

MCMTA Newsletter

Montgomery County Music Teacher's Association

April/May 2022



Welcome from the President:



Hello Colleagues!

I hope that 2022 is going well for you all!

It has been another crazy year, but it appears as if we are beginning to see a bit of normalcy return to our everyday lives. I appreciate your enormous generosity in allowing me room to navigate this pandemic while learning on the job how to successfully perform the role of President. I owe the entire MCMTA Board a big THANK YOU for all their support and encouragement!

Looking forward to the 2022-23 school year, I am excited to announce we will be moving to in-person meetings in September! We have received a very generous offer from the Korean Baptist Church of Washington DC to allow us use of their sanctuary. A big Thank You to Hai Jin for helping us with this! We will send out a special announcement in June once we have worked out the final details, and the dates with the church.

Due to unexpected events, we have pushed the **next Board Meeting to June 30, 2022 10am** by zoom. Please note that while we are expecting to have mostly in-person events, the Student Activities Calendar release to the membership will be pushed back until mid-July at the latest. We are exploring several avenues and have to wait for a final yes or no from the venues. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding, as we are still navigating new territory.

I look forward to “seeing” you all soon!

Sara Cronan

skc.musicteacher@gmail.com

May 10th is our Members Concert and Membership Meeting!

Deadline is April 22 to send your proposal for the May Members Concert to Immanuela Gruenberg at igruenberg@yahoo.com All instruments welcome!

Join us at 10am, we will have a short business meeting, the presentation will begin by 10:30am.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3702708121>

Meeting ID: 370 270 8121

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,3702708121# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

The Meeting ID is: 370 270 8121

A link will be included in an official email sent three days prior to the meeting.

DID YOU KNOW??

Send an email to : MCMTA-Maryland+subscribe@groups.io

to join the MCMTA listserv. Keep connected to your fellow members and send and receive emails in the group! [For more info click here.](#)

Links for past meeting presentations:

[Feb 2022 Dr. David Cartledge](#)

[March 2022 Dr. Therese Ellsworth](#)

2022 Judged Recitals

On December 12th we had six online Judged Recitals, and on February 13th we had four online Judged Recitals.

The students were supposed to upload their videos as a YouTube unlisted link in order to participate in the Judged Recital. The entire online process went smoothly for all sides: students, teachers, and judges. In both events, we had a total of eighty-eight students.

We had students from the following studios: Junko Takahashi, Svetlana Volkova, Elena Eliseeva, Audrey Andrist, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Bonnie Kellert, Mei-Yu Lin, Jaewoon Lee, Lara Paris, Olga Soukhoveeva, Audrey Andrist, Katerina Zaitseva, Beatrice Ko, Guity Adjoodani, Yoon Huh, Dmitri Nazarenko, Rachel Franklin, Sara Cronan, Shwu -Ching Jeng, Hsien-Ann Meng, Yeechen Pao, Chenli Tzeng Meri Gugushvili.

Our honorable adjudicators were Mrs. Yoon Huh and Dr. Daniel Pesca, Dr. Audrey Andrist, and Dr. Kent McWilliams. The judges awarded more than 50 trophies and many ribbons.

I would like to thank all the teachers for participating in these events. Thank you very much for all your hard work!

Our last online Judged Recital will be held on April 24th.

Sincerely,

Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich
Chair of the MCMTA Judged Recitals

2022 Ensemble Recitals

MCMTA 2022 Ensemble Recitals were held in virtual format on February 27 (Sunday). Close to 100 students formed 58 teams. We had 6 wonderful recitals (5 Judged and 1 non-Judged groups). All teams were well prepared with high standard that Judges awarded high honors TROPHIES for 42 teams and honorable mention RIBBONS for 7 teams. Congratulations to all teachers and students for their excellent preparation and performances! The students were from the studios of Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Meri Gugushvili, Jaewon Lee, Alice Ma, Lori McCarthy, Lara Parris, Olga Soukhoveeva and Svetlana Volkova. Our esteemed Judges were Dr. Michael Angelucci, Li-Ly Chang, Dr. Bonghee Lee and Esther Ning Yau. Thanks to all teachers who participated in this event. Hope to see you all next year and more instruments to be included!

Respectfully,
Alice Ma (Chair) and Hai Jin (Co-Chair)

2022 Festival of Music

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 27, 2022, the Annual Festival of Music took place on Zoom. There were 24 students registered to play and all but one, performed. As the theme for this year was "Preludes," the students, who ranged in age from 9-17, performed an interesting variety of composers such as J.S.Bach, F. Chopin, C. Debussy, G. Gershwin, C. Rollin, A. Liadov. S. Rachmaninoff and A. Scriabin.

Guity Adjoonani, chairperson was assisted by Andy Cronan, husband of Sara Cronan, who graciously volunteered to assist due to Ms. Cronan's absence. The students were critiqued by renowned MCMTA teachers, Bonnie Kellert and Eugenia Posey-Marcos.

The students performed virtually in three one-hour recitals. It was not a good day for Zoom as the reception, for the most part, extremely distorted the piano sounds making many of the performances unable to be heard and be critiqued properly by the judges. Several of the students submitted video recordings to the judges, so their performances could be heard without distortion and be fairly critiqued.

Overall the performances of the students were of high caliber, with great attention having been given to musical nuances such as dynamics, phrasing and interpretation. A unanimous hope was expressed by all that next year all performances would be in-person!!

Guity Adjoonani
Chairperson

2022 Evelyn Swarthout-Patrick Hayes Piano Scholarship Competition

This year we had 8 students representing 7 studios.
Congratulations to the following students and their teachers!

1st prize – Andrew Jiang, student of Dmitri Nazarenko
2nd prize – Elizabeth Vinokurov, student of Elena Arseniev
3rd prize – Lavinia Bonvini, student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Best performance of an American composer – Eric Yu, student of Chenli Tzeng

Our esteemed judges were Audrey Andrist and Douglas Guiles.

I wish to thank my Co-Chair, Junko Takahashi – I couldn't do this event without her assistance and guidance!

Thank you, also, to Pianocraft