



March 2019 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 12, 2019

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

9:30 Networking

10:00 Information/Communication

10:30 Program by Dr. Ronit Seter

Bartók and Hajdu: Hungarian and Israeli Cheerful Music for Young Musicians

So, what do we do with contemporary music for our students? Not too much? The kids don't seem to like contemporary music (and often, honestly, nor do we), and we end up with the method books and with Bach, sonatas, and Chopin. If we find the right contemporary music, however, we might be surprised with the excitement of our students – and ours, too. In this presentation, I will share with you a set of contemporary pieces, for early- and mid-intermediate levels, which never fails to excite my students. The composer is André Hajdu (1932–2016), and his set of four books is titled *The Milky Way*.

Hajdu grew up in Budapest, studied with Zoltán Kodály, and emulated the Bartók-Kodály school of composition. During the 1970s in Jerusalem, while teaching students who did not like playing the first two books of Bartók's *Mikrokosmos*, he decided to compose his own didactic pieces for the piano. The lively, syncopated rhythms, the wit, and the story behind *The Milky Way* capture the imagination of young pianists.



Music historian **Dr. Ronit Seter** specializes in contemporary music and Israeli music. She has served on the faculties of the Peabody Conservatory, George Washington University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and American University. Seter has published in many international journals and contributed to the *Grove Music Online* and the *New Grove Dictionary of American Music*. Her book-in-progress on Israeli composers was supported by an NEH Fellowship. A member of NVMTA, she teaches piano in her home studio in Fairfax, VA.



Alice Ma

President's Page

For quite a number of teachers, the next few months will be the busiest time of the year! Please make sure to get some rest time between events so that you do not wear yourself out.

Attending 2019 MTNA Conference (March 16–20) –Thanks to the support of our membership, I will be able to attend the upcoming MTNA Conference in Spokane, WA. I will share interesting information, programs, and news from the Conference in the April Newsletter.

50% off MTNA membership fees – MCMTA has so many activities including monthly presentations, events for different ages to perform, and Musical Camaraderie social gatherings to share information and discuss different topics. We really hope to see more local teachers join us to take benefit of it for their enrichment. This is a great time to invite your music teaching friends/colleagues to join MTNA, MSMTA and MCMTA, because MTNA is offering **50% off national dues** if joining first time between 1/1 and 6/30. Please go to this link for further information:

https://www.mtnafoundation.org/media/115436/HANDBOOK_Sample_Trial_Membership_Flyer.pdf

Updated Date and Location for Brewster Strings Competition (H. Stevens Brewster, Jr., Memorial Competition for Strings) – This competition will be held on May 5, 2019 (Sunday) at Potter Violins. It is open to all MSMTA members, even though this event is organized by MCMTA and ASTA. There will be cash prizes. For details of this event, please go to https://mcmta.msmta.org/docs/MCMTA_Brewster.pdf or contact the Chair Lya Stern at Lyasdc@verizon.net. Our sincere thanks to **Potter Violins** for their generous sponsorship of all prizes and providing the venue for the Brewster Strings Competition.

Grants to High School Graduating Seniors - Please help spread the words to MCMTA member teachers that MCMTA offers grants to two high school graduating seniors with a declared music major or minor in college; or college freshmen who studied with an MCMTA teacher while in high school and have a declared music major or minor. We hope to see more students taking advantage of it. For details, please go to https://mcmta.msmta.org/docs/MCMTA_Grants_to_High_School_Seniors.pdf. Any questions, please contact the Chair Sharon Carr at sacarr@live.com.

Alice Ma alicemapiano@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

- MSMTA Theory Testing
Sun., March 3, 2019, all levels
See Student Activities Handbook on www.msmta.org website
Elena Eliseeva
Watkins Mill High School
- **MCMTA Ensemble Recital**
March 10, 2019
Deadline Past
Alice Ma
Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
- **MCMTA Elementary Recital** "Spring Fling"
March 30, 2019
Deadline Past
Olga Soukhoveev
Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
- MSMTA Festival: Piano Ensemble
March 24, 2019
Deadline Past
Daniel Lau; Junko Takahashi
Clarice Smith PAC, Univ. of Maryland
- MSMTA Festival: Chamber Music
March 10, 2019
Deadline Past
Mark Di Pinto
Washington Adventist University
- MSMTA Strings Plus
April 7, 2019
Deadline Past
Kelly Hsu
Landon School, Bethesda
- **MCMTA Swarthout Hayes Piano Competition**
April 7, 2019
Deadline March 11, 2019
Bonnie Kellert; Junko Takahashi
PianoCraft, Gaithersburg
- MSMTA E. R. Davis Piano Competition
April 14, 2019
Deadline March 9, 2019
Junko Takahashi; Hyun Park
Washington Adventist University

Most MCMTA student events are now **PAPERLESS**, which means **online registration**, followed by a check mailed or delivered by the teacher to the event chair. A "how-to" video is available on the MCMTA website under "Video Help." Call the event chair if you are still overwhelmed.

