



## MCMTA Midsummer 2018 Newsletter

Visit Us on the Web <http://www.mcmta-md.org>

Our Next Meeting is Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville  
11726 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD

*Our mission is to provide the highest quality of private musical instruction for students and outstanding enrichment for teachers.*

### Recognition and Luncheon Finish the Season

A festive meeting on May 8, 2018, brought the spring season to a close with music performed by members and the traditional potluck luncheon. Performers (left to right) were: Alice Ma, Guity Adjoodani, Bonny Miller, and Li-Ly Chang.



It has been a few weeks since the end of the school year. I hope that you have gotten some relaxation time for yourself. If you haven't yet, please make sure you check out the 'Tips for Teachers' column in this newsletter. Bonnie shares tips for teachers to relax and get organized.

**NCTM** (Nationally Certified Teacher of Music) – Summer is also a good time to start working on Certification. Helen Weems (VP for Certification, MSMTA) prepared a document with the step-by-step procedure, and started a study group which will meet every other month to provide assistance and support. If you have any questions about pursuing National Certification, you can reach Helen at [weemspianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:weemspianostudio@gmail.com). There is a group study meeting held every other month. The next one in our area will take place at *Chipotle* in Olney (Georgia Avenue and Route 108) on Wednesday, **July 11**, at 11:45am. You will meet your study buddies and Helen Weems to discuss your concerns, progress, and questions. The meeting usually lasts for an hour to an hour and a half, and more time can be accommodated if needed.

**Subsidy for up to 20 teachers to attend 2018 MSMTA Mini-Conference (October 7)** – Please mark your calendar for the MSMTA Mini-Conference to be held on October 7 (Sunday), 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm, at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. James Litzelman and Nancy O'Neill Breth are the conference presenters. MCMTA will offer subsidies for up to 20 teachers to attend the MSMTA Conference. Please do not miss this chance to learn, mingle with colleagues, and enjoy! More details for applying for a subsidy will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

**Go Paperless for Registration** – In the upcoming year, many MCMTA events will be offered through online "paperless" registration only. All event chairs will try their very best to help MCMTA members to sign up for the events. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the event chair for the event if you have trouble signing up. Also, there will be a video coming out during summer to show you step by step for how to proceed with online registration.

**New Chair for Swarthout/Hayes Piano Competition** – Great thanks to Junko Takahashi for her many years of service as the Chair and to Hyun Park as Co-chair for Swarthout/Hayes Piano Competition. Junko will pass the baton to Bonnie Kellert to be the new Chair of this event. Junko will continue as Co-chair of this event, and Bonnie will continue as our Chair of the Mentoring Program, for which we are very grateful.

**Day for Membership Meeting** – Thanks to forty-four teachers who responded to the survey I sent out around a month ago regarding the day and time for membership meeting. A majority prefer to keep the same day and time. Some wanted Saturday meetings, and some wanted other days. Therefore, for now, we will keep the same day and time for the membership meeting. For members who want to meet on other days, please do not be disappointed. Starting this year, we will add extra informal meetings (at teachers' homes) for members to mingle, share thoughts on different topics, and provide feedback and support for each other. Those dates might be on a different day than Tuesday, so hopefully some of you can join.

**New Programs in 2018-19 School Year** - We have planned to implement more programs for the upcoming school year. Stay tuned for our news! Please remember to share all our exciting news with music teachers whom you know and invite them to join MCMTA. An invitation to visit our membership meeting can be the first step.

Have a great summer! Hope to see some of you around!

Alice Ma, President

[alicemapiano@gmail.com](mailto:alicemapiano@gmail.com)

# Montgomery County Music Teachers Association

## MCMTA Officers for 2017-2019

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

#### Executive Board 2017-2019

##### *Elected Officers*

President	Alice Ma
First Vice-President	Sharon Carr
Vice-President for Programs	Immanuela Gruenberg
Vice-President for Publications	Bonny Miller
Vice-President for Organizational Activities	Carol Edison
Vice-President for Membership	Kristin Butler
Recording Secretary	Tina Sinclair Smith
Corresponding Secretary	Ingrid Mongini
Treasurer	Kristin Butler
Historian	Lois Jones
Immediate Past President	Cynthia Cathcart

##### *Committees*

By-Laws and Parliamentarian	Ingrid Mongini
Directory	Bonny Miller
Hospitality	Carol Brody
Mentoring Program	Bonnie Kellert
Referral Service	Kristin Butler
Ensemble Recital	Alice Ma
MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Test	Svetlana Volkova
MSMTA Theory Test	Elena Eliseeva
Evelyn Swarthout/Patrick Hayes Scholarship Competition	Bonnie Kellert/Junko Takahashi
Brewster String Competition	Lya Stern
Festival of Music	Guity Adjoonani
Elementary Recitals	Olga Soukhoveev
Intermediate/Advanced Recitals	Elena Eliseeva/Olga Soukhoveev
Judged Recitals	Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich
Adult Recital	Linda Benoit
High School Senior Recognition Reception	Eugenia Posey-Marcos
MCMTA High School Outstanding Music Achievement Award	Elena Eliseeva/Svetlana Volkova
Margaret Weissenfluh Fund	Ingrid Mongini
Grant for Continuing Education	Sharon Carr
Grant for Graduating High School Seniors	Sharon Carr
Student Activities Packet	Eugenia Posey-Marcos/Lori McCarthy
Technology/Web	Lori McCarthy

Photo of MCMTA Executive Board follows on page 4.



MCMTA Executive Board, left to right: Svetlana Volkova, Ingrid Mongini, Immanuela Gruenberg, Eugenia Posey-Marcos, Bonnie Kellert, Junko Takahashi, Olga Soukhoev, Kris Butler, Tina Smith, Sharon Carr, Guity Adjoonani, Alice Ma, Cynthia Cathcart, Carol Edison, Bonny Miller, Lois Jones, and Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich (not pictured: committee chairs Carol Brody, Elena Eliseeva, Lya Stern, Linda Benoit, and Lori McCarthy)

### Grants to MCMTA Teachers for Continuing Education

Congratulations to Tina Smith and Richard Hartzell, who will pursue continuing education at national conferences this summer with the assistance of MCMTA Teachers Grants. Tina is going to the 2018 MTNA GP3, the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum, at Oberlin College. Richard will attend the NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) national conference in Las Vegas. The sessions, workshops, presenters, and networking at these national forums offer wonderful opportunities to develop as a musician and as a teacher.

### Tips for Teachers

Summer Plans for Teachers! Some Suggestions and Recommendations. Send YOUR ideas to Bonnie Kellert ([bkellert@verizon.net](mailto:bkellert@verizon.net))

Last time I wrote about making summer plans for your students. This time I'd like to address summer plans for YOU, the teacher! Make sure there is sufficient time for you to relax as well as get organized for next fall. Here are some ideas to consider:

1. Be sure to plan ample time for you to have "R & R" over the summer months. Take a vacation, visit out-of-town friends, spend time sitting in a park to enjoy Mother Nature, take walks in our many local parks and natural settings. Sometimes just sitting at home,

## Montgomery County Music Teachers Association

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reading a good book, watching a movie or listening to music can be soothing. Several days without time constraints can add to your relaxation. Take a solid week off from teaching (or just a few days) if finances will allow it.

2. Make plans to have a coffee break or dessert with friends, or go out for breakfast, lunch, brunch, or dinner - try a new restaurant - It doesn't have to be anything fancy....Maybe have a change of scenery, but stay relatively nearby with an over-night stay in Annapolis or St. Michaels or some other beach or lake destination, along with a good friend or go solo.
3. Try something TOTALLY new and different - be adventuresome! It doesn't have to make a hole in your pocketbook - just try something totally unexpected! Do you rock climb? Zip line? Canoe? Kayak? Something closer to the ground like cherry or blueberry picking or visiting an apple orchard might suit your pace. Go antiquing, even if your furniture is not that style.
4. Is this a good time for you to give back to the community? Can you volunteer at a soup kitchen or Martha's Table? Use your music skills to bring singing and fun to senior citizens at a Retirement Home? Volunteer at a day camp...(Does it always have to be music related?)
5. If you like the idea of attending workshops, a mini-convention, or meeting with other teachers in your area, those are all good ideas for rejuvenating. There are opportunities up and down the coast.
6. You can join a webinar discussion - there are numerous groups out there.
7. Create your webpage! Been meaning to do that? There are self-help sites out there to get you started.
8. Practice your instrument; hone your learning skills. Consider taking private lessons to challenge yourself.
9. Clean out and organize your sheet music collection and your office papers! (Ugh, not always the most fun project. Perhaps a student can volunteer to help you! Or you can pay them a modest stipend. (This might be a good excuse to buy a new music cabinet, or have new shelves made, or repaint old ones, or even paint some walls of your studio.)

If I missed an idea, please let me know so we can include it in a future column! Thanks for reading! I hope you have an enjoyable summer while making time for your "to do" list!



Bonnie Kellert

# Montgomery County Music Teachers Association

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for a year's worth of collegial meetings and informative presenters at MCMTA members meetings. Our calendar dates are:

- September 11
- October 9
- November 13
- December 11
- no meeting in January, 2019
- February 12, 2019
- March 12
- April 9
- May 14

## Adult Recital 2018

The Annual Adult Recital was held at the Strathmore Mansion on Saturday, April 28. The beautiful venue and large audience made the occasion very memorable. Nine adult students played a variety of music from classical to jazz to show tunes. Participating teachers included Alice Ma, Doris Mattingly, George Peachey, and Tina Sinclair Smith.

Linda Benoit, Chair, Adult Recital



## High School Senior Grant Recipients

**Congratulations to two high school seniors who received scholarships of \$2,000 each for their first year of college with a declared major in music, both with a primary interest in composition!**



Isabelle Rakow will attend the Catholic University of America. She graduated from Brookewood School in Kensington. She has studied piano for ten years. She also sings, accompanies, and plays in her church praise band. Isabelle writes: “I love composition because it allows me to synthesize my love of music and my love of creating. One of the most fulfilling moments for me, as a composer, is being able to hear my compositions performed. Hearing other people bring my work to life and speak through the notes that I have written is such a rewarding and unparalleled experience.” Sharon Carr has taught Isabelle piano and composition. You can listen to Isabelle’s “Serenade” for violin and piano on Youtube.

Jason Miller is headed to Berklee College of Music in Boston. He graduated from Magruder High School in Rockville and has played not only piano, but clarinet, guitar, mandolin, banjo, melodica, and bass guitar in festivals, concerts, and marching competitions. Jason writes, “If music was labeled as a language I would call myself bilingual. It’s how I speak when I can’t in my native language. Music is what gives my life meaning. It’s why I wake up in the morning. When I write music, I am just writing a story like any other writer. There’s narration, dialogue, suspense, drama, comedy. It’s no different than reading a book...It’s difficult to explain, but writing music is a feeling like no other.” Irina Gurevich has been Jason’s piano teacher.



## New MCMTA High School Outstanding Music Achievement Award

The past 2017-2018 school year was the first year for the MCMTA High School Outstanding Music Achievement Award. This award is available for students who are currently in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

A teacher can apply for the award from September through May as long as all the requirements are met. In 2017-2018 five students received this award: four students received it in October, 2017, and one in May, 2018.

Requirements for this award include: studying with an MCMTA teacher for at least three years, successfully completing at least five levels of the MSMTA keyboard musicianship program, five levels of the MSMTA theory program, participation in at least three MCMTA recitals in grades 9-12 (one per school year), three community service recitals in grades 9-12 (one per school year), one MCMTA or MSMTA ensemble performance in grades 9-12, and four music history essays. Each of the four essays must be at least six pages long and contain a description of one historical period (for example, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary). The essay must briefly describe five composers of that period and five compositions of each of the composers (at least one page per composer). The total number of pages for the music history section essays should be not less than twenty-four and include description of four musical periods, a total of twenty composers, and one hundred compositions.

Based on my experience, the music history section should be a long-term project for students to gradually work on exploring each musical period, each composer (biography, musical style) and his/her compositions. After listening to at least five works of that composer, a student should briefly in one or two sentences describe his/her own perception of each of those compositions.

More detailed instructions for this award are on the MCMTA website.

The award is very beautiful – a rosewood rectangular 8x10 plaque with a metal plate where you can see a description of the award and the name of the student who received it.

I hope to see more students apply for this award in the future.

