



**May 2019 Newsletter**

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

**Next Meeting Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

**Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville**

**11726 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD**

**NOTE TIME: 10:30 BRIEF MEETING**

**11:00 Musical Program by Members**

**Potluck Luncheon Follows**

The final meeting of the season features the traditional musical program performed by MCMTA members, followed by a potluck luncheon.

The mini-concert includes music by Debussy, Granados, Marufi, Der Stepani, and our own Li-Ly Chang, Andy Zatman, and Marilyn Bryant. At the piano we will hear Hanni Zhang, Marilyn Bryant, Guity Adjoodani, Hai Jin, Li-Ly Chang, and Alice Ma.

**MCMTA Members: Please bring something to share at the luncheon that does not require reheating. Please avoid nuts if they are not essential to the recipes, and serve nuts on the side.**



*Alice Ma**President's Page*

Being MCMTA President for almost two years, the experience has been great and positive. It is all because of amazing board members and wonderful general members. Thank you for all the support, constant feedback, and suggestions to help make MCMTA better! I am looking forward to meeting more members in person during the next school year.

**2018–19 MCMTA student activities** – The activities are almost over after the Brewster Strings Competition is held on May 5, 2019. What a great year! GREAT THANKS to all event Chairs for their superior organization to make every event a success. Also, we really appreciate the support from our vendors Jordan Kitt's Music, Steinway Piano Gallery, PianoCraft, and Potter Violins for providing free venues for MCMTA events.

**Special Thanks** - Special thanks to Bonny Miller for her many years of service as VP for Publications. She has been producing the MCMTA newsletter since 2013. She always created newsletter with nice design and professional layout. Bonny was also responsible for MCMTA Directory. She will not be able to continue her service due to relocation. Please read her article in this newsletter for her reflections. In addition, special thanks to Lori McCarthy for her many years of service as the Chair of Student Activities Packet and Technology/Web. She always prepared the Student Activities Packet in such a professional way. We are very thankful for both of their leaderships, services, and friendship!

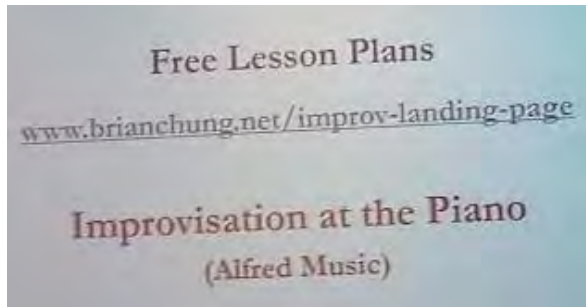
**Summary of some presentations at the 2019 MTNA Conference (Spokane, WA)** – In the last newsletter, I have talked about some programs in the Conference. This time, I am going to talk about the presentations. Many conference pictures are posted in this newsletter as well.

In general, there were seven to eight presentations to choose between for each time period. It was very easy to find at least one or two (sometimes even three) presentations that I wanted to hear. Attending these presentations really broadened my horizons in the field of music teaching. I am going to mention a few of them that you might find useful.

**Dynamic Business Duos** (Angela Marshall & David Dorrough) – Benefits of two different studios under the same umbrella were mentioned, such as sharing resources, sharing workloads when organizing summer camp or some projects, or even writing a book together. For more information, visit <https://www.creativepianoteacher.com/>

**How to Teach Classical & Jazz Improvisation Step-By-Step** (Brian Chung) – Two interesting points from him: People naturally improvise constantly throughout the day, e.g. conversation.

Transposition and transposing often is very important at an early stage of a student's learning. To learn more of Brian Chung's lesson plans, visit <https://www.brianchung.net/improv-landing-page>



**Forty Ways to Practice Scales** (Kate Acone & Michael Clark) – One of the interesting ways is to play two different scales in parallel or contrary motion. For learning more ways, visit <https://www.kateacone.com/media>

For a limited time MTNA is posting ONLINE handouts for some of the conference presentations. You are welcome to go to the MTNA website and visit the Conference page, choose the 'schedule,' then click on the presentations that might interest you. If there is an underlined title, you can click on it to access the handout. I strongly suggest for you to get the benefit of all these handouts.

