

Reports for WMTA Annual meeting October 24, 2020

## **Executive Committee**

### **PRESIDENT**

Appointments: Gail Heywood, NCTM - Certification Chair

Vacancies: MTNA Performance Competition, Local Associations

I attended the 2020 MTNA Leadership Summit virtually this year. MTNA has successfully moved offices. The 2021 MTNA conference will be held virtually. Stay tuned for more on what that will be.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fritz

### **IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT**

No report

### **1st VP - CONFERENCES**

Nothing new to report since last meeting in August.

2021 Conference is October 22-23 at The Ingleside Hotel in Waukesha, WI.

Kayme Henkel - NCTM

### **2nd VP - MEMBERSHIP**

VP Membership Report - October 2020

First off, I am so pleased at the way that various local organizations have been keeping in touch with one another as well as finding creative ways to meet and stay engaged. From gatherings in parks, virtual masterclasses, zoom book discussions, zoom presentations, and phone calls or facebook messages to just chat with colleagues, I continued to be inspired as I witness what makes music teachers great!

Our membership numbers are down from 480 around this time last year to 400 at this time now. Obviously some natural attrition because of age, health, and teaching status accounts for some of the loss of numbers, but also the inability to really market organizations to new members.

Recently a document was shared with LA presidents with membership lists of non renewals from this year. If you are a LA president or membership chair, please take a moment to connect with those members who have not renewed and encourage them to do so.

On the horizon is the preparation of the updated document for district chairs for teachers in their districts. Please be patient as I hope to get that out in the next couple weeks and take some time to double check the information, and let me know if there are any questions or changes that should be made.

One last item - there was a planned kick off with some local organizations in the North Eastern part of the state to partner with NEWPTF and a few other organizations to be hosted at St. Norbert College as a way to really share some of the benefits of all the different organizations with one another. This opportunity is postponed for the moment and will be discussed at a joint meeting in January. Hopefully this will help WMTA to have some presence in the GB area.

Thank you to all who are finding ways to reach out to their members as we continue to find ways to reach out and find the best practices to share music.

Submitted by Justin Krueger NCTM

## **TREASURER**

No report

## **ARTS AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY**

No report

## **BADGER KEYBOARD**

At present, all information with regard to Badger Keyboard 2021 has been updated on the WMTA website and is accurate to the best of our understanding. Pertinent information is:

- Badger Keyboard S - UW-Parkside, Sunday, May 16, 2021
- Badger Keyboard NE - UW-Stevens Point, Saturday, May 22, 2021
- Badger Keyboard NW - Viterbo University, Saturday, May 15, 2021

Deadlines for application are April 20, 2021.

As is appropriate to our current climate, these venues have dates on their university calendars, but we do not yet have confirmations, owing to the many challenges that the universities face. Decisions have not yet been finalized as to whether we will be doing Badger competition in person or virtual, but contact has been made with all of the venues and our WMTA event is on their radar.

I am in communication with all judges that were secured for last year's aborted competition, to determine if they will be willing and available to judge for us in this upcoming cycle. I have received positive response from most, and am awaiting response from a few more. In the event of a virtual competition rather than an in-person competition, I will let judges know that there will be guidance regarding online judging, parameters, scores, etc, as that information becomes available.

Not too surprisingly, I am finding that judges are much more responsive to doing a virtual event, because it does not lock them into one day of judging and, for some, it will not require a hotel stay.

Trophies that were ordered for 2020 will be used, with new 2021 tags affixed to the faces. The trophies were sent to last year's site chairs, who will be taking care of this task.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mary Anne Olvera*

## **BADGER VOCAL/INSTRUMENTAL**

The conversation regarding how to hold the WMTA auditions and WMTA Badger State continues to evolve. As soon as we get a few more details set I will begin contacting adjudicators. Besides this I have nothing new to report at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Opala Bilhorn, NCTM  
Badger Vocal/Instrumental Chair

## **COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE FORUM CHAIR**

No report

## **COLLEGE FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE**

No report

## **DISTRICT AUDITIONS**

This has been an extremely STRANGE year as we canceled most of the 2020 District Auditions due to CoVid19. And now we face the 2021 auditions looking for ways to hold them safely. Many other organizations have canceled “in person” auditions and conferences for Spring 2021, including WFMC and UMFA. While allowing “in person” or “virtual” 2021 auditions is a decision the Executive Board will make, it is with my deepest regret and disappointment that I, too, recommend that all Spring 2021 auditions be held virtually. If the decision is made to allow “in person” lessons is made then there could be districts that would still need to go virtual just because we use many universities for the auditions in order to have a large enough space, and many universities have not, at this point, confirmed our requested dates for certain. Many have “saved the date” for us pending their safety protocol. I know that teachers need to be able to prep their students for the experience so a decision will help the teachers prepare. I, personally, would LOVE to be able to ask that the board allow each district chair to make their own decisions regarding holding “in person” lessons but I don’t think that’s something to entertain at this point.