VOLUNTEER POLICY: All teachers who participate in Association events are required to volunteer for these events. The number of volunteer hours must be commensurate with the number of students entered as specified on the application. The event chair decides the number of hours to be served and the type of service to be given. Teachers may find a substitute to work for them at the event, but the substitute **MUST be an MTNA member**. Failure to adhere to the policy will disqualify teachers from entering students in events the following program year.

Reminder: The **Brewster Strings Competition (H. Stevens Brewster, Jr., Memorial Competition for Strings)** date and location has been changed to Sunday, May 5, 2019, at Potter Violins. This competition is open to all MSMTA members, even though this event is organized by MCMTA and ASTA. For more information, contact Lya Stern at Lyasdc@verizon.net.

***SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT to Potter Violins** for their generous sponsorship in providing the venue and ALL prizes for this event.

TIPS for TEACHERS

By Carol Brody and Bonnie Kellert

Music in itself is considered joyful and an outlet to people of all ages. Whether it's rock, folk, jazz, classical, blues or a cappella. As we consider what brings us joy in our own lives via musical preferences we should also view that we share that joy with our students on a weekly basis. In reviewing our lessons after we see our students, consider that you have given them the gift of enjoying music during their sessions, whether it was a challenging session of new material or a review and applying the finishing touches to a piece. We can ourselves be highly critical of the outcomes of our lessons, but keeping in mind what the end goal is for both student and teacher, will equalize the expectations we have. Enjoy the knowledge that this shared experience will be looked at thoughtfully as your students mature and grow into young adults. I often hear my friends discuss the musical experiences they had with their teachers, and I think that as our own memories fade in certain degrees these experiences don't. Enjoy your studios and stay warm for a few more weeks.

With good note and intention,
Carol Brody

PS. Remember you will be a good memory to your students.

MCMTA teachers, take note ♪: The next **Musical Camarderie** meeting will take place on March 22 (Friday) from 10 am to 12:00 pm at the home of our Mentoring Chair, Bonnie Kellert. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Bonnie. You are welcome to submit any topics or questions to Bonnie before the meeting. Her email address is bkellert@verizon.net.

Music Teacher Monday is another initiative to help busy teachers from MTNA:

Music Teachers National Association is proud to announce "Teacher Inspiration" as the next Music Teacher Monday topic. Music Teacher Monday is our innovative, once-a-month, online continuing education opportunity for the time-challenged music teacher.

This next Music Teacher Monday Twitter discussion ([#MusicTeachersChat](https://twitter.com/MusicTeachersChat)) will take place on **Monday, March 4, 2019**.

To participate, just log into Twitter at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time on March 4 and search for the hashtag **#MusicTeachersChat**. You can use both the "quote retweet" and "reply" options to participate—just be sure to include [#MusicTeachersChat](https://twitter.com/MusicTeachersChat) in your responses. This opportunity is open to MTNA members and nonmembers alike.

If you have any specific questions you would like addressed, please email them in advance to mlovet@mtna.org.

More Reminders for Teachers

MCMTA Senior Recognition Awards Day celebrates our high school seniors who have studied any instrument or voice with a member teacher or teachers for at least six consecutive years. The event features performances by award winners from our most prestigious competitions, but the seniors themselves don't have to play a note. Please urge your high school seniors to participate in this short event. Eugenia Posey-Marcos organizes this event, (240-631-2232) or contact PianoSchoolGaithersburg@gmail.com.

Sharon Carr has announced that two \$1,000 Scholarships will be available primarily for graduating high school seniors who have been accepted into college music departments (major or minor), but freshmen already in college who formerly studied with an MCMTA member can also apply. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2019.

The Potomac Organ Institute offer free lessons for developing church organists of any age. Repertoire requirements and an application are available on the website, www.potomacorganinst.org.

The 34th International Young Artist Piano Competition begins with regional rounds April 20 and 28, 2019. Final rounds take place June 27–30, 2019, at Catholic University of America. For information and applications, contact Li-Ly Chang at musicalartsinternational@yahoo.com, or go to www.musicalartsinternational.org/IYAPC.

The 2019 Rockville Music Competition for Solo Piano, Solo Strings, and Solo Voice will be held Sunday, May 19, at Montgomery College, Music Building, Rockville, MD. For information and applications, see: www.rockvillecompetition.com. For assistance, contact Dr. Deborah Brown at 301-838-5594 or email: rockvillecompetition@gmail.com.

The Friday Morning Music Club Foundation will present a benefit recital for the 2019 Washington International Competition for voice. French pianist Fanny Azzurro will perform Debussy, Ravel, and Rachmaninov at the Steinway Piano Gallery, North Bethesda, on Monday, April 22, at 6:30 pm. She will also conduct a free piano master class on Thursday, April 25, from 10 am to 12 pm in the International Piano Archives at the University of Maryland Clarice Smith PAC.

Musical Arts international presents Ismar Gomes, cello, and Wan-Chi Su, piano, on March 9 at 7:30 pm at Latvian Lutheran Church, 400 Hurley Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. The program includes music by Nadia Boulanger, Lili Boulanger, Johannes Brahms, Astor Piazzola, Ying-Chen Kao, Franz Schubert and our own Li-Ly Chang. Dr. Bonny Miller will give a pre-concert introduction at 7 pm. For more information, see <http://www.musicalartsinternational.org/> or call 301-933-3715.

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra is holding their Feuer String Competition for outstanding young string players, grades 7–12, in the metropolitan area. See flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Welcome New Members to MCMTA

Welcome to seven new members in our chapter!

Dr. Hai Jin - piano (Clarksburg)

Sabina Khaykin - piano and theory (Gaithersburg)

Yao Lin - piano and pedagogy (College Park)

Karen Lowitz - piano (Silver Spring)

Sarah H. Monroe - piano, theory, and group piano (Rockville)

Yan Qiao - violin (Gaithersburg)

Jiashu Song - piano (Silver Spring)

Weissenfluh Grants 2018 Report

We are honored to have helped four students continue their private individual music studies in 2018. All needed financial help to continue studying with their MCMTA teachers. Three of them have previously received grants. One fifth-grader advanced in two years from “beginner” to playing in an MCMTA Intermediate Recital. Two others “competed and excelled in County and Maryland state competitions” (their teacher's comment).

A recipient wrote “We have been through hard times in our family and music helped us get through it. Even if we have problems, we will never stop playing piano.” Another, citing rewards received and increased opportunities to play in ensembles, stated, “Playing piano is part of me, a part of my heart and soul, and I don't know what I would do without it. Thank you for all you do for me...” The family of each Weissenfluh recipient struggles with ongoing financial challenges because of job loss, divorce, and/or catastrophic health issues. A parent, explaining their family's situation, wrote, “We make significant sacrifices to be able to make ends meet. We do not take vacations and we do not spend money on things other than our bills. Piano lessons are a luxury, but one we think is beneficial to a student who is talented and loves music.”

Since 1997, grants from the Margaret E. Weissenfluh Fund have provided monies “to assist children who are musically inclined and wish to study and learn to play but who otherwise would not be able to do so.” The application deadline for 2019 Weissenfluh applications is June 30, 2019. Please look for an application in the Student Activities Packet. To qualify, a child must be a student of an MCMTA teacher, must have studied the same instrument for at least two years, and must be enrolled in grades K-12. The determining factors are financial need and love of playing an instrument. The Weissenfluh Committee looks forward to continuing to serve eligible students.

Ingrid Mongini, Chair

Festival of Music 2019 - Dance Music Through the Ages

The Festival Recitals took place on February 23, 2019, at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Rockville, MD. The theme produced a variety of dances from the Baroque period to the twenty-first century. There were many waltzes and mazurkas from Chopin, as well as dance music of Bartok, Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Federer, Gillock, Granados, Grieg, Haydn, Klose, Liszt, Mier, Mozart, Nazareth, Paderewski, Schubert, Schuman, Strauss, Streabogg, Telemann, Reinhold, and Villado.

There were 49 students registered, representing the studios of fourteen MCMTA teachers, however, three students were unable to attend. The 46 students who did perform were divided into five recitals, beginning at 9:15 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. The students were very well prepared and played beautifully in a very relaxed atmosphere where they were not competing but having fun presenting their choice of dance music through the ages.

The morning recitals were critiqued by MCMTA teachers Barbara Goldberg and Jaime Pasho, while the afternoon recitals were critiqued by MCMTA teachers, Eugenia Posey-Marcos and Olga Soukhoveeva. Monitors were Lara Parris, Irina Gurevich, and Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich. These teachers helped tremendously in making each recital to be enjoyable and run very smoothly.

Very special thanks goes to Ms. Helen Koo, the concert coordinator for Steinways. Ms. Koo opened the entire gallery to all the performers and the audiences who attended, setting up their concert hall with two wonderful Steinway grand pianos for the recitals, which added so much to each performance. Though Steinway officially only opens at 10:00 a.m., Ms. Koo went above and beyond her work hours, arriving at 8:45 to allow setup for the recital judges and audiences in addition to the use of the kitchen facilities, and made herself available for any last minute assistance needed to make things run smoothly. Many of the parents expressed gratitude for the interesting repertoire presented as well as the friendly and relaxed ambiance of the judges and monitors. Overall, everyone agreed that the Festival recitals were a big success!

I am open to any suggestions for a theme for next year's Festival. Guity Adjoodani, Festival Chair



More photos from the 2019 Festival of Music.



MCMTA Judged Recitals

On February 3, 2019, we had three wonderful Judged recitals at Jordan Kitt's Music. All of the students played very well and performed with such good musicianship that judges awarded fifteen high honors trophies and ten honorable mention ribbons.

Twenty-seven students participated in the Judged recitals. They represented the studios of: Svetlana Volkova, Junko Takahashi, Meri Gugushvili, Irina Gurevich, Lara Paris, Sara Cronan, Elena Eliseeva, and Rachel Franklin.

Our honored adjudicators were Dr. Audrey Andrist and Dr. Hyun-Sook Park. Special thanks to Elena, Eliseeva, Meri Gugushvili and Lara Paris for helping with monitoring.

Sincerely,
 Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich
 Chair of MCMTA Judged Recitals



New Piano Competition

MCMTA members Dr. Hanni Zhang and Dr. Hai Jin are organizing the Washington Universal Piano Competition (WUPC). The goals of the new competition are to promote classical music throughout the world and to improve music culture communication between the U.S. and other countries.

The Washington Universal Piano Competition will be held at Levine School of Music, Silver Spring (preliminary round), and the University of Washington DC (final round) on May 11, 2019. We also provide winners with a final performance at Gildenhorn Recital hall at the University of Maryland Clarice Smith performing Arts Center. For more information about the competition, see www.umstu.com.

STEAM RESEARCH CENTER
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

When Words Fail, Music Speaks.

2019 Washington Universal Piano Competition

Performance at
University of Maryland
Gildenhorn Recital Hall

Application Deadline	May 3rd, 2019
Preliminary Date	May 11th, 2019
***Video Recording is Acceptable in Preliminary Round	
Final Round Date	July 20th, 2019
Performance Day	July 27th, 2019

Visit www.umstu.com for more details & rules.
Apply online at <http://www.umstu.com/application.html>

UMT Universal Music Studio
Email: umscorpinfo@gmail.com
Phone: 301-664-4484

MCMTA February Meeting

MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2019

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

The minutes from the general meeting of December 11, 2018, were sent electronically in advance.

Alice reminded everyone that the Brewster Strings Competition is open to students. It is an event that is held every other year. The American String Teachers Association (ASTA) has joined with us to mount the event, and Potter Violins has generously given funds to help support it. The date for the event has been changed to May 5th at Potter Violins. Interested teachers should go to MCMTA's website to see updates. Alice asked teachers to spread the word about this nice event. There are cash awards given to the winners.

Alice said the Judged Recital is also open to other instruments. She encouraged teachers to participate.

MTNA is offering half price to teachers who wish to join now. Alice said to keep encouraging teachers we know who have not joined to join. New member Stephanie Rhein was introduced. She would like others to know that she travels to students' homes to give lessons.

The new social activity Musical Camaraderie met on January 25 from 10:00-noon at Bonnie Kellert's home. The next meeting is March 22. This is an informal discussion group for conversation and exchange about topics of interest. Those who wish to attend or contribute discussion topics and questions should email Bonnie.

Guity Adjoodani said the MCMTA Festival, to be held February 23rd, has 49 students enrolled. Alice said that the Ensemble Recital, to be held March 10th, has 63 teams enrolled. It is encouraging that many teachers are participating who have not been involved with the Ensemble Recital before. She asked members to make sure that teachers of other instruments know about this event.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:38AM. Immanuela Gruenberg announced that Bradford Gowen, the scheduled speaker for today, was ill. Immanuela was scheduled to give a presentation to the Frederick County Music Teachers today, but due to inclement weather, they had canceled their meeting. She graciously stepped forward and provided a resourceful and thought-provoking program entitled, "Artistry and Creativity-How to Inspire our Students".

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary

2019 FEUER STRING COMPETITION

Preliminary Round:

Sunday, April 7
Providence Presbyterian Church
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 22031

Final Round:

Saturday, June 15

First held in 1964 as a tribute to Dorothy Farnham Feuer, founder of the Fairfax Symphony and a violinist with the orchestra, the Feuer String Competition provides well-deserved recognition and monetary support to outstanding young string players in the Washington metropolitan area in grades 7-12.

Application deadline is Monday, March 25 at 5pm.

*View full competition guidelines and register online at
www.FAIRFAXSYMPHONY.ORG or email us at Feuerstrings@gmail.com*