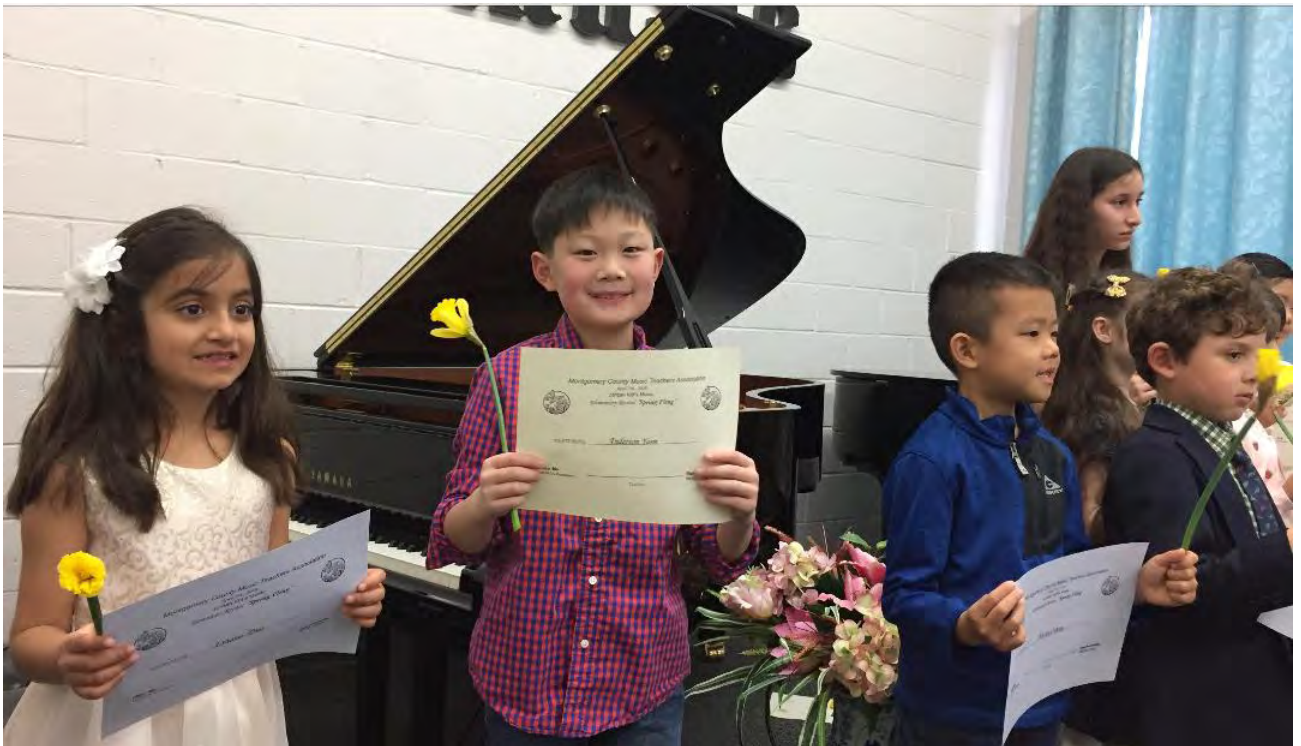
Svetlana Volkova, Co-chair for MCMTA High School Outstanding Music Achievement Award



## Elementary Recitals Wrap Up

On April 7, 2018, we held the third elementary recital of the year, our annual “Spring Fling.” A total of 75 students participated in this popular event. As always we enjoyed the variety of music performed, from easy beginner level to early intermediate. I would like to express my gratitude to all the teachers who helped with monitoring, registration, and providing candies. Twenty talented teachers participated: Elena Eliseeva, Grace McFarlane, Guity Adjoodani, Meri Gugushvilli, Ronald Butts-Boehmer, Svetlana Volkova, Luba Turkevich, Carol Brody, Junko Tahakashi, Christina Smith, Joanne Sageman, Larissa Domracheva, Bonnie Kellert, Irina Gurevich, Andy Chan, Vivien Kwok, Yaling Yeh, Katerina Zaitseva, and Lori McCarthy.

With a lot of love and wishing you a good summer,  
Olga Soukhoveev, Chair for Elementary Recitals



## 2018 Senior Recognition and Awards

The MCMTA presented the 2018 Senior Recognition Awards and showcased winners of the Evelyn Swarthout and Patrick Hayes Competition for Piano on April 28, 2018, at the Mansion at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Maryland. Twenty-two seniors were recognized along with fourteen teachers.

The event began with each senior answering random questions about their music experiences and high school days and hobbies. Next, winners of the Evelyn Swarthout-Patrick Hayes Scholarship Competition for Piano presented a fabulous recital including Franz Liszt's Transcendental Etude in G minor, No. 10 (**Angela Wu**, First Place winner, student of Dmitri Nazarenko); Rachmaninoff's Moment Musical, Opus 16, No. 4 (**Caleb Kim**, Honorable Mention winner, student of Jaewon Lee); Chopin's Bolero, Opus 19 (**Maggie Chen**, Honorable Mention winner, student of Hyun Park); and Samuel Barber's Excursion, Opus 20, No. 1 (**Maggie Wang**, First Place winner of the American Composer Prize, student of Jaewon Lee). Following the recital, scholarship awards were given to the competition winners. Second and third place winners, Teddi Yoo (teacher, Bonnie Kellert) and Andrew Zhang (teacher, Dmitri Nazarenko), respectively, who were unable to attend, received their scholarships post hoc. Presentation of certificates and trophies to the graduating seniors concluded the program.

