



April 2019 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville

11726 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD

9:30 Networking

10:00 Information/Communication

10:30 Program by Dr. Donna Koh

Resources for Teaching Blind or Visually Impaired Students

What would you do if a blind or visually impaired student asked to start music lessons with you? Would you be able to nurture and guide the student to reach his/her full musical potential? What about reading music? Are you aware of the resources that are available for blind students and where to access them? Do you know whom to contact if you have questions regarding braille music or issues specific to teaching a student with a visual impairment?

As a lifelong music educator, Donna Koh is passionate about braille music literacy and providing music in accessible formats to students and musicians who are visually impaired. Dr. Koh is a music librarian at the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress. She earned a Doctorate and a Master's degree in Piano Performance from Temple University, and a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Maryland. She recently published an article titled "Music Catalog for Blind and Visually Impaired Patrons" in the *Music Reference*

Service Quarterly and spoke about braille music digitization at the National Archives and Catholic University. She is a longtime member of MCMTA.



Dr. Koh will discuss braille music code, books that teach braille music reading, strategies that blind students use to learn new musical compositions, the NLS braille music collection, and other resources that can help students with visual impairments flourish. Teachers who have even a basic knowledge of these resources will be extremely helpful in putting these students on the right path to learning and enjoying a lifetime of music.

President's Page



Alice Ma



Spring has finally arrived! But, the temperature is still cold occasionally. Please take care of yourself as this is the busiest season for many teachers.

Highlights from 2019 MTNA Conference (Spokane, WA) – I just came back from the Conference last week. It was exciting, inspiring, and refreshing, especially being able to spend time with some colleagues coming from different states. I took many pictures that I will share in the April and May newsletters.

The Conference had a full schedule every day, including a Plenary Session for everyone and presentations throughout the day with several choices in each time slot. In parallel with the presentations, there were Student Competitions. Therefore, at the end of each day after presentations were finished, teachers could still attend part of the winners' concert to watch talented young players and singers perform. In addition, there were exhibitions, showcases, and poster sessions that provided much valuable information.

The Opening Keynote Speaker was **Alan Walker** who has published thirteen books. This time, he talked about the life of Chopin with interesting facts/points/angles, mainly from his most recent book titled *Fryderyk Chopin: A Life and Times* (2018). One thing he mentioned that I especially liked is that Chopin loved hearing/watching vocal music, especially operatic singing. Therefore, *bel canto* operatic singing style was reflected in many of his pieces.

There were two Master Classes: an Advanced Piano Master Class by **Barry Snyder**, and the Intermediate Piano Master Class by **Helen Marlais**, both world-renowned pianists. Their in-depth explanations and demonstrations were very clear and thorough!

All the presentations I attended were very well presented. I will talk more about the presentations in our May newsletter. As your president, I also attended the meetings for the Eastern Division, which is mostly attended by State and Local presidents or representatives. I gained some insights from the sharing, discussion, and feedback in the meeting.

For your benefit, MTNA has posted ONLINE handouts for some presentations (available for a limited time). You are welcome to go to MTNA website and visit the Conference page and click on the presentations of interest to you.

Deadline Extended for Brewster Strings Competition – The deadline for this event has been extended to **April 8, 2019 (postmark)**. The event will be held on May 5, 2019 (Sunday), starting at 1 pm. The location is John Kendall Recital Hall at Potter Violin. This competition is open to all MSMTA

and ASTA members. There are two divisions. Cash prizes (provided by generous sponsorship of **Potter Violins**) will be awarded. For details, please go to MCMTA website. Any questions, please contact the Chair, Lya Stern at Lyasdc@verizon.net.

Grant for High School Graduating Seniors– Please spread the news for this grant. It will benefit the high school graduating seniors with a declared music as MAJOR or MINOR. Application must be postmarked by April 15, 2019. Please go to MCMTA website for details.

Grant for Continuing Education for Teachers – summer will be here in around two months. It's not too early to plan for your enrichment opportunities, such as classes, workshops, and lessons with a local teacher for teaching methods, or even attending the MTNA Conference. Application must be postmarked by June 1, 2019. Please go to MCMTA website for details.

Happy Spring!
Alice Ma, MCMTA President

Upcoming Student Activities

- **MCMTA Intermediate/Advanced Recitals** Elena Eliseeva, Olga Soukhoveev
April 6 and 7, 2019
Deadline Past
Steinway Piano Gallery, Rockville
- **MSMTA Strings Plus** Kelly Hsu
April 7, 2019
Deadline Past
Landon School, Bethesda
- **MCMTA Swarthout Hayes Piano Competition** Bonnie Kellert; Junko Takahashi
April 7, 2019
Deadline Past
PianoCraft, Gaithersburg
- **MSMTA E. R. Davis Piano Competition** Junko Takahashi; Hyun Park
April 14, 2019
Deadline Past
Washington Adventist University
- **MCMTA Judged Recital** Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich
April 14, 2019
Deadline Past
Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
- **MSMTA Unaccompanied Bach Competition** Wonhee Kim
April 27, 2019
Deadline April 1, 2019
New Hope Lutheran Church, Columbia MD
- **MCMTA Adult Recital** Linda Benoit
April 28, 2019 (2:30 pm)
Deadline April 8, 2019
Strathmore Mansion, North Bethesda
- **MCMTA Senior Recognition Day** Eugenia Posey-Marcos
April 28, 2019 (4 pm)
Deadline Past
Strathmore Mansion, North Bethesda
- **Competition Winners Concert** Eugenia Posey-Marcos
April 28, 2019 (4 pm)
Strathmore Mansion, North Bethesda

Upcoming Student Activities, Continued

- **Brewster Strings Competition**
 May 5, 2019
Deadline extended to April 8, 2019
 Lya Stern
 Potter Violin Company, Takoma Park *
- **MSMTA Unaccompanied Bach Competition**
 April 27, 2019
Deadline April 1, 2019
 Wonhee Kim
 New Hope Lutheran Church, Columbia MD
- **MSMTA Spring Festival: Piano Solo**
 May 4, 2019
 Deadline Past
 Carol Wolfe-Ralph
 Clarice Smith PAC, Univ. Of Maryland
- **MSMTA Weaver String Competition**
 May 11, 2019
Deadline April 26, 2019
 Mia Choi
 Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
- **MSMTA Solo String Festival**
 May 19, 2019
Deadline April 1, 2019
 Brian Liu, Preston Hawes
 Washington Adventist Univ., Takoma Park
- **MSMTA Doris Chase Sonata Competition**
 May 19, 2019
 Deadline Past
 Douglas Guiles
 UMBC, Baltimore County
- **MSMTA Gottlieb Competition**
 May 19, 2019
 Deadline Past
 Douglas Guiles
 UMBC, Baltimore County
- **High School Outstanding Achievement Award** Elena Eliseeva, Svetlana Volkova
 Ongoing

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.

***SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** to Potter Violins for their generous sponsorship in providing the venue and ALL prizes for the Brewster String Competition.

MCMTA teachers, take note ♪: The next **Musical Camaraderie** meeting will take place on Friday, May 3, 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.

TIPS for TEACHERS By Bonnie Kellert

Demonstrating For Your Students!

Hello, MCMTA Colleagues!

There is SO much your students can learn by watching and listening to you at every level!

What can you demonstrate? Let's address the technical side of performance. (In the future, look for interpretative ideas.)

For me, one of the most important aspects of being a good pianist is first to be a fine musician and create beautiful sounds on the piano. This month, let's discuss the technical means of making a beautiful sound.

By watching how you achieve a lovely sound, your students will gain knowledge about HOW to create a beautiful sound. Playing louder is much easier - Just about anyone can push the keys with more energy to generate a big sound, but it should be without forcing the tone in forte passages. Keeping a flexible wrist and loose arm will help control the bigger sounds. Keep in mind: Tight arms, wrists and fingers produce an ugly sound. Playing quieter is far more challenging - projecting that sound and having that sound sustain. Have your students "ride" piggyback on your hand so they feel how you move...how your fingers move in coordination with your wrist and forearm. Show your students how to use finger and arm weight and then, for really big passages, how to use their upper body weight by just leaning forward toward the keys. Of course, they will need to develop finger strength to support the weight.

You can apply all kinds of approaches to developing a wide dynamic range and improving balance between melody and accompaniment. Taking passages out of context is perfectly okay - even using different notes and patterns will encourage consistency once the technical goal has been achieved. Even *Dozen a Day*, *Finger Power* and other books for Elementary levels can be useful.

If you find the repertoire challenging, you can demonstrate slowly - or with just one hand. This will encourage your students to practice slowly at home and to listen carefully. You can consider: Learning their pieces in more depth; Taking the piece to a colleague for further ideas; Arranging a lesson for yourself with a Master Teacher; Having your student coach directly with another teacher; Inviting a teacher into your studio to give coaching; Listening together to a recording by a respected artist.

Your students look up to you for encouragement and inspiration. Playing even the simplest piece with passionate musicianship will enhance your lessons together and your students will appreciate you all the more!

Enjoy your teaching!
Bonnie Kellert, Mentoring Chair

More Reminders for Teachers

Music Teacher Monday is another initiative to help busy teachers from **Music Teachers National Association**. The next MTNA Music Teacher Monday Twitter discussion (#MusicTeachersChat) will take place on **Monday, April 1, 2019**, with the topic “**Community Engagement**.” This opportunity is open to MTNA members and nonmembers alike.

To participate, just log into Twitter at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time on April 1 and search for the hashtag #**MusicTeachersChat**. You can use both the “quote retweet” and “reply” options to participate—just be sure to include #MusicTeachersChat in your responses. If you have any specific questions you would like addressed, please email them in advance to mlovet@mtna.org.

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. See flyer at the end of this newsletter.

The **Apollo Orchestra** presents a free performance on Sunday, April 7, at 4 pm at the Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street NW (very near Metro Center station) in Washington DC. Performing

Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 with the orchestra is internationally-acclaimed pianist Peter Orth. More information on website at www.apolloorchestra.com. See flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Welcome to new MCMTA member **Julia I** - piano (Potomac) julia_first@yahoo.com.

March Meeting

On March 12, 2019, the presenter at the MCMTA general meeting was Dr. Ronit Seter, musicologist and piano teacher from our neighbor, Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association. Ronit introduced us to André Hajdu's 1975 *Milky Way*, containing teaching pieces for intermediate students, in addition to more familiar music from Bartók's *Mikrokosmos*. Hajdu's music makes use of dissonance through bitonality, mixed modes, and ostinati. We were delighted to hear Ronit's fourteen-year-old student Ilanchezhian Palpandian perform examples for Dr. Seter's talk.



Left to Right, Immanuela Gruenberg, Ronit Seter, and Ilanchezhian Palpandian

MTNA Conference 2019 Spokane

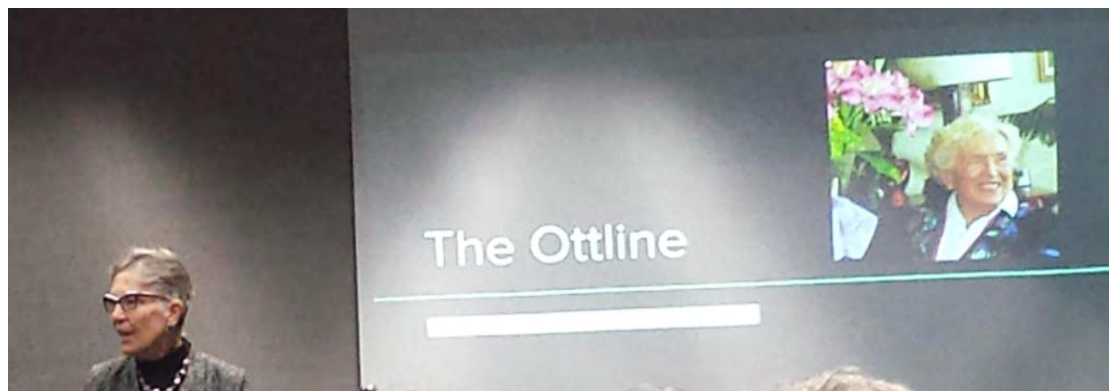
More Spokane conference photos will appear in the May newsletter.



Immanuela Gruenberg presented a session on issues of editing music.



Ingrid Fliter delighted the convention audience in a solo recital.



Nancy O'Neill Breth and Donald Manildi examined the legacy of Margaret Saunders Ott.

Ensemble Recital

The MCMTA 2019 Ensemble Recital was held March 10, 2019, at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville. Around 130 students formed 63 teams consisting of piano duet, duo, trio, quartet, and violin & piano teams. We had six wonderful recitals (five judged and one non-judged). Most teams were well prepared with such high standards that Judges awarded high honors trophies to 37 teams and honorable mention ribbons to 18 teams. Congratulations to all the teachers and students for their excellent preparation and performances!

The students were from the studios of Samuel Dastrup, Elena Eliseeva, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Meri Gugushvili, Cherie Shwu-Ching Jeng, Bonnie Kellert, Jaewon Lee, Alice Ma, Marina Ovtcharenko, Lara Parris, Jamie Pasho, Olga Soukhoveev, Svetlana Volkova, and Katerina Zaitseva.

Our esteemed judges were Nancy Breth and Jeni Maneva. Special thanks to Elena Eliseeva, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Meri Gugushvili, Cherie Shwu-Ching Jeng, Bonnie Kellert, Jaewon Lee, Marina Ovtcharenko, Lara Parris, Jamie Pasho, Olga Soukhoveev, and Svetlana Volkova for their help to run this event so smoothly and beautifully. And, thanks to all teachers who participated in this event. See you all next year!

Respectfully,
Alice Ma, Ensemble Recital Chair



Happy faces among the many students who participated in the 2019 MCMTA Ensemble Festival

Washington Universal 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>

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

MCMTA March Meeting

MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING MARCH 12, 2019

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

The minutes from the general meeting of February 12, 2019, were sent electronically in advance.

The new social activity Musical Camaraderie will meet next on March 22 from 10:00 until Noon at Bonnie Kellert's home. 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.

Two new MCMTA members, Hanni Zhang and Hai Jin, have organized a new competition called the Washington Universal Piano Competition (WUPC). The application deadline is May 3. There is further information about the competition in the March Newsletter.

Sharon Carr asked members who have a high school senior in their studio, or a 1st year freshman music major or minor, to sign up for the MCMTA Grant as soon as possible. The deadline is April 15th. She asked that members help spread the word to teacher friends about this opportunity.

Alice is looking forward to attending the upcoming MTNA National Conference in Spokane. She is grateful for the support of MCMTA membership which allows her to attend the MTNA Conference. Immanuela Gruenberg will also be attending, and is presenter.

Susan Roberts is retiring and selling her music inventory at a 50% discount. Members may contact her by phone or email, which are available in the MCMTA Member Directory.

Guity Adjoonani said the MCMTA Festival went very well. Alice said the Ensemble Recital also went well with over 130 students participating, in both judged and non-judged categories on March 10, and was a very interesting program.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:50AM. Immanuela Gruenberg introduced Dr. Ronit Seter who's program "Bartok and Hajdu: Hungarian and Israeli Cheerful Music for Young Musicians", provided a look at interesting contemporary music repertoire for early and mid-intermediate level students.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary



The Friday Morning Music Club Foundation Presents a
Benefit Recital
for the 2019 Washington International Competition for Voice



Fanny Azzuro, Piano

2011 WIC Participant

Program to feature works by
Debussy, Ravel, and Rachmaninov

Monday, April 22, 6:30 PM

Steinway Piano Gallery
11611 Old Georgetown Road
North Bethesda, Maryland

A reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres
will precede the concert.

Suggested Donation \$30 – Students Free

Reservations recommended. Please email
Marta Howard at azzuro@pupworks.com.

Ms. Azzuro will also conduct a piano master class on Thursday April 25 from 10 am to 12 pm as part of the FMMC Piano Master Class Series. This event will be held in the International Piano Archives at the University of Maryland Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, 8270 Alumni Drive, College Park, Maryland. Open to the public at no charge.

Dynamic and highly regarded French pianist Fanny Azzuro has an active career as a recitalist and enthusiastic chamber music participant. A specialist in the music of Russian and French impressionist composers, she has performed in renowned venues all over France and abroad. Upcoming performances in the US include the French American Piano Society in New York City later this month as well as her Carnegie Hall debut as part of the New York Piano Festival in June. She has recorded six CDs of solo and chamber works and will record the Schumann Piano Concerto with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra in Prague in November. She will add three CDs to her discography in 2019, all featuring the works of Schumann.

THE APOLLO ORCHESTRA

Stephen Czarkowski, Music Director

featuring

PETER ORTH PIANO

RICHARD WAGNER: Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*

BENJAMIN BRITTEN: *Passacaglia* and
Four Sea Interludes from *Peter Grimes*

JOHANNES BRAHMS: Piano Concerto No. 1
in D minor, Op. 15

"A major talent."

NEW YORK TIMES



FREE ADMISSION

Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 4pm

Church of the Epiphany

1317 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

Parking available at the PMI Garage located at 1325 G Street, NW

One block from Metro Center Station on Metro's Red Line

www.apolloorchestra.com 

This program is made possible by generous grants from
The Downing Family Foundation