Our District Chairs have formed a small committee to explore and decide on a performance platform. All THEORY exams will be administered by the teachers and turned in on line. Thank you to Sydney Alexander for creating this platform for the theory exams. While we are exploring a couple of online platforms, we have decided a back-up plan of uploading videos to YouTube and submitting the link for judging. Whether or not there are in person auditions, there will be a virtual option.

All Teachers should note the new repertoire guidelines for District Auditions as outlined in the August 2018 Newsletter as well as by visiting [www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com](http://www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com), then “student events”, then “district auditions”. The quarterly NEWSLETTERS are a great place to learn about upcoming changes/reminders as well. The District Auditions section of the website has just been completely updated for easier use. You will also find the locations, audition and application due dates and District Chair contact info for all of the 2021 auditions via links on the side bar.

General Reminder: All teachers must use the Ovation online registration site for submitting student entries into district auditions. A link to the Ovation site is on the WMTA website via

“Ovation!” on the side bar (or go to [Ovation Website](#)). If you are a new member this year and have never used Ovation! before, contact Sandra Statz to request activation.

**All questions about auditions repertoire** should be emailed to Emily Schultz, the WMTA Auditions repertoire and Ovation database manager, at [WMTACompositionHotline@gmail.com](mailto:WMTACompositionHotline@gmail.com).

### **DISTRICT AUDITION ENTRY FEES for 2020**

District 2 (D2): \$20.00.

District 2-Non-Memorized (D2NM): \$20.00.

District 3 (D3): \$25.00.

State Track: \$25.00.

Duets: \$25.00.

Teachers should collect fees from their students and then **write one check for the total of their entries made payable to WMTA**. Payments for entry fees must be submitted to the district chairperson via regular postal mail, or in person, before the application due date for your district. *There is no option for online payments.*

Current WMTA teachers who plan to enter students in the 2021 district auditions should have renewed their MTNA/WMTA membership before October 15. Meaning that MTNA should have had record of your payment by that date – it shouldn’t just be getting in the mail on Oct. 15. If you missed that deadline, you can still enter students by renewing your membership now and including a \$100 late/renewal fee (written to WMTA) and sent to Sandra Statz (contact me for the address).

WMTA members who used Ovation for the spring auditions in 2020 currently still have access through December 31, 2020. WMTA members who have renewed and paid their dues before October 15 will be “reactivated” by the end of 2020 which will grant access to use Ovation for all of 2021. You may enter your students starting in January.

Newly joining WMTA members must verify that they have paid the membership dues before the auditions entry deadline in their district in order to enter students. It is recommended that this payment be made (to MTNA/WMTA) 3-4 weeks before the application due date to ensure access to Ovation with plenty of time to submit your student entries. If you are a new member and have recently paid your membership dues, feel free to contact me and I will get you activated with access to Ovation as soon as possible.

If you are new to using Ovation for entering students in district auditions in 2021, be sure to review the [District Audition pages](#) of the WMTA website. Any general questions about entering students in the auditions can also be directed to your local District Chair, or to me via email at any time.

Sandra Statz, NCTM

## **INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM**

IMTF submitted articles on the topics of "Online Teaching During COVID-19" and "In Praise of Our Piano Technicians" for the spring and summer newsletters. IMTF is currently seeking members who would like to contribute articles featuring topics of interest to the independent teacher for the 20-21 academic year.

Mickey Lytle

### **LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Local association End of Year Reports have been received and moved on to MTNA. Presidents report little change in membership numbers, and according to their reported numbers, most associations remained static in membership, one showed a 2 member growth (SCVMTA), and one lost 5 members (WAMTA).

No doubt owing to the unusual nature of the year, only six local associations will be honoring Members of the Year for 2020. While they would receive special recognition at the annual conference, we will instead post special recognition and bios in our Newsletter. Those honorees are:

ESTHER PEDIGO, CVMTA  
JUSTIN KRUEGER, FVMTA  
BUFFY LUOSTARI, SAMTA

MARY ANNE OLVERA, SCVMTA  
SHELBA DeMASTER, MMTA  
CYNTHIA STEPHAN, MAME

Because of the nature of 2020, after March many associations did cut back, by necessity, with their usual roster of presentations, and adapted to Zoom presentations on topics reflective of the current conditions. Even in this climate, associations did report a lot of positive activity, and a lot of attempt to find new ways to grow the organizations and try new ways of being effective. In many associations, there was a more purposeful attempt to increase connectedness among members, and to 'check in' on members to share resources. In many instances, the meetings that did take place in associations proved to be roundtable discussions, brainstorming best practice for virtual lessons, and how to retain studio numbers.

Aside from the challenges of life in the age of Covid, the perennial concern for most associations is volunteerism, succession of leadership, growing the association, retaining members, and creating a meaningful 'tribe' with connection among current members, while outreaching to non-member teachers. We will, no doubt, continue to work with these topics while trying new ways to grow strong associations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Olvera

### **MEDIA CHAIR**

No report

### **MTNA CERTIFICATION CHAIR**

No report

### **MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS**

The MNTA Performance Competitions are occurring in a virtual format this year. Entries are as follows:

Junior - 2 string, 1 piano

Senior – 3 piano, 1 voice  
Young Artist – 7 piano, 2 woodwind, 1 voice

The deadline for results to be posted is November 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fritz

#### MTNA COMPOSER COMMISSIONING

No report

#### MTNA COMPOSITIONS CHAIR

No report

#### MTNA FOUNDATION CHAIR

No report

#### TEACHER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Emily Schultz for earning her 75pt certificate. This award was earned last year and claimed this year.

Submitted by Drew Donica

#### WMTA YOUNG COMPOSERS COMPETITION

A total of thirty-five students from around the state entered WMTA's Young Composer Competition this year, up from twenty-two entries last year. We believe this to be a record number of entrants! This represents an increase in participation of more than 60% over last year! Seven teachers entered students this year compared with six last year.

We had twelve entries in the Elementary division, fifteen entries in the Junior division, and eight entries in the Senior division.

The awardees from this year's competition were as follows:

In the Elementary division

Winner: *Stormy and Sunny* by James Currier, Teacher: Sam Ecoff

Runner up: *Ice Fishing* by Talen Ternberg, Teacher: Jeff Miller

Honorable mentions: *The Artic Fox* by Calla Stoik, Teacher: Jeff Miller and *Lost in the Forest* by Delana Marsh Teacher: Jeff Miller

In the Junior division

Winner: *Mischief in the Enchanted Forest* by Whitney Woolf, Teacher: Sam Ecoff

Runner up: *Luna* by Angelina Vu Teacher: Annemarie Birschbach

Honorable mentions: *The Duchess' Ballroom* by Grace Schultz Teacher: Tricia Marton, *The Jungle* by Helina Menzel Teacher: Sam Ecoff, *Triumphant Fanfare* by Noah Garlock Teacher: Sam Ecoff, *A Flowing Bird* by Allison Yang Teacher: Sam Ecoff, *Frosty Winter Snow* by Jasmine Sun Teacher: Sam Ecoff

In the Senior division

Winner: *String Quartet in D* by Isabella Nichols Teacher: Sam Ecoff

Runner up: *Monster's Dance* by Brooke Wisniewski Teacher: Sam Ecoff

Honorable mentions: *Halloween Bells* by EJ Cook Teacher: Sam Ecoff, *The Mechanic* by Savanna Lemke Teacher: Sam Ecoff

Our judge for the event was Joshua Backes, MM, Lecturer in Music Composition & Theory at UW Milwaukee. He was very impressed by the diversity and number of this year's entries. Checks have been mailed to the winner's teachers, and points have been entered on the Ovation system. The following proposed changes to the WMTA Young Composers Competition were proposed at the last WMTA State Board meeting, and accepted as competition rules starting with next year's competition:

All submissions of scores, recordings, and applications are to be made via e-mail.

All recordings of scores must be submitted as mp3s. .WAVs, movies, and other file formats will no longer be accepted. Scores for more than one instrument must include a recording. Computer generated recordings are acceptable.

The application will be streamlined next year, which will mean it will take teachers less time to fill it out, and we will stop collecting information which we no longer use.

I look forward to continuing to serve as the WMTA Young Composer Competition chair next year. I will continue my efforts to encourage teachers to get their students to creatively express themselves in music, and turn out some great new pieces.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sam Ecoff,  
Chair, Young Composers Competition