JULIA CHIEN	(Teacher: CHEN-LI TZENG)
VINCENT SINFUEGO	(Teacher: CONCHITA JAN)
ISABELLA CHANG	(Teacher: HYUN PARK)
NOAH SINGER	(Teacher: NANCY HALLSTED)
CAROLYN SUBRAMANIAM	(Teacher: HYUN PARK)
BEN STANISH	(Teacher: AGLAIA KORAS)
CHRISTINE CHO	(Teacher: HYUN PARK)
DONALD VOGEL	(Teacher: LINDA BENOIT)
LEO FAFOUTIS	(Teacher: AGLAIA KORAS)
CARISSA WU	(Teacher: HYUN PARK)
JENNIFER HOANG	(Teacher: SVETLANA VOLKOVA)
JOSEPH XU	(Teacher: LI-LY CHANG)
CHRISTOPHER HUNTER	(Teacher: OLGA SOUKHOVEEV)
TRACY YAN	(Teacher: SVETLANA VOLKOVA)
JOHNNA LEE	(Teacher: JAEWON LEE)
ALICE ZHANG	(Teacher: BONNIE KELLERT)
ELVIN LIU	(Teacher: JAMIE MITCHELL)
ALBERT ZHANG	(Teacher: HYUN PARK)
WILLIAM LIU	(Teacher: JEANNE WERNLY)
ANNIE ZHAO	(Teacher: HYUN PARK)
TANEEN MOMENI	(Teacher: GUILTY ADJODANI)
TONY ZHU	(Teacher: BONNIE KELLERT)

Eugenia Posey-Marcos, Ph.D., Chairman of 2018 Senior Recognition Awards.

Photos from Senior Recognition follow on pages 11-12.

# Montgomery County Music Teachers Association

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2018 Graduating Seniors and Swarthout-Hayes Winners with President Alice Ma



Pictured below: Angela Wu performing at the Senior Recognition event



## Montgomery County Music Teachers Association

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Pictured below: Winners from the Swarthout-Hayes Competition, left to right, Caleb Kim, Maggie Wang, Maggie Chen, and Angela Wu



### Thank You to Jordan Kitt's Music

At the MCMTA Executive Board meeting on June 5, 2018, President Alice Ma presented flowers and gifts to Tom Grace in thanks to the staff at Jordan Kitt's Music for their generous support of our meetings and activities during the 2017-2018 year.



# Montgomery County Music Teachers Association

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## MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING MAY 8, 2018

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

The minutes from the general meeting of April 10, 2018 were sent electronically in advance.

Sharon Carr introduced Sara DeLacey, a teacher who has recently moved here from Korea, and will be joining soon. She has a degree in church music and choral directing.

Alice said additional information about last month's speaker Alan Fraser, and his book *Kiddie Craft*, is now available for MCMTA members to read and provide feedback before the final version comes out.

The Student Activities are complete for the year. Eugenia Posey-Marcos, chair of the High School Senior Recognition, said that event and the Adult Recital which followed it, went smoothly, and were very well attended at the new location at the Strathmore Mansion.

Ingrid Mongini encouraged teachers who have students with financial need to apply for the Weissenfluh Fund. The deadline to apply is June 30, and a decision will be made by early July. The student must have studied with a MCMTA teacher for at least two years.

Sharon Carr said there are still monies available for Teacher Grants. Members may apply online or contact Sharon Carr. Carol Edison, a former recipient, spoke about the value of being able to attend Michiko Yurko's Music Mind Games.

Kris Butler said she has gotten some membership monies from MTNA, and reminded everyone to renew.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:54 AM and turned the floor over to Immanuela Gruenberg who introduced the program featuring performances by member teachers.

Guity Adjoodany performed *Andante and Variations in F Minor, Hob. XVII:6*, by Franz Joseph Haydn. Dr. Bonny Miller gave a short talk about Augusta Browne, a composer she is writing a book about. She then performed Browne's piece (which she researched recently in Italy), "Aurora, a Romance," which was dedicated to Franz Liszt. Alice Ma & Li-ly Chang finished out the program with a robust performance of three movements from *Ma mere l'oye*, by Maurice Ravel.

Members then enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary