

## MusiGram

Fall 2025

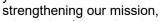
Dr. Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk, NCTM

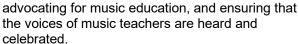
Arizona State Music Teachers Association Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

#### **Tatyana Eldridge** ASMTA President

Dear Members.

I am really honored to be the president of ASMTA. I look forward to working with all of vou to continue





Fall brought us nice, cool mornings and pleasant afternoons. It feels great. It also brought an established routine of teaching, making plans for studio recitals, performances, and preparations for the festivals and MTNA competition.

MTNA Competition (November 1, 2025) - This year the competition had a judge from out of state, according to co-chair Dr. Baruch Meir's suggestion. He believes that the state level MTNA competition would benefit greatly from doing this, stating, "Inviting an out-of-state piano judge will strengthen both the artistic and ethical foundations of our competition, enhance its credibility, and enrich the overall experience for participants and teachers alike." The judge who was chosen, Sung Chang, is a great pianist who has won more than ten international competitions around the world, including the United States, Germany, Italy, Korea, and Japan.

Honors Recital/Competition will start using Tenuto Web for the competition. This will make the registration process more efficient and productive, along with many other tools for the co-chairs: the ability to generate statistics reports, schedules, and a recital program for hard-copy printing.

MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati - I am very thankful for the opportunity I had to attend the MTNA Leadership Summit in September. It was

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#### **ASMTA Board of Directors**

#### Officers 2025-2026

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Immediate Past President

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#### Administrative and Committee Appointees

Sherin Moustafa, NCTM Advertising Archivist Nancy Keuper Arts Awareness Astrid Morales Torres Competitions - Composition Dr. Jenny Su Competitions - Performance Dr. Baruch Meir Competitions - Performance Dr. Yali Luo **College Faculty Forum** Hannah Creviston, NCTM **Communications Coordinator** Nina Tahbaz **Honors Recital** Dr. Karali Hunter, NCTM **Honors Recital** Dr. Raymond Ryder **Honors Recital** Chenbaixue Yang

Independent Music Teachers Dr. Peter Davis Forum (IMTF) Membership MTNA Foundation

Natalya Thran, NCTM MusiGram Editor Emily Ruben Hannah Creviston, NCTM Student Chapters

Technology Nancy Keuper Technology James Heuser Website Susan Traylor Social Media Michael Zheng

#### Inside This Issue

Sophia Zhou

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President's letter, continued from page 1

very informative and encouraging. Also, the Southwest division meeting led by Kassandra Weleck had constructive discussion and interesting ideas. I think it would be very helpful for future presidents (as 1<sup>st</sup> VP) to attend this summit at least once before they start their term. It's a great chance to hear new ideas and meet other representatives from different states.

Celebration of 150 years of MTNA - I would like to encourage local associations to think about celebrating this great accomplishment. Usually, most of our associations have already made their plans for the new school year by now. But if you have any interesting ideas for celebrating this important milestone, please consider including extra activities in your calendar. Doing so might also attract new members to your local associations.

National Conference in Chicago (March 21–25, 2026) - Celebrating 150 years of excellence in music making! It should be something spectacular. If you have a chance, please consider attending this promising conference.

Just a reminder to renew your membership (national, state, and local) if you haven't already done so to enjoy the benefits that come with being a member of these associations.

Sincerely,

Tatyana Eldridge ASMTA President

Hannah Creviston ASMTA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

I am pleased to be serving as the new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Thank you for entrusting me with this honor and responsibility. I



look forward to working with all of you.

I have reached out to our local chapter presidents to start collecting handbooks and calendars. You

all have some great events scheduled! I will be reviewing these and scheduling times to visit each of the local chapters this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Creviston, NCTM ASMTA 1st Vice President

**Ji-Young Kim** ASMTA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Dear ASMTA Members,

I am pleased to report that we have had new competition chairs join this year.

Dr. Raymond Ryder from TMTA recently agreed to be our new co-chair for the Honors Recital Auditions! Karali Hunter, who has been serving as the co-chair for the past couple of years, will continue her service but is shifting her focus mainly to manage the technology portion of the competition this year.

We also welcome Jenny Su, our new MTNA State Composition Competition Chair. Dr. Baruch Meir joined Dr. Yali Luo as a co-chair for the MTNA State Competition.

The MTNA competition registration for composition, piano, piano duets, strings, and woodwinds was closed on September 10. The registration for chamber music, brass, and voice opened on November 1.

This year's MTNA State Composition Competition entries doubled from 8 in 2024 to 16 this year!

The state round competition was held on November 1–2 at Hammer and Strings Conservatory.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ji-Young Kim ASMTA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

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#### lan Houghton Daniel Linder

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Presidents

Mark your calendars for the 2026 ASMTA Conference, scheduled for May 28-30 at the University of Arizona in Tucson! We are excited to announce that our featured guest artists for the conference are Noa Kageyama and Hung-Kuan Chen. Noa Kageyama, Juilliard faculty member and author of the outstanding blog The Bulletproof Musician, will present a keynote address and run a workshop on his groundbreaking work with performance psychology. Additionally, Hung-Kuan Chen will perform a solo piano recital and deliver a keynote speech. Mr. Chen is also on the faculty of the Juilliard School, winner of the Rubinstein, Busoni, and Geza Anda international competitions (among many others), and embodies the ideals of performer-pedagogue.

The theme of the conference will be centered on musical wellness and performance psychology. Mr. Chen has dealt with focal dystonia in his past, and Mr. Kageyama's work is centered on applying modern research in neuroscience and psychology to musical performance. We also have sessions planned with a physical therapist and a child psychologist to address topics that are practical and novel for music teachers.

The call for proposals to present at the 2026 conference will be sent out in the coming months, as well as more information regarding registration, conference hotel, and the schedule of events. We look forward to seeing you at the conference in May!

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ian Houghton Dr. Daniel Linder ASMTA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Presidents

#### **Luba Brodsky-Benefiel** ASMTA 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President

I'm honored to have recently stepped into the role of 4th Vice President, supporting the Advertising Chair, Archivist, Arts



Awareness and Advocacy Chair, Membership Chair, Communications Coordinator, Publications Editor, Social Media Chair, and Website Manager. My goal is to be available and helpful to each whenever support is needed, and I'm truly happy to serve the organization in this way. I'm grateful for the Board's trust in me, and while I am already familiar with many of you, I look forward to getting to know you better as the year progresses.

Love for Music,

Luba Brodsky-Benefiel ASMTA 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President

#### **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!

#### Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk

ASMTA Immediate Past President

I was happy to pass the role of the ASMTA President to Tanya Eldridge, who has already shown some



great leadership skills. I know that she is going to be a wonderful president.

My last event as the president was the ASMTA state conference at Mesa Community College. We were able to obtain the conference space for free, thanks to my position as a residential faculty. The conference was a fantastic experience, and working with Sherin Moustafa as the conference chair was a joy.

I spent a few weeks in June clearing up documentation and setting things up for the upcoming president. There were some last-minute board position recruiting needs, but they are all now filled.

Tanya and I had a few meetings and phone calls, and she is quickly catching up on all the responsibilities. I gave her access to the Google Drive of the ASMTA president and a portable hard drive with most important files she will need.

I was also very excited about the great news for ASMTA that we were awarded a grant of \$1,000 from MTNA for the following project: 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: "Meaningful Connections: A 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Educational Innovation and Embracing New Horizons Through Online Initiatives and Performances."

In cooperation with MTO, we are working on organizing this online event with the participation of other online associations in the United States. Since this is the ASMTA project, I am hoping to have some more members to take an active role in organizing the event. In addition to the MTO Board Members, Hannah Creviston, our new 1st VP, offered to help. The event will be on January 16th.

Wishing you a great musical year!

Dr. Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk, NCTM ASMTA Immediate Past President



#### Peter Davis Independent Music Teachers Forum

I would highly recommend that you check out the first IMTF webinar we had this fall. It was by Dr. Steve



Betts, who serves at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma. His workshop was entitled "John, Fred, Ina, Julia, and Danny: What We Learn from Five Examples of Excellence." Steve focused on concepts and ideas gleaned from five accomplished human beings: John Wooden, legendary UCLA Men's Basketball Coach; Fred Rogers, creator of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood; and others.

I would also encourage you to view the workshop that was taught by Nancy Keuper on November 4, titled "The Music Artistry of Artificial Intelligence." This is a fascinating topic, as it seems Artificial Intelligence is the next big thing in changing our society.

Also, this month I am meeting with Kassandra Weleck and Hannah Creviston to consider ways of adapting the function of the IMTF chair in light of recent technological developments to better serve your needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter Davis
ASMTA Independent Music Teachers Forum

Sophia Hui Zhou Membership Chair

As ASMTA continues to grow and strengthen our professional network, the



Membership Committee has been focusing on connection, engagement, and support among our statewide community of teachers.

This fall, we have been working closely with local associations to ensure membership records remain accurate and up to date. Our goal is to make every member feel welcomed, informed, and valued—whether they are newly joined teachers or long-time contributors to MTNA and ASMTA.

One of our main initiatives this season has been verifying certification and membership alignment to support teachers' professional development and recognition. Through collaboration with the state board and local leaders, we are streamlining communication to help members access benefits more efficiently, including certification reimbursement, MTNA renewals, and participation in state and national programs.

Looking ahead, we are also exploring ways to highlight our members' stories—how their teaching, performing, and service shape the vibrant musical culture of Arizona. Membership is more than a number; it is a living community built on shared values and artistic growth.

If you have suggestions or would like to get involved in membership outreach, please don't hesitate to connect—I would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Sophia Hui Zhou ASMTA Membership Chair



Sam Bennett of PianoWorks (Atlanta, GA) has extended an exclusive 20% teacher discount on Hidrau Hydraulic Benches, AND 5% of every purchase supports ASMTA!

#### Shop here:

https://shop.pianoworks.com/.../p iano-teacher-benches/

Use code: ASMTA-N5ZUA (Valid through May 31, 2026)

Want to share this great resource with your students too? Students and families get 10% off their bench purchase, and ASMTA still receives 5% of the proceeds.

#### Student link:

https://shop.pianoworks.com/acc esso.../piano-benches/hidrau/

Use code: ASMTA-SAVE10 (Valid

through May 31, 2026)



#### **FOUNDATION FUND**

#### Natalya Thran MTNA Foundation Chair

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 has selected the following distinguished members from Arizona to be recognized as MTNA Foundation Fellows at the MTNA Conference in Chicago in 2026. We kindly request your support through donations to the MTNA Foundation Fellows Fund in their honor.

## Kassandra Weleck and Dr. Raymond Ryder



Kassandra Weleck and Raymond Ryder are both former presidents of the ASMTA and have generously served in various roles at both local and state levels. Their impressive volunteer efforts and valuable contributions to our Association deserve national recognition. Your donation, regardless of the amount, will have a significant impact and demonstrate your support for their dedication. To donate, please follow these simple steps:

- Click on this link
   <a href="https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribut">https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribut</a>
   e/contribute-now/
- Enter your information
- Select the Foundation Fellow under "Please use my gift for"
- Scroll down and enter the Fellow's name.
   We appreciate your support for both fellows, and please note that two separate donations will be required.
- 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 <a href="https://nthran@yahoo.com">nthran@yahoo.com</a>.

Sincerely,

Natalya Thran, NCTM MTNA Foundation Chair

### Local Associations -



#### Nadia Feeken

President, East Valley Music Teachers Association

Dear ASMTA members,

EVMTA kicked off the new academic year with a social event on August 21st. Approximately 60 people attended, enjoying the opportunity to socialize and learn about the exciting events planned for the 2025–2026 year. Julie Follett, our treasurer, also presented a detailed financial report covering all events from the previous year, helping to keep our members well informed.

Nadia Feeken has officially assumed the role of President for the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 terms. Nina Tahbaz is serving as Vice President. Nadia has planned the workshops for the 2025–2026 term, and Nina will be organizing the workshops for the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 academic years.

We are pleased to welcome Natalia Willoughby as the new Chair of the Fall Student Recital and extend our gratitude to Autum Hunt for her service in this role before passing the torch.

Nancy Chase has agreed to serve as Chair of the Nancy Spitzer Scholarship. Melodie Acker will cochair with Nancy this year and will officially step down next year.

EVMTA has an exciting variety of events planned for students and teachers this fall:

- Organ Stop Pizza Party Students, teachers, and guests will enjoy all-you-can-eat pizza and drinks accompanied by an organ concert.
- **Music Showcase** Students will share their music at Chandler Fashion Center and Superstition Springs Mall.

- Workshop: Composing for Prepared and Interior Piano Presented by Dr. Karl Schindler from Phoenix College.
- Fall Recital Up to five recitals will be held at Hammer & Strings, showcasing performances by our local students.
- Workshop: Between Fingers and Strings –
   Presented by Loe Ostrander.
- Composers Celebration Concert This year's theme is "Play What You Feel." We will also host our annual toy drive benefiting Helen's Hope Chest, an organization that supports foster children.

We hope that through these events, EVMTA will continue to enrich both our teachers and their students.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Nadia Feeken, NCTM EVMTA President

Chase Coleman

President, Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association

Greetings from the Northland!

NAMTA has scheduled student recitals for Saturday, November 8th and Saturday, December 12th and ASP adjudications and tests for Friday, May 15th. Our annual Piano Play Day is possibly being revamped to offer more playing and less games and theory; we have not set a date for this event yet. At our first meeting on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, we discussed possibilities for masterclasses and presentations, and we are looking for colleagues from other ASMTA chapters to visit us for these. Please contact me if you would like to visit us in Flagstaff to give a masterclass or presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Chase Coleman NAMTA President

#### Francilia Schofield

President, Cochise Music Teachers Association

Hi there,

The Cochise Music Teachers Association is gearing up for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Francie's Youth Piano Competition, which will be held on November 15th, open to students in the Cochise County area, 18 and under, levels 1 through 12. This competition allows students to play any music, arranged music, music off the internet, and even music composed by students or teachers. The winners of each level get a trophy, \$75, and the honor of performing with local artists at the annual fundraising recital usually held in April.

In addition, we are gearing up for Live at Kino on the very same day, a fun evening for students of the CMTA to come together to play 2 selections and enjoy a reception following. Participation certificates are handed out. It is good practice for competition preparation and performance anxiety. We will be closing the year with Music-in-the-Mall scheduled for Saturday, December 13th. It's a fun way to share the joy of playing with the community. The piano will be donated by Hachenberg and Son's Piano in Tucson.

The teachers of the CMTA will have their final meeting of the year at one of our houses, along with a performance or two by each teacher and a potluck. Great way to bond and share. We are lucky to have such a supportive group.

Thanks,

Francie Schofield CMTA President

#### **Leah Houpt**

President, Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association

In May of 2025, EAMTA elected new board members. The new board members are as follows:

President- Leah Houpt Secretary- Susan Grove Treasurer- Valene Bryce

Two of us from the area attended the ASMTA conference in May, which was amazing and informative. A workshop was held on June 13, 2025, at the studio of Mary Beth Martin in Globe, Arizona. She shared with us many ideas on how to teach improvisation to students. Most of her teaching is online, and we were able to see her setup that makes this possible. After the workshop, we all enjoyed lunch together at a local restaurant.

Eastern Arizona College hired a new piano faculty member this year, so on August 8, 2025, EAMTA hosted a "Meet and Greet" for Dr. Greta Pasztor. We are looking forward to collaborating with her on future events. She has expressed a willingness to do a master class for local piano students.

The board met on September 12 to plan out our activities for the remainder of the year. These will include a Fall Festival in November, another "Music Meet Up" in December where local music students can perform Christmas music or other pieces, and hopefully a workshop on performance anxiety. We are still hoping to grow our numbers and hope to accomplish this by providing activities and workshops that are of benefit to local music teachers and their students.

Sincerely,

Leah Houpt EAMTA President

## **Dani Shraibman**President, Phoenix Music Teachers Association

Greetings from the Valley of the Sun! We are excited to share the full slate of events planned for this academic year, featuring an inspiring lineup of presenters.



student performances, concerts, masterclasses, and competitions. Highlights include the Fall Festival, the Dean & Carolyn Elder Competition, the 74th annual Piano Ensemble Concert, our social gatherings, teacher performances, and our highly anticipated fundraising event, which will take place for the third consecutive year. This fall semester promises to be especially busy and filled with wonderful opportunities for growth and connection!

**Meeting Location:** This year, all general PMTA meetings and student recitals will be held at *Steinway & Sons Scottsdale*, located at 14418 N Scottsdale Rd, Suite 184, Scottsdale, AZ 85254.

Recent and Upcoming Events: Our first general meeting of the year took place on September 11th, featuring a captivating performance-presentation by Prof. Eckart Sellheim and Dr. Dian Baker. They shared insights into Prof. Sellheim's musical journey in a presentation titled "A Musical Life: Early Days in Cologne," concluding with a special performance of Stars & Stripes Forever by our current and past presidents in commemoration of 9/11.

Looking ahead, PMTA's President-Elect, Jesse Davlin, has planned two more exciting presentations for this fall. On October 9th, we welcomed pianist Benita Rose, who presented and performed "The Three B's: Bach, Beethoven, and Busoni." Later, on November 13th, musician Deanna Rusnock will present "Jazz/Improvisation in the Learning Pianist," offering a dynamic exploration of jazz in piano education.

**Student and Adult Recitals:** Jenny Su, our Student Recital Chair, has planned two recitals for this fall: one on October 4th and another on December 6th. Additionally, Claire Gordon, our Adult Student Recital Chair, has kindly organized the Adult Student Recital on October 11th.

**Special Events:** On November 3rd, Chris and Ivona Kaminska-Bowlby hosted our traditional *Performance Plus* event. This beloved gathering offers teachers a chance to perform and socialize in a welcoming, intimate setting—an inspiring opportunity for personal growth and community support.

The PMTA **Fall Piano Festival** (co-chairs Tatyana Eldridge and Camille Conforti) was held this year on November 8th at Glendale Community College (6000 West Olive Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85302). This year's theme, "From Baroque to Modern," invited students to perform a Baroque-era piece along with a free-choice selection from any other musical era. It was a fantastic showcase of student talent across a variety of styles.

To close out the semester, one of our most valued members, Sue Shiner, will host our *Holiday Social* on December 11th. This event has been a long-standing favorite, filled with lively conversation, laughter, games, a book sale, and a delicious potluck.

Looking Ahead to the New Year: As we move into the new year, we will continue to build on these exciting events, including additional presentations, student recitals, masterclasses, our 74th annual Piano Ensemble Concert, and PMTA's Fundraiser Concert. We will also be preparing for the Dean & Carolyn Elder Piano Competition and the ASP Evaluations, among other exciting opportunities for both artistic and professional growth. Should you need more information or have any questions about upcoming events, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, our President-Elect Jesse Davlin, or any of our dedicated board members and chairpersons. We look forward to a year of inspiration, growth, and connection within our vibrant PMTA community.

With warmest regards,

Dani Shraibman PMTA President

# Astrid Chan President, Tucson Music Teachers Association

Dear ASMTA members,

TMTA began our exciting 2025–2026 event season with a



General Meeting followed by an Ensemble Play-Through on August 22. There were 24 attendees, including a new piano pedagogy professor Dr. Grace Ho and a DMA student from the U of A School of Music. Our TMTA Vice President, Kathleen Kelly, announced several fascinating workshops and performance events for the year. Kathy prepared delicious goodies as prizes for the teachers who answered the questions about our TMTA events dates quickly and correctly. Our meetings are never boring!

At our second general meeting on September 20, ASMTA's new technology co-chair, James Heuser, presented a workshop titled "Cybersecurity and Your Studio: What Every Independent Teacher Should Know." During the session, James discussed why cybersecurity mattered and the ways to protect yourself, your studio, and students.

The Performance Festival this year will be on November 8 in Holsclaw Hall at the U of A. It offers students the opportunity to perform on a concert stage with the added educational benefit of live feedback from our adjudicators. We are honored to have Dr. Grace to work with the beginner and intermediate level and Dr. Rie Tanaka with the advanced group. All of the participants will receive the certificates and be recognized for their outstanding performance.

Every beginning of December, TMTA hosts a holiday luncheon at a local restaurant, and our favorite is Vivace Italian restaurant. There is a board and general meeting beforehand, and teachers come to enjoy wonderful meals, conversation, music entertainment, and several door prizes at this event. This fun holiday celebration will be on December 5.

TMTA will continue to celebrate the holiday season in the Barnes and Noble bookstore fundraiser on December 12 and 13. Students will have the option of playing popular, jazz, and holiday tunes in

addition to their classical repertoire. I performed in this event last year with my students, and we truly enjoyed it.

Our most highlighted TMTA event will be the January 24 all-day workshop. The presentation is titled "The Multi-Faceted Style of Edvard Grieg's Music," by Sylvia Reynolds Eckes (pianist) and Laura Loge (singer). The presentation discusses the breadth of Grieg's vast compositional output and the variety of styles and influences found in his piano music and songs. Particular attention will be given to how Norwegian folk elements in much of his music might affect the way it is played or sung. Excerpts of selections that will be performed in the recital will be demonstrated or shown with PowerPoint. There will be a handout of a graded list of recommended works for students. The recital includes piano and vocal selections written over a period of four decades.