If you haven't gone to any of the National Conference or did not go to one recently, you really should consider planning to go to one, especially the 2020 Conference in Chicago, which is much closer to us compared to Spokane and Florida.

**2019-20 School Year** – The Board is planning for programs for the upcoming school year. Stay tuned for news! Please remember to share all the exciting news with music teachers whom you know, and invite them to join MCMTA.

Summer is approaching soon! Have a nice one!

Alice Ma, MCMTA President



Alice with MTNA keynote speaker and Chopin biographer Alan Walker

## Upcoming Student Activities

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brewster Strings Competition</b><br/>May 5, 2019<br/>Deadline Past</li> <li>• MSMTA Unaccompanied Bach Competition<br/>April 27, 2019<br/>Deadline Past</li> <li>• MSMTA Spring Festival: Piano Solo<br/>May 4, 2019<br/>Deadline Past</li> <li>• MSMTA Weaver String Competition<br/>May 11, 2019<br/>Deadline Past</li> <li>• MSMTA Solo String Festival<br/>May 19, 2019<br/>Deadline Past</li> <li>• MSMTA Doris Chase Sonata Competition<br/>May 19, 2019<br/>Deadline Past</li> <li>• MSMTA Gottlieb Competition<br/>May 19, 2019<br/>Deadline Past</li> <li>• <b>High School Outstanding Achievement Award</b><br/>Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Weissenfluh Scholarships</b><br/><b>June 30, 2019</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lya Stern<br/>Potter Violin Company, Takoma Park</li> <li>Wonhee Kim<br/>New Hope Lutheran Church, Columbia MD</li> <li>Carol Wolfe-Ralph<br/>Clarice Smith PAC, Univ. Of Maryland</li> <li>Mia Choi<br/>Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville</li> <li>Brian Liu, Preston Hawes<br/>Washington Adventist Univ., Takoma Park</li> <li>Douglas Guiles<br/>UMBC, Baltimore County</li> <li>Douglas Guiles<br/>UMBC, Baltimore County</li> <li>Elena Eliseeva, Svetlana Volkova</li> <li>Ingrid Mongini</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

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.

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

## TIPS for TEACHERS

Carol Brody writes:

We have all had students for many years and others that we just started. This is the nature of the business. There's a comfort level in building a long standing relationship with a student: their family dynamics, their interests and what type of humor you can share with them. With a new student we tread carefully, discussing their prior interests of musical taste and knowledge of music along with the reasons they decided to begin or if they had another teacher, to continue music lessons. The most important strategy is to engage the new student with a level of encouragement along with a positive reassurance. Like anything new some of our students come with overconfidence, some are shy, others think it's a toy to play with and some enter with a strong work ethic. We are nurturing all of these various personalities and maintaining a relationship of good faith that will serve our students well in their future endeavors. So we aren't just music teachers as such. We nurture and grow with those that are new and those that we have had over the years. Enjoy the successes of both styles of students and enjoy the spring break.

## More Reminders for Teachers

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 Robin Schultz 10303 Dickens Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Robin ([robinmschultz@yahoo.com](mailto:robinmschultz@yahoo.com)) and Bonnie. You are welcome to submit any topics or questions to Bonnie before the meeting. Her email address is [bkellert@verizon.net](mailto:bkellert@verizon.net).

**Music Teacher Monday** is another initiative to help busy teachers from **Music Teachers National Association**. The next MTNA Music Teacher Monday Twitter topic is "Connecting With Your State and Local Associations" (#MusicTeachersChat) This discussion will take place on **Monday, May 6, 2019**. This opportunity is open to MTNA members and nonmembers alike.

To participate, just log into Twitter at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time on May 6 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](mailto:mlovet@mtna.org).

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 has been extended to May 1, 2019.

Applications for **Weissenfluh scholarships** for students with financial need are due June 30, 2019 (see online application in Student Activities Packet). Ingrid Mongini chairs this program.

**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](http://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](mailto:musicalartsinternational@yahoo.com), or go to [www.musicalartsinternation.org/IYAPC](http://www.musicalartsinternation.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](http://www.rockvillecompetition.com). For assistance, contact Dr. Deborah Brown at 301-838-5594 or email: [rockvillecompetition@gmail.com](mailto:rockvillecompetition@gmail.com).

MCMTA members Dr. Hanni Zhang and Dr. Hai Jin are organizing **the Washington Universal Piano Competition (WUPC)** to promote classical music throughout the world and to improve music culture communication between the U.S. and other countries. The WUPC will be held at Levine School of Music, Silver Spring (preliminary round), and the University of Washington DC (final round) on May 11, 2019. For more information about the competition, see [www.umstu.com](http://www.umstu.com).

On April 9, 2019, our presenter at the MCMTA general meeting was **Dr. Donna Koh**, a music teacher who has become extremely knowledgeable on braille music and other resources for visually impaired students at the National Service Library for the Blind, Music Section. Donna offered valuable tips for teaching the blind or visually impaired. She explained the process of reading braille music and transcribing materials into braille music. We can all teach visually impaired students if we know how to locate available resources and plan far enough ahead to receive them. The photo below illustrates the interest and questions that her informative talk inspired.



Left to right, Mei-Yu Lin, Donna Koh, Meri Gugushvili, and Tina Smith.

## Swarthout Hayes Competition for Piano

The 2019 Evelyn Swarthout Hayes and Patrick Hayes Competition for Piano was held on April 7 at Pianocraft in Gaithersburg. I would like to thank my co-Chair, Junko Takahashi, whose help was indispensable. A special thank you to Pianocraft for use of their wonderful Steingraeber & Sohne concert grand.

Twenty students represented students from the following studios: Elena Arseniev, Bonnie Kellert, Jaewon Lee, Yao Lin, Dmitri Nazarenko, Hyun Park, Junko Takahashi, and Chen-Li Tzeng. The judges were Lydia Frumkin and Yoshi Hosaki.

Bonnie Kellert, Chair

### 2019 Evelyn Swarthout and Patrick Hayes Competition for Piano ---Winners List

Prizes:

First Place: \$400.00

Second Place: \$300.00

Third Place: \$200.00

Special Award: \$100.00 – Performance of a piece by an American composer

AWARDS:

First Place: Alena Lu

Student of Elena Arseniev

Second Place: Hannah Zhang

Student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Third Place: Ethan Hsiao

Student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Honorable Mention (in alphabetical order):

Carina Guo

Student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Jason Liu

Student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Johnathan Sun

Student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Teddi Yoo

Student of Bonnie Kellert

Best performance of an American Composer – special prize

Ethan Hsiao

Student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Honorable Mention: (in alphabetical order):

Jason Liu

Student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Hannah Zhang

Student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Congratulations to these outstanding students and their excellent teachers!

Some of these pianists performed during the **HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION** event at the Strathmore Mansion on Sunday, April 28, 2019. Eugenia Posey-Marcos chairs this fun opportunity to honor our high school graduates and to enjoy some beautiful playing.

## Newsletter and Directory Updates

What's in a Newsletter? Reflections by Bonny Miller

When I took over the newsletter in 2013 from Cynthia Cathcart and Jean Lauderdale, we changed the format from a printed, mailed newsletter to electronic only. We needed a means to send bright, colorful newsletter of no fixed length through some electronic platform that permitted bulk emails. It was no longer feasible to send bulk emails through individual accounts because these were discarded as spam by filtering applications on the receiving end.

We investigated three popular platforms that are widely used for bulk email and marketing (Mailchimp, Emma, and Constant Contact). Mailchimp has evolved a lot since we joined, but it remains FREE for a nonprofit of our size. Imagine how much money MCMTA has saved with no printing or postage costs for the newsletter.

My term as Vice-President for Publications is finishing this May, and the time has arrived when I will soon be relocating to my forever home in South Carolina. While I will try to advise on the progress of the newsletter in coming months, I will no longer be producing it. Learning to create the PDF documents, editing text, and manipulating photos for the newsletter has been an outstanding educational upgrade for me. I use the skills that I learned with the newsletter daily in my writing and my forthcoming book. I encourage a new individual to try out the process of producing a newsletter or leading a new online format for our news and messages.

The newsletter has been based on a traditional format on standard-size pages that you can print out as a monthly issue. That does not need to hold for the future; in fact, I think that a “newsletter” format is not what busy teachers want to read these days. Too few members click on the Mailchimp message to open or download the newsletter. That means that not many members actually read it. I foresee a product online that could be on a new MCMTA website that is partly open-access and partly members-only. We hope to use the website for **information** (like our present MCMTA-MD website), for **messages, notices, announcements** (like Mailchimp), **reports, photos, calendar** of events—just as the newsletter has been—but with additional secure functions for **online registration** for student activities. What used to be the “President’s Page” can become an **occasional blog** without any hated monthly deadline. We hope that a website can allow members to upload their own **announcements, photos, and reports** that people could access at any time for the latest information or announcements. The MCMTA Board is in the process of choosing a website developer to design our new functional website. We will use Wordpress as our format in order to coordinate with MSMTA. Bring your ideas to Alice Ma or other officers of the MCMTA Board. Even better, **BRING YOUR EXPERTISE**. Be a part of a fresh communication approach for our Montgomery County chapter.

Bonny will be stepping way from doing the Member Directory as well, because this function is fulfilled satisfactorily by the MSMTA website “Teacher Search” function. You can search by name, location, or instrument at <https://www.msmta.org/member-search.php>. The MCMTA print and electronic directories consume a lot of work but are not consulted very much. A major headache is that members do not update their information. **Most directory information comes from the National office**. You can sign in and update your information on the national website when you renew. Contact Melissa Curtice ([mcurtice@mtna.org](mailto:mcurtice@mtna.org)) if you need help to update your member profile. Melissa handles membership at the MTNA national office.

**ONLY YOU CAN CORRECT YOUR NATIONAL INFORMATION.**

## 2019 Adult Recital

Linda Benoit organizes this annual event in which adults share their music-making at the Strathmore Mansion.



## More Photos from MTNA Conference 2019 Spokane



Senior Piano Duet winners Jialin Tso and Alexander Suh, student of Lisa Sarrat from Virginia, receiving Weekley-Arganbright Awards.



Left, Li-ly Chang With Lori Germer, Vice President of Washington State MTA

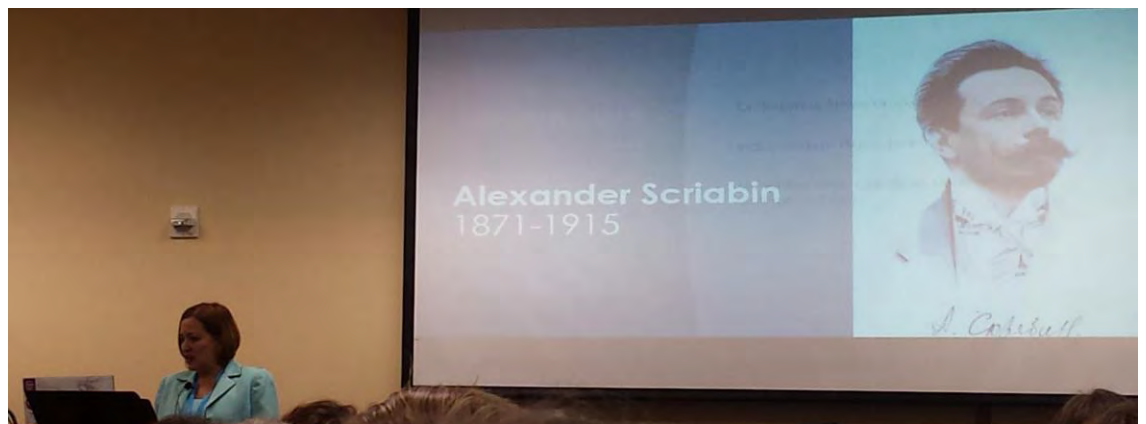
Right, Yun Xu, Susan Chan (presenter), Dmitry Rachmanov (presenter), Esther Ning Yau, and Alice Ma



Barry Snyder Master Class



Helen Marlais Master Class



Suzanne Newcomb, "Scriabin Preludes: Hidden Gems for the Intermediate Student"

## Elementary Recitals

The “Spring Fling” Elementary Recital took place March 30 at Jordan Kitt’s Music. We had 85 entries, including 7 ensembles, playing in five recitals. The entries represented the studios of fourteen MCMTA teachers: Mei Yu Lin, Lara Parris, Larisa McKay, Vivien Kwok, Svetlana Volkova, Yaling Yeh, Ronald Butts Boehmer, Meri Gugushvili, Claudette Horwitz, Guity Adjoodani, Junko Tahakashi, Suzanne Ferrall, Olga Soukhoveev, and Elena Eliseeva.

Olga Soukhoveev, Chair, Elementary Recitals



## Judged Recitals



On April 14th, we had five wonderful Judged Recitals at the Jordan Kitt's Music. All of the students played very well and performed with such good musicianship that judges awarded 48 high honors trophies and 5 honorable mention ribbons. Fifty-three students participated, representing the studios of Svetlana Volkova, Junko Takahashi, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Hyun Park, Audrey Andrist, Elena Eliseeva, Olga Soukhoveev, Alice Ma, Guity Adjoodani, Linda Benoit, Lya Stern, San-Qing Lu Bennaman, Aglaia Koras, Lara Parris, Yoon Huh, Yeechen Pao, Marina Ovtcharenko, and Asya Mirvis. Our honorable adjudicators were Mrs. Anna Soukiassian and Dr. Jessica McKee. Special thanks to Lara Parris, Yeechen Pao, Marina Ovtcharenko, and Asya Mirvis for assistance with monitoring.

Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Chair

## MCMTA April Meeting

### MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING APRIL 9, 2019

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

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

The last meeting of the year is May 14, featuring MCMTA member performances, and will be followed by a potluck luncheon. Immanuela Gruenberg is encouraging members who wish to perform to submit a proposal to her at [igruenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:igruenberg@yahoo.com) by April 23. It should include the name of the piece, the composer, and the performer(s) name. Time limit is 12 minutes for performance and commentary. Members should email Carol Brody at [carol.brody6@gmail.com](mailto:carol.brody6@gmail.com) to let her know what they want to bring for the luncheon.

The Brewster String event has moved to May 5, 2019. This event is co-sponsored by MCMTA and ASTA and awards cash prizes. More information is available on MCMTA's website.

Alice introduced new member Hai Jin, who was formerly a faculty member at the University of Connecticut. She is originally From China.

The next Musical Camaraderie will meet Friday, May 3, from 10:00AM until Noon at the home of Robin Schultz. 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 Kellert at [bkellert@verizon.net](mailto:bkellert@verizon.net).

Alice encouraged those who are interested in National Certification to contact Helen Weems. Her support group meets next on May 29. The group is helpful even if a teacher is just thinking about becoming certified. MCMTA has several members currently going through the process.

Sharon Carr asked members who have a high school senior in their studio, or a first-year freshman music major or minor, to sign up for MCMTA's High School Senior Grant as soon as possible. The deadline has been extended to May 1, 2019, for this \$1,000 scholarship. She asked that members help spread the word to teacher friends about this opportunity. Teachers can find application information on the website.

Hai Jin spoke about the new piano competition, the Washington Universal Piano Competition, held at the University of Maryland. The event is co-chaired by Hai Jin and Hanni Zhang. The application deadline is May 3, and Preliminaries will be held on May 11.

Cynthia Cathcart discussed joining the Yahoo Group. To join, you must first set up a Yahoo email address at "Groups.Yahoo.com". Once this is done, you can opt to use a different email address. MCMTA's group is a business group called MCMTA. To get a message to all members, click on "reply all". To receive a personal reply, click reply. Members can post all kinds of information and documents.

You can do this through the Yahoo website by posting a new email right there, or you can send an email to [MCMTA@Yahoo.com](mailto:MCMTA@Yahoo.com), if you generate it from the right email address. In order to avoid getting inundated by too many emails, there are options to receive only messages from the group, and at specific intervals. Bonny Miller said to join the group you must be accepted by Cynthia, who is the administrator.

Alice gave brief highlights about her experience at the MTNA National Conference in Spokane. She said the meeting with other State presidents was especially helpful. She will share more information in the May Newsletter, and at the next meeting.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:35AM. Immanuela Gruenberg introduced Dr. Donna Koh, a longtime MCMATA member and music librarian at the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress, who presented “Resources for Teaching Blind or Visually Impaired Students.” She earned a Master’s and Doctorate degree in Piano Performance at Temple University, and a Masters in Library Science from the University of Maryland. Dr. Koh discussed using 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 to help students with visual impairments flourish.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary



---

## Helping Blind Students Flourish

**Information and resources to help you teach music to blind students**

