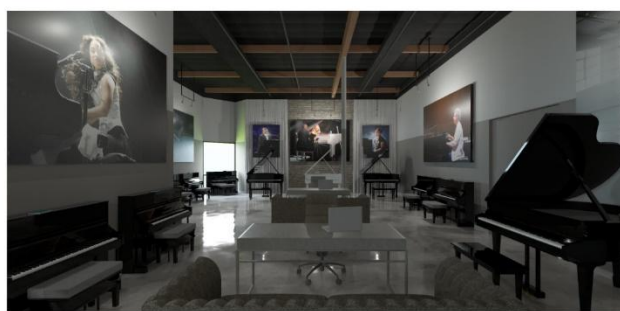
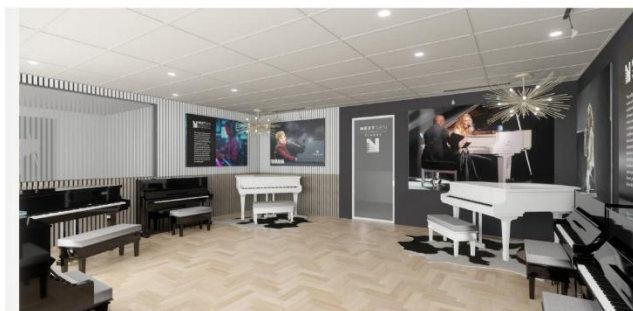
You can peruse the past online by checking:

[ASMTA MusiGram](#) webpage for the past 20 years of MusiGrams or

[ASU Repository](#) for the full Arizona State Music Teachers Association Collection. These easily accessible archives are available now!



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Debbie Dinkel

ASMTA Immediate Past President

Dear ASMTA Members,

This is my final article as Immediate Past President. I'll be transitioning into the Treasurer position, taking over for Lynnette Barney whose shoes will be difficult to fill. She held this position for 14 years and knows the ins and outs of the books. In time, I'll figure those out too, with her help.



It's been a real pleasure and joy working with the leadership of ASMTA. I've enjoyed working with such wonderful, respectful, and caring people. Egos have been kept in check and the primary goals of our organization have been the focus.

Radmila has been a joy to work with these past two years. She has dealt with many details of ASMTA that have made it more efficient and up to date. I applaud her for that, since I wasn't one to tackle such things as President.

ASMTA is moving forward with so many wonderful events. I look forward to the next developments.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dinkel
Immediate Past President

Melodie Acker

Certification Chair

Congratulations to Victoria MacDonald, NCTM, and Dr. Nadia Feeken, NCTM. These two teachers completed their certification through MTNA! Victoria completed the five Teacher File Projects through MTNA and Nadia became certified through administrative verification.



Thanks so much to everyone who attended the Certification session at the ASMTA state conference on Saturday, May 31st. The session was well attended, and Victoria and I hope that the information provided is helpful to any teachers who would like to pursue national certification.

If you are interested in becoming an NCTM through MTNA, please contact me at either of the following email addresses:

melodieacker@cox.net
melodieacker@gmail.com

Have a great summer everyone,

Melodie L. Acker, NCTM
MTNA Foundation Fellow 2025

Peter Davis

Independent Music Teachers
Forum

I want to thank those who presented webinars for us last year. We will continue doing our webinars on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.



This fall I hope to host webinars on these topics:

- Forming Technical Foundations with Excellence: What to Listen For, What to Look For (Panel Discussion)
- Teaching Students to Problem Solve (with Melody Payne)
- Envisioning Lifetime Goals for Our Students' Involvement with Music (Steve Betts)

I want to especially give a shout-out to Suszy for her work in archiving our webinars on the ASMTA website. The videos that pertain to ASP are under the ASP tab. The others are under the IMTF tab.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter Davis
ASMTA Independent Music Teachers Forum

Kassandra Welek

ASMTA Membership Chair

It's that time of year when we celebrate YOU, our wonderful members.

WELCOME to our new members in 2024–2025! We hope you have enjoyed your first year of membership and are looking forward to many more years to come! Our goal is to help you get the most of your membership in MTNA and ASMTA so that you can be listed in the 5-year anniversaries that follow your names.

A special congratulations to ASMTA's **FIVE** 50-year members we are celebrating in 2025:

- * Paula Dahl, NCTM (EVMTA),
- * Dorothy Dungan, NCTM (TMTA/PMTA),
- * Fran Kaspar, NCTM (EVMTA),
- * Paul Lorenz, NCTM (TMTA), and
- * Kathy Rood, NCTM (EVMTA).

We are all better through your experience, dedication to ASMTA, and commitment to music education.

New members in 2024-2025

Chareeze Abarquez

Blair Allen

Natasha Asmar

Austin Baugh

Naomi Black

Valene Bryce

Siyi Chen

Chip Cheney

Tamera Cornwall

Mary Cota

Dmitri Eldridge

Matthew Fox

Shuang Gardner

Livia Gho

Eddie Goodman

Richard Greer

Sarah Haines

Kaitlyn Hendrix

Jim Hill

Zhanglin Hu

Sarah Huard

Patty Jenkins

Jieun Jeong

Danwen Jiang

Jing Jin

Kaitlyn Jones

Salome Klaasen

Ella Kollett

Vladislav Kosminov

Kara Lee

Kathryn Lechlitter



Tong Liu

Caroline McArthur

Lucas Miles

Flora Mogerman

Taylor Morgan

Kumi Motoyama

Mari Navarro

Houston Nelson

Vanja Nikolovski

Andrew North

Kenneth Osowski

Jenica Ostler

Rylee Patton

Allisen Pedersen

Elizabeth Pickens

Kia Portafekas

Taison Roddy

Kyeong-Hah Roh

Emily Ruben

Edmundo Santacruz

Cherie Scott

Ge Shi

Jiyeon Son

CJ Springfield

Zachary Van Houten

Lisa Wagenman

Sue Whittaker

Yu Wu

Zifeng Zheng

2020 – 5 Years of MTNA Membership

Kryste Andrews

Nicole Black

Nancy Chase

Alexis Devonport

Tabitha Kaminski

Fanya Lin

2015 – 10 Years of MTNA Membership

Jayme Bigelow

Yuerong Gong

Marcia Havlovic

James Heuser

Ian Houghton

Karey Miles, NCTM

Jill Tabata

2010 – 15 Years of MTNA Membership

Sungah Beack

Pamela Crockett

Bjorn Hanson

Rong Lucchesi

Loretta MeyerJalin Tilley

2005 – 20 Years of MTNA Membership

Sarah Elliott

Bette Franke

Charlotte Gordon

Ning Guan

Joshua Hillmann, NCTM
Meily Mendez, NCTM
Karen Miller
Marian Pease
Jelena Vladikovic, NCTM
Qingqing Ye

2000 – 25 Years of MTNA Membership

Hannah Creviston, NCTM
Jennifer Foxx
Lesli Hanson
Snezana Krstic, NCTM
Diann Lopez
Il Ah Pae
Georgia Sears
Kassandra Weleck, NCTM

1995 – 30 Years of MTNA Membership

Merri Chappell
Christina Eide
Candy Lam
Robert Swan
Alexander Tentser
April-Feiwn Wu, NCTM
Marie Zelenka

1990 – 35 Years of MTNA Membership

Jeannette Cline
Kay Couch
Deborah Dashney
Maria Helena Ferraz
Kim Hayashi

Andrew O'Brien
Laurie Smith
Susan Traylor

1985 – 40 Years of MTNA Membership

Ellen Sassano

1980 – 45 Years of MTNA Membership

Susan Martinez, NCTM
Karen Murphy, NCTM
Craig Sale

1975 – 50 Years of MTNA Membership

Paula Dahl, NCTM
Dorothy Dungan, NCTM
Fran Kaspar, NCTM
Paul Lorenz, NCTM
Kathy Rood, NCTM

50+ Years of MTNA Membership

Linda King, NCTM (54)
Linda Stansbury (51)

Sincerely,

Kassandra Weleck, NCTM
ASMTA Membership Chair

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The mission of the MTNA Foundation Fund Program is to promote the value of music study and music making in society by supporting student competitions, conferences, enrichment programs, and student symposiums, benefiting young musicians across the nation.

The ASMTA board is pleased to announce the new MTNA Foundation Fellows from Arizona, who will be recognized at the MTNA Conference in Chicago 2026.

We encourage you to contribute to the MTNA Foundation Fund in honor of Foundation Fellows from the ASMTA, Dr. Raymond Ryder, and Cassandra Weleck.

To donate, follow these simple steps:

1. Click on the link:
<https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/>
2. Enter your information.
3. Select the Foundation Fellow under "Please use my gift for."
4. Scroll down and enter the Fellow's name.
5. Complete your donation with credit card information. Remember that all donations are tax-deductible.

You can also mail a check payable to the MTNA Foundation Fund, addressed to Jenny Thomason, MTNA,

600 Vine Street, Suite 1710, Cincinnati, OH 45202. In the memo line, please write the Fellow's name. For any questions, please contact Natalya Thran, MTNA Foundation Chair for ASMTA, at nthran@yahoo.com

Kassandra Weleck, NCTM, is a piano instructor in Tucson, Arizona. She teaches privately and is an adjunct at Pima Community College. A graduate of Bowling Green and Arizona State Universities, Kassandra has enjoyed MTNA membership and leadership since her college days. She has been a part of East Valley and Tucson MTAs, as well as the past president of Arizona MTA. Kassandra currently serves as MTNA's Southwest Division Director, MTNA Composition Competition Coordinator for the Southwest Division, and as an evaluator for the MTNA e-Festival program. Thank you, MTNA, for all you've done to enrich my life.



Dr. Raymond T. Ryder is proud to be a full-time faculty member at Pima Community College, where he began as an adjunct in the late 1990s. He is the Past President and the Honored Teacher 2014 of the Arizona State Music Teachers Association, as well as the Past President of the Tucson Music Teachers Association. This honor is mostly a tribute to past role-model teachers-mentors who were active at the state and national levels of MTNA, Wendell Diebel, and Drs. Carolyn Bridger and Rex Woods, each of whom encouraged me to be involved! I am deeply grateful for their teaching and mentors



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Lynn Moser
Secretary

**ASMTA General
Meeting Minutes – May
29, 2025**



The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by President Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk in the Recital Hall in the Mesa Community College Performing Arts Center.

Present: Melodie Acker, Kazve Balint, Lynnette Barney, Andrew Brothers, João Paulo Casarotti, Nancy Chase, Peter Davis, Debbie Dinkel, Nadia Feeken, Jennifer Foxx, James Heuser, Ian Houghton, Leah Houpt, Nancy Keuper, Cheryl Langley, Susan Martinez, Lynn Moser, Marian Pease, Tanvi Petersen, Dani Shraibman, Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, Nina Tahbaz, Natalya Thran, Suszy Traylor, Karen van Sickle, Natalya Willoughby, Yukimo Veda, and Sophia Hui Zhou.

The minutes from the General Meeting on May 30, 2024, were approved following a motion by Ian Houghton and a second by Nancy Keuper.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Lynnette Barney. The current balance is \$112,129.11, meaning that ASMTA is in good financial condition. The Treasurer's Report was approved by the ASMTA Board at its meeting earlier today.

Membership – Sophia Hui Zhou reported that ASMTA currently has 425 members, which places it in the top ten nationally. She shared that she plans to continue the drawings for Amazon gift cards that serve as an incentive for teachers to renew. The winner of today's drawing is Liz Owens. The following 50th anniversary members were recognized: Paula Dahl, Dorothy Dungan, Fran Kaspar, Paul Lorenz, and Kathy Rood.

Election of ASMTA Board Officers – Debbie Dinkel brought forth the following nominees:
President: Tatyana Eldridge
Immediate Past President: Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk
1st Vice President: Hannah Creviston
3rd Vice President: Ian Houghton and Daniel Linder (co-chairs)
4th Vice President: Luba Brodsky
Recording Secretary: Marian Pease

Treasurer: Debbie Dinkel
Membership: Sophia Hui Zhou
MTNA Competitions – Performance: Baruch Meir (co-chair with Yali Luo)
MTNA Competitions – Composition: Jenny Su
Technology - James Heuser (co-chair with Nancy Keuper)

Suszy Traylor moved and Peter Davis seconded that the slate of officers be elected. The motion passed.

The following officers were thanked for their service on the ASMTA Board:
3rd VP – Sherin Moustafa
4th VP – Astrid Morales Torres
Recording Secretary – Lynn Moser
Treasurer – Lynnette Barney
CMTA – Rosemary Hendrickson
EAMTA – Susan Grove
NAMTA – Jennifer Russell
PMTA – Snezana Krstic
TMTA – Patricia Scordato
Membership – Cassandra Weleck
Competitions – Composition – Devin Gardner

Association Awards

2025 Janice McCurnin-Beatrice Searles Honored Teacher Award: Lynnette Barney (TMTA)

2025 Local Association Member of the Year:
Alma Stacey – CMTA
Marcia Havlovic – EVMTA
Peggy Rostron – PMTA
Kassandra Weleck – TMTA
Chase Coleman – NAMTA

MTNA Foundation Fellow – Natalya Thran reported that the 2025 MTNA Foundation Fellow Recipient is Melodie Acker. It was noted that \$3000 was raised on her behalf. The nominations for 2026 Foundation Fellows are Raymond Ryder and Kassandra Weleck. Natalya Thran shared that she has a table in the exhibitors' room where she is available to help people make donations toward the foundation fellows.

Certification: Melodie Acker reported that Nadia Feeken and Victoria MacDonald have fulfilled the requirements for MTNA certification. She encouraged members to stop by the Certification Table in the exhibitors' room for more information on becoming certified.

Music Teachers Online (MTO): João Pablo Casarotti was introduced as president of this new official chapter of ASMTA, and he invited members to join MTO in addition to their local chapters and noted that it adds just \$20 to the membership fees. The chapter is planning several upcoming events, including four weekly sessions in July/August.

Words of Appreciation

Debbie Dinkel presented Radmila with a plaque in recognition for her outstanding service as ASMTA President. Radmila will now serve as Immediate Past President.

Radmila expressed her appreciation to Sherin Moustafa for her outstanding leadership as chair of the 2025 ASMTA Conference.

2026 Conference in Tucson: Ian Houghton and Daniel Linder have begun planning for the event, with a possible theme of the intersection of music and other arts. Tentative dates are May 28–30, with the General Meeting being held on May 28th.

Adjournment was approved at 1:21 p.m. following a motion by Suszy Traylor and a second by Jennifer Foxx.

Sincerely,

Lynn Moser, NCTM
ASMTA Secretary

Karali Hunter
Honors Recital

Congratulations to all the talented students and teachers who participated in the 2025 Honors Recital. The level was as high as you would expect, and the judges were blown away by these great students! Please see the attached program at the end of this MusiGram to see a full list of winners!



Sincerely,
Dr. Karali Hunter, NCTM
Honors Recital

Local Associations

**Rosemary Isbell
Hendrickson**

President, Cochise Music
Teachers Association



CMTA's annual fundraising event will be on August 23rd at Kino Hall in Sierra Vista.

Donations are appreciated. The event will feature local performers that you won't want to miss. This is a well-attended annual event. Please join us—the weather will be nice!

Yours Sincerely,

Rosemary Isbell Hendrickson, NCTM
President, CMTA

Nadia Feeken

President, East Valley Music Teachers
Association

Since February, EVMTA has hosted several successful events: the EVMTA Piano Competition and Spring Student Recital in March, and Jason Sipe Prize Piano Performers, Senior Recital and Awards in April. All events were well attended with many participants.

The January workshop was presented by Sherin Moustafa via Zoom. The February workshop was a masterclass led by Dr. Baruch Meir from ASU. We had four students from various levels playing for him.

Two students were awarded the Nancy Spitzer Scholarship, each receiving \$500.

Marcia Havlovic was honored with the EVMTA Local Association Member of the Year award. The award was presented to her at our annual members' luncheon.

Financials

Julie Follett, our treasurer, reported that our CD with Wells Fargo is earning interest.

The donation we received from the Sertoma Club has been designated to go toward Ensemble since that's our biggest event.

Board Members Update

Autum Hunt has stepped down from her role as Fall Student Recital Chair. Natalia Willoughby has agreed to serve as the new chair for the event.

Nadia Feeken has assumed the role of President ahead of schedule due to Jessica Yam's maternity leave. She will continue in this role for the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 terms.

Nina Tahbaz has agreed to serve as Vice President for the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 terms.

Communication

Pam Crockett's newsletters have been exemplary—well-organized and engaging throughout the year.

Susan Martinez has consistently presented meeting minutes in a clear and well-organized manner.

Membership number: 156

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Nadia Feeken, NCTM
EVMTA President

Susan Grove

President, Eastern Arizona Music Teachers
Association

Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association has pursued new relationships with our community's music teachers this year, some former members, and some who were not familiar with our group. The state board's advice to include non-members in our events this year and to focus on teacher-enriching meetings has paid off.

We have brought in two former members who have lent their enthusiasm to our meetings and projects. One of them who joined headed our first ever "Music Meet Up" in a social area of our local college. Students and teachers played piano, cello, viola, trumpet, ukelele, and sang. This was quite a change for us, as we have done nothing with local teachers other than piano for most of our past years. We want to do it again, but we face a new policy of the college wanting to charge us a lot in the future.

Our meetings and events have done more to enrich teachers. One teacher presented highlights of the MTNA national convention, another taught us how to make posters on canva.com, and another provided info about a local online teacher referral service. A fine young local teacher who has visited with me came to one group meeting and loved the benefits. Though she has not paid to join yet, she will be joining us for summer events and will come to our ASMTA state convention for the first time, along with three of us who are officers. Thank you for encouraging us to include non-members!!

This summer we are planning a Workshop Trip to the studio of Mary Beth Martin, in Globe, AZ. She teaches MOSTLY Improv and Composition, mostly online. Last fall I visited her studio and was amazed at her set-up in the old courthouse of Globe. This event will be on Friday, June 13, at 9:30am–11:00, with lunch afterward.

We have a new President, Leah Houpt, whom you will meet at the convention. Our college is bringing in Dr. Greta Pastor to teach Piano and Organ, and our music department head says she is very interested in being part of our group. So, I believe you will be hearing more good news in the future!

Gratefully,

Susan Grove
President, EAMTA

Snezana Krstic

President, Phoenix Music Teachers Association

The spring semester has been packed with events and opportunities for our members and students. One of the highlights of our calendar was the Ensemble concert, which brought together a wide range of performers. 39 teachers participated, enrolling 287 performers. The final concert was held on February 8, 2025, at Arcadia High School. Co-chairs Suszy Traylor and Sue Shiner came out with great profits from ticket sales, totaling \$4,801.41.



Two Fundraising Scholarship Benefit concerts were held on March 29 at Camelback Bible Church in Paradise Valley. The program featured PMTA-awarded students along with past scholarship recipients, offering an inspiring look at student progress and the lasting impact of our scholarship program.

The Dean & Carolyn Elder Competition Auditions and Winners Recital took place at the Steinway Recital Hall in Scottsdale on Saturday and Sunday April 5–6 of 2025. 12 teachers and 41 students registered. Students were adjudicated by the panel of judges: Dr. João Casarotti, Dr. Ivona Kaminska, and Dr. Christopher Bowlby.

The ASP exams were held on April 25–26. The event ran smoothly, with 39 teachers and 269 students registered.

Student Recital Chair, Jenny Sue, held two successful recitals, the first on March 1 at Steinway & Sons, Scottsdale, and on May 3 at Riveron Piano in Peoria. Claire Gordon, Adult Recital Chair, presented two adult recitals this year, on October 19 and on March 8, each featuring 4–6 performers. These events provided a supportive space for adult learners to share their music.

The annual PMTA luncheon was held on April 10 and doubled as our favorite teacher gathering. A total of 22 teachers attended and enjoyed a lively afternoon together. Jason Sipe from AZ Piano brought a keyboard, providing live music throughout the event. Attendees were invited to play, creating a fun and interactive atmosphere. PMTA membership for the 2024–2025 term stands at 141 members!

Respectfully submitted,

Snezana Krstic
PMTA President

Patricia Scordato

President, Tucson Music Teachers Association

Our first exciting event for 2025 was a workshop presented by Dr. Silvan Negrutiu, “Teaching Artistry in Music.” Dr. Negrutiu gave an exceptionally enlightening and enjoyable presentation, recital, and masterclass.



The 2025 Ensemble concert “Vintage and Modern” was held at UA Centennial Hall on March 8th. After operating in the red for the last four years, we are extremely pleased to report that our 2025 Ensemble concert budget resulted in a positive balance sheet! This is due to a concerted effort by the Ensemble Committee to effectively generate donations and with the help of a very influential parent who was able to negotiate lowered rental costs at Centennial Hall.

TMTA is delighted to welcome new member Cameron Barton, who recently received his Master of Music at UA. Cameron did a stellar job chairing our Festival in the Mall event last month, and he has agreed to serve as our Student Honor Society chair as well. We love new members who volunteer!!!

Co-chairs Marie Sierra and Christine Harper held the recent Senior Recital at Christ Church United Methodist on April 27th. Although they did a wonderful job organizing the event, there were only five participants representing three teachers. These dwindling numbers have been the case for the last several years, so the board agreed not to hold it next year. Instead, we will recognize seniors at our end-of-the-year KUDOS Recitals. KUDOS Recitals are very well attended in the Spring, so senior performers will have a larger audience and TMTA will save the extra expense of another rental hall fee.

Thanks to our Community Foundation Scholarship fund, TMTA awarded scholarships to two Pima

Community College students and the winner of the TMTA Winifred Knight Award at UA.

In addition to the other solo categories, this year's Merit Scholarship Auditions have entrants in both the Chamber I and Chamber II categories. The auditions will be held at PCC Fine Arts Building on Saturday, May 17th, and will run from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Our last General Meeting of the year will be held after the auditions and before the MSA Winner's Recital. The TMTA board elections will take place at this annual meeting. The following people will be presented for election:

President — Dr. Astrid Chan
Vice President — Kathleen Kelly
Treasurer — Jennifer Swegle
Member-at-Large — Cameron Barton

TMTA celebrates and recognizes our incredibly valued members Lynnette Barney and Kassandra Weleck, NCTM. Lynnette is the recipient of the 2025 Janice McCurnin/Beatrice Searles Honored Teacher of the Year award, and Kassandra is the TMTA Member of the Year. Both these individuals have contributed so much to TMTA, ASMTA, and MTNA. We are very grateful for their dedication and expertise.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Scordato, NCTM
TMTA President

Jennifer Russell

President, Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association

We held the Piano Play Day in March, and the student MTNA chapter at NAU co-chaired this event with us. It was quite successful. The students were able to perform in a low-stress environment and took classes in ear training, music history, and improvisation.

We held a recital and meeting in April and discussed upcoming elections of officers, ASP, advertising in the conference booklet, and some upcoming events.

We held a recital in May which was followed by a brief meeting and a presentation by Christian Martin on voicing chords from lead-sheet notation. We also voted on officers and voted on the creation of a new position called NAU Liaison. Our officers for the 2025–2026 year are now as follows:

President—Chase Coleman
Vice President—Marie Zelenka
Secretary—Georgia Sears
Treasurer—Georgia Sears
NAU Liaison—Ken Osowski
ASP chair—Diana Galindo
Recital Chair—Chase Coleman, assisted by Laurie Smith

Warm regards,

Dr. Jennifer Russell
NAMTA President

2025 JAMES R. ANTHONY HONORS RECITAL

Mesa Performing Arts Center, MCC, Mesa AZ

5:00 PM - May 31, 2025

ELEMENTARY 1

Sonatina in G, Op. 36, No. 5, III Rondo, *Allegro* M. Clementi

Evelina Sensakovic

Tatyana Eldridge- Teacher

3rd Place

Sonatina in A minor Op. 88 No. 3, Mvt. III. *Allegro Burlesco* F. Kuhlau

Asa Patton

Barbara Russell - Teacher

2nd Place

**Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award*

Sonata in F Minor Op.2, No.1 L.v. Beethoven

Kevin Hu

Qingqing Ye- Teacher

1st Place

ELEMENTARY 2

A gentle complaint J.P. Rameau

Evan Yan

Yali Luo- Teacher

3rd Place

**Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award*

Sonata in C Major, Hob. XVI: 35 I. *Allegro con brio* F.J. Haydn

Lauren Zhang

Sophia Hui Zhou- Teacher

2nd Place

Fantaisie-Impromptu Impromptu F. Chopin

Austin Fan

Yuerong Gong- Teacher

1st Place

STRINGS 1

Scherzo Webster

Benjamin Bailey - Cello
Johnny Rice- Teacher
3rd Place

Gavotte in D minor J.B. Lully

Isabella Fong - Cello
Johnny Rice- Teacher
2nd Place

Waltz J. Brahms

Cyrus Hunter - Violin
Melodie Gardner- Teacher
1st Place

INTERMEDIATE 1

Waltz Etude W. Gillock

Andrea Leong
Qingqing Ye- Teacher
Honorable Mention
**James Saverio Ruccolo Award*

Gnomenreigen, S. 145 No. 2 F. Liszt

Landon Frolov
Qingqing Ye- Teacher
3rd Place

Etude-tableaux, Op.39 No.6 in A minor S. Rachmaninoff

Anthony Tran
Vladislav Kosminov- Teacher
2nd Place

Abegg Variation, Op.1 R. Schumann

Lucy Lu
Yuerong Gong- Teacher
1st Place
**Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award*

INTERMEDIATE 2

Sonata in B Flat Major, Op. 22, I. *Allegro con brio* L.v. Beethoven

Aiden Zhou

Tatyana Eldridge- Teacher

3rd Place

Desperate Measures, Op.48 R. Muszynski

Daniel Rakes

Natalya Thran- Teacher

2nd Place

**James Saverio Ruccolo Award*

Reflections in the Water from Images Book No. 1 C. Debussy

Neal Qin

Svetlana Arakelova- Teacher

1st Place

**Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award*

STRINGS 2

Bourree, Op. 24 W.H. Squire

Augustine Gilfillan - Cello

Johnny Rice- Teacher

3rd Place

Cello Sonata in E Minor, Op. 38, I. *Allegro non troppo* Romberg

Lily Chase - Cello

Johnny Rice - Teacher

2nd Place

Praeludium and Allegro: In the Style of Pugnani, for Violin and Piano F. Kreisler

Eric Wong - Violin

Carolyn Broe - Teacher

1st Place

VOICE

Lullaby of Broadway from *42nd Street* H. Warren

Ander Yu
Banlingyu Ban- Teacher
3rd Place

Almost Nearly Perfect from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* M. Shaiman

Avery Pei
Banlingyu Ban- Teacher
2nd Place

Higher from *Allegiance* J. Kuo

Elizabeth Brown
Kimiko Mori- Teacher
1st Place

CHAMBER

A Child's Garden of Verses
I. Keepsake Mill, III. Pirate Story, VII. My Shadow C. Tan

Happy, Delan, & Yenbaah Descheenie-Doctor

"The D-Notes"

Johnny Rice - Teacher

**Underrepresented Composer Award*

ADVANCED 1

Obermann Valley F. Liszt

Kyle Gu
Yuerong Gong - Teacher
**Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award*

La Campanella F. Liszt

William You
Qingqing Ye - Teacher
3rd Place

Toccata Op. 11 S. Prokofiev
 Jessica Frolov
 Qingqing Ye - Teacher
 2nd Place

Rigoletto Concert Paraphrase F. Liszt/G. Verdi
 Mia Lucchesi
 Rong Lucchesi - Teacher
 1st place
**James Saverio Ruccolo Award*

PIANO DUO

Barcarolle for 4 hands, Op.11 No. 1: *Moderato-Allegro* S. Rachmaninoff
 Neal Qin, Jon Li Yang
 Svetlana Arakelova - Teacher
 1st Place

ADVANCED 2

Etude in C minor, Op. 25 No. 12 F. Chopin
 Jackson Li
 Baruch Meir - Teacher
 3rd place

Eight Poetic Waltzes E. Granados
 Elizabeth Brown
 Baruch Meir - Teacher
 2nd place
**James Saverio Ruccolo Award*

Piano Sonata in B Flat Major, Op. 22, No 11. Mvt. IV. *Rondo* L.v. Beethoven
 Troy Peterson
 Baruch Meir - Teacher
 1st place
**Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award*

Thank you to our amazing judges!

2025 Adjudicators

Preliminaries

Chun Ya Pien

Mengyu Liu

Finals

Aviram Reichert (Conference Artist)

Connor Chee (Conference Guest Composer)

Irina Gorin (Conference Guest Pedagogue)

Christopher Rice

Dr. Ivona Kaminksa-Bowlby

Dr. Christopher Bowlby

Jennifer Rhodes - Strings

Elijah Baik - Strings

Allyson Van Patton - Voice

Leslie Umphrey - Voice