Recently, TMTA was granted an MTNA 150th Anniversary grant for 2025–2026. The title of the grant is "Celebrating Music Creation." TMTA will be hosting a composition event for student composers in southern Arizona on February 1, 2026. This event will be open to and promoted to both TMTA and CMTA members.

Our 73<sup>rd</sup> Piano Ensemble Concert will be on March 14, 2026, at the U of A Centennial Hall. The theme is "Eine Kleine Celebration."

All our events are created by our awesome TMTA board. We have nine people who work hard together, and I am very thankful to have them as my teammates.

With love and gratitude,

Dr. Astrid Chan TMTA President

#### João Paulo Casarotti

President, Music Teachers Online

It is my pleasure to share the latest updates from the Music Teachers Online Association (MTO) of Arizona. Our organization continues to grow in scope, visibility, and service to the music teaching community, thanks to the dedication of our leadership team and the support of ASMTA and MTNA.

#### 1. Non-Profit Status

One of the most important milestones this year has been obtaining official non-profit status. This achievement, made possible through the efforts of our treasurer, **Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk**, provides MTO with a stronger foundation for sustainability and future growth. We are deeply grateful for her hard work in bringing this vision to fruition.

#### 2. Financial Support and Grants

MTO is deeply appreciative of the financial support received from both ASMTA and MTNA in 2025, which provided the foundation for launching our initiatives:

- ASMTA Support ASMTA generously awarded MTO \$500, which, combined with MTNA's Affiliate Enrichment Grant, helped us establish our first major projects and gain visibility as a new association.
- MTNA Affiliate Enrichment Grant 2025: "Empowering the Online Piano Teacher: Building Stronger Connections Through Technology and Community."

oAmount: \$750

- olmpact: Together with ASMTA's contribution, this grant allowed us to invest in professional infrastructure. We hired a professional designer and are now reviewing the final draft of our official website, which will serve as a central hub for resources, events, and member engagement.
- MTNA 150th Anniversary Celebration Grant: "150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Years of Innovation: Connecting Through Online Initiatives."

oAmount: **\$1,000** 

olmpact: Supports an upcoming nationwide virtual celebration in collaboration with online teacher associations from Arizona, North Carolina, Texas, Utah, and beyond. The program will showcase best practices, feature student and teacher performances, and present new models of

online pedagogy— honoring MTNA's legacy while embracing future horizons.

#### 3. Virtual Session Series

With the combined support of ASMTA and MTNA, MTO launched its inaugural **Virtual Session Series** in August and September of 2025. Designed for piano teachers and students of all levels, the series offered practical tools, inspiring ideas, and opportunities for connection.

#### **Events included:**

#### • August 8 - How Motion Affects Sound

Presenter: Sheila Paige (Keyboard Wellness Seminar)

#### • August 8 - Online Masterclass

Presenter: Sheila Paige (Keyboard Wellness Seminar)

#### August 15 – Online Piano Lessons: From Basics to Advanced — Building Meaningful Connections

Presenter: Dr. João Paulo Casarotti

### • August 22 – Let's Connect: Music Teachers Community Meetup

Mediators: Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk and Michael Zheng

### September 5 – Cybersecurity for Music Teachers

Presenter: James Heuser

#### **Participation and Impact:**

- 110 registered participants
- Teachers joined from across the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Colombia.
- All registered participants received recordings of the sessions, ensuring access even if they could not attend live.

#### 4. Membership

MTO currently has **10 active members**. While small, this membership represents a strong foundation, with dedicated teachers who are actively contributing to the development of our programs, visibility, and organizational growth. We expect membership to increase as our website launches and outreach expands.

#### 5. Looking Ahead

MTO remains committed to its mission of empowering teachers and students through technology, pedagogy, and community. Building on

the momentum of our inaugural series and the support of ASMTA and MTNA, we will continue to expand programming with additional workshops, networking opportunities, and resources tailored to the evolving needs of music educators.

#### Closing

On behalf of MTO, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to ASMTA for its encouragement and financial support. Your \$500 contribution, combined with MTNA's grants, provided the critical foundation for launching MTO.

We hope that with the increased exposure of our organization through these grant opportunities, the visibility provided by our new website, and the

engagement generated by our online sessions, we will grow our membership and establish a meaningful, sustainable schedule of activities for our members.

Sincerely,

Dr. João Paulo Casarotti, NCTM MTO President

