



April - May

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April/May Events

Membership Meetings Online

April's Presenter: Barbara Wing

Topic: Piano study is as easy as ABC

Summarization: The presenter will use ABC to explain about score study, practice suggestions, memorizing tips, and performing.

Barbara Wing has been a member of MCMTA since the 1970's and served as Program chairman for a number of years. She holds Professional Certification from MTNA. Her multi-faceted career has included teaching children and adults, serving as Education Director of the Levine School of Music, founding and leading a continuing education program called Professional Studies which attracted around 1000 area independent teachers over a ten year period, authoring a book called "Keynotes" which describes some of her creative ideas, lecturing at local, state and national conventions, composing music for early piano study and most important to her, performance. She is a performing member of the Friday Morning Music Club, has soloed with orchestra five times and currently partners with Elizabeth Lane in annual two piano concerts, this year's being their 25th annual recital at the Levine School. Her presentation featured a unique approach to teaching the foundations of piano study.

May's meeting is TBD.



April/May Events

Dear MCMTA Teachers and graduating Seniors:

It is to my regret that I must inform you that the Mansion at Strathmore has cancelled all events through the first part of May. This affects our Graduating Senior Awards Day tribute. Strathmore has offered to book their music room later in the year, but unfortunately, because the Seniors will have already graduated, as chairperson, I feel that we must cancel this event this year. However, trophies will be given to all those Seniors who have been registered by their MCMTA teacher by March 31. Trophies will be sent to each student's teacher for distribution.

Even though we won't be able to meet in person to distribute the trophies and the competition scholarship awards, the students will receive them, through you, their teacher, once stay at home restrictions are lifted.

I also will send to everyone, a list of all participating students and their teachers so that we can celebrate the success of our graduating Seniors and honor them.

Please take all precautions and be safe. May God be with us.

Sincerely,

**Eugenia Posey-Marcos, Ph.D.
Chairperson for the 2020 Senior Awards Day
240-467-0652**

Please check for email updates regarding event cancellations.

Past Events



On February 9th, we had 5 wonderful Judged Recitals at Jordan Kitt's Music. All the students were well prepared, and they performed with such good musicianship that judges awarded 15 high honors trophies and 25 honorable mention ribbons.

Forty-four students participated in the Judged Recitals. They were studios of: Svetlana Volkova, Junko Takahashi, Meri Gugushvili, Irina Gurevich, Lara Parris, Hsien-Ann Meng, Elena Eliseeva, Beatrice Ko, Yeechen Pao, Lily Chang, Mei-Yu Lin, Yoon Huh, Immanuela Gruenberg, Cynthia Cathcart, San-Qing Lu-Bennaman, Bonnie Kellert, Teresa Kung.

Our honorable adjudicators were Dr. Audrey Andrist and Nancy O'Neill Breth.

Special thanks to Svetlana Volkova, Elena, Eliseeva, Yeechen Pao, Beatrice Ko and Florence Ahn for helping with monitoring. Many thanks to Jordan Kitt's Music for hosting us again!

Sincerely,

Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich

Chair of MCMTA Judged Recitals

MCMTA 2020 Ensemble Recital were held on both days (February 22 and February 23) at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville. Over 165 students formed 80 teams consisting of piano duet, duo, trio and quartet teams and a team with violin & cello & piano. We had 8 wonderful recitals (7 Judged and 1 non-Judged). All teams were well prepared with high standard that Judges awarded high honors trophies for 54 teams and honorable mention ribbons for 20 teams. Congratulations to all teachers and students for their excellent preparation and performances!

The students were from the studios Elena Eliseeva, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Meri Gugushvili, Annie Hou, Yoon Huh, Bonnie Kellert, Beatrice Ko, Teresa Kung, Jaewon Lee, Alice Ma, Lori McCarthy, Lara Parris, Olga Soukhoveeva, Ping Steimel, Chenli Tzeng, Svetlana Volkova, and Ya-Ling Yeh.

Our esteemed judges were Rachel Franklin & Daniel Pesca (February 22) and Li-Ly Chang & Grace McFarlane Bottelier (February 23). Special thanks to Elena Eliseeva, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Meri Gugushvili, Annie Hou, Teresa Kung, Jaewon Lee, Lara Parris, Olga Soukhoveeva, Chenli Tzeng, Svetlana Volkova and Ya-Ling Yeh 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



Past Events

Festival 2020: Intermediate & Advanced Piano Solo Arrangements of Popular Music

The Festival Recitals this year took place on Feb. 23, 2020 at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Rockville, MD. The theme produced a variety of hit tunes and music from movies mostly produced during the past 50 years. Most popular tunes appeared to be from movies such as The Sound of Music, The Sting, The Notebook and La La Land.

There were 24 students registered, representing the studios of 9 MCMTA teachers, however, 3 students cancelled at the last minute due to illness. The 21 students who did perform were divided into 3 recitals, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 12:00 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 popular music.

The recitals were monitored by Sharon Carr and Miri Frenkel-Yacobovich, and were critiqued by MCMTA teachers, Olga Soukhoveeva and Meri GuGushvili, who always write encouraging and positive remarks to the performers.

A 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 a wonderful Steinway grand piano 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 8:30 to allow setup for the recital judges and audiences, in addition to allowing the use of the kitchen facilities and making herself available for any last minute assistance needed to make things run smoothly. Many of the parents expressed gratitude for the interesting and often familiar 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 because each performer appeared totally relaxed and seemed to be thoroughly enjoying what they were performing!

Based on the positive feedback from the students and audience alike, I am proposing that the yearly theme for the Festival be changed to "The Popular Music Festival."

Submitted by Festival Chairperson, Guity Adjoonani.

Scholarships and Grants

MCMTA Grant for High School Graduating Seniors

Deadline: 4/15

Sharon Carr

MCMTA Grant for Continuing Education for Teachers

Deadline: 6/1

Sharon Carr

Margaret E. Weissenfluh Fund for Musically Inclined Children, Inc.

Deadline: 6/30

Ingrid Mongini, 5709 Ogden Road, Bethesda, MD 20816

Nominee for President-Elect

This spring MCMTA is voting for a President-Elect who will shadow Alice Ma for one year before automatically becoming President in May 2021. In February, the nominating committee asked Sara Cronan to be our President-Elect. At our March 10 meeting, Sara was unanimously elected by those present. Since our bylaws allow a second electronic election, we will shortly send an electronic ballot for you vote and respond. Members of the nominating committee were myself, Yoon Huh, Bonnie Kellert, Alice Ma, and Junko Takahashi.

Sara Cronan is a piano and voice teacher who resides in Silver Spring. A graduate of Bennington College, she has a large studio in Montgomery County and is an active participant in MCMTA and MSMTA events. Although teaching is her primary focus, she has experience in other areas of music. On commission for Levine School of Music she wrote a children's musical that was performed during Musical Theater Camp. Sara continues to transcribe, arrange, and compose pieces for her students. She believes that her training as a multi-instrumentalist informs her teaching greatly, and is one of her biggest assets. She looks forward to directing her focus to keep MCMTA the educational force it is today.

We hope you will have a chance to meet Sara!

President Alice Ma's Page

In this crucial time with the stay-at-home order, some of the 2020 April/May MCMTA events kept going but changing to online video submission format. A few events were either postponed or cancelled. Please check emails for all updates.

April/May Membership Meeting – Barbara Wing is the presenter for April Membership Meeting. Since we cannot meet in person at an actual location, Barbara video recorded her own presentation so that MCMTA members can still watch her presentation. Thanks to Barbara for spending extra time to make it happen. The format of May membership meeting is to be determined.

Teaching Online - Currently, many music teachers are teaching online. Some teachers have already felt comfortable about the online format, but some are still new to it and trying to adjust to it. I am so glad to see that there were so many organizations providing webinars or YouTube links to help teachers with the online teaching. I am so proud to be in a field that people will enthusiastically help each other to go through difficult time.

By watching different webinars and practicing different approaches to teach online, I felt like I am becoming a better teacher. I hope you feel the same way.

Also, there are great resources provided by MTNA in the following links.

Resources for MTNA Members During the COVID-19 Pandemic offered by different organizations:

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/COVID19_Resources.aspx

2020 MTNA Virtual Conference - The MTNA Virtual Conference will be launched on April 21 at MTNA website:

<https://www.mtna.org/Conference/Home.aspx?hkey=cecd079e-f62b-4ed5-8575-57e2283ba248&WebsiteKey=5679cafc-84b2-4fd2-b431-bda8f7b0c53b>

It will feature most of the Chicago conference highlights—keynote addresses, recitals, master classes and educational sessions. It also includes Pedagogy Saturday, One for All sessions, and even showcases and a virtual exhibit hall. It is FREE for all MTNA members. What is the chance that the MTNA Conference will be free for MTNA members to attend? Please take a full benefit of it since we all have some extra time by staying at home.

Article of The Year (MTNA):

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Stay_Informed/MTNA_e-Journal/Articles_of_the_Year/MTNA/Stay_Informed/MTNA_e-Journal/Article_of_the_Year.aspx?hkey=14f661b0-7818-4657-90a7-6d9e30386753

Personally, I found it very interesting to explore the field of the online teaching, especially for its advanced features, such as showing multi-angles of teaching on the screen and teaching with having two digital pianos to show what the teacher and student play. I can't wait to talk/share with teachers for what each other have learnt when we see each other again. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy!

Minutes From MCMTA General Meeting February 11, 2020

MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2020

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:14 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

The minutes from the general meeting of December 10, 2019 were sent electronically in advance.

Ingrid introduced MCMTA's new president elect, Sara Cronan. The Nominating Committee, which included both board and non-board members, consisted of Junko Takahashi, Alice Ma, Bonnie Kellert, Ingrid Mongini, and Yoon Huh. Ingrid said some of Sara's positive qualities included being young, very reliable, and highly organized. Sara said she was excited to be considered for the position, and was anxious to learn what matters to members. She will shadow Alice for one year before formally becoming president.

Alice discussed the new promotional post card sized cards, created to invite newcomers to attend MCMTA meetings, and to hopefully join. The schedule for membership meetings will be listed on the back of the cards. She asked the membership to try to think of locations to leave the cards, and to let her know. Junko said she would take some to the Levine School.

Li-ly Chang spoke about her concert on Saturday, Feb 22nd at 7:30 PM with the Sunshine Quartet at Montgomery College in Rockville.

Alice reminded everyone we can no longer use the Yahoo list serve. She has sent links to members to explain how to change to the new server called groups.io. Cynthia has moved MCMTA's data over. All files, pdf's, etc. will be deleted by Yahoo on Saturday, December 14. The best way to get information about concerts, etc. is to post it on MCMTA-Maryland@io.groups .

Junko reported that the MSMTA Conference will be held November 15 at UMCP. The Treasurer of MSMTA will be addressing attendees on tax issues. There will also be a session on Improvisation, and a master class by Brian Ganz.

The next Musical Camaraderie meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 13 at 10AM at Bonnie Kellert's.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:22AM. Instead of having a speaker, the program this month is an opportunity for teacher sharing. Alice sent out a variety of suggested topics in advance, including group lessons, method books and repertoire, and how to teach theory within the lesson. A lively discussion with members sharing ideas ensued.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary

Minutes From MCMTA General Meeting March 10, 2020

MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING MARCH 10, 2020

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

The minutes from the general meeting of February 11, 2019 were sent electronically in advance.

The next Musical Camaraderie meeting will be held on March 13 at Bonnie Kellert's home at 10 AM.

The MTNA Certification (NCTM) study group will meet on March 11 at 11 AM at Olney Library in the reserved room.

Li-Ly Chang announced a concert by Strata (presented by Musical Arts International, Inc.), to be held March 14 at 7:30 PM at the Latvian Lutheran Church. Strata is a coming together of three extraordinary musical talents: Audrey Andrist, piano; Nathan Williams, clarinet; and James Stern, violin and viola.

The new deadline of the 2020 Washington Universal Piano Competition is April 1.

Ingrid Mongini, head of the nominating committee, explained that according to MCMTA bylaws, we should vote for a President-Elect at our March meeting. The President-Elect will shadow Alice Ma for one year before automatically becoming President in May 2021. The nominating committee, whose members are Ingrid Mongini, Yooh Huh, Bonnie Kellert, Alice Ma, and Junko Takahashi, met during February to find a candidate. The committee decided to look for a younger member who could bring new ideas and energy to the organization. The committee also considered that persons who were doing well in their current board positions should continue serving in those positions.

After much discussion, the nominating committee agreed to ask Sara Cronan to be MCMTA's President-Elect. Sara consented and came to the meeting so that she could meet our community. Ingrid introduced Sarah and asked her to tell us about herself. Sara said she lives in Silver Spring and is a multi-instrumentalist with a large studio of piano and voice students. She feels strongly that playing a variety of instruments helps her students artistically. She also explained that she compliments her teaching by composing, arranging and transcribing music for students. She said she very much looks forward to working with MCMTA, and commented that members were already giving her suggestions.

After Sarah's introduction, a vote was held. All 18 members present voted in favor of Sara Cronan as President-Elect. Following our bylaws, we will send an email ballot allowing members who were not at the meeting to vote. The President-Elect will be installed at our May 12 meeting.

Junko asked the members whether they have any specific issues they would like to learn from Carol Wolfe-Ralph for her presentation topic, "Musician and Tax" in 2020 MSMTA Conference.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM. Members then enjoyed an informative program, "Russian Piano School, Lessons with Lev Oborin," presented by Dr. Larissa Dedova, concert and recording artist, and Professor of Music at UMCP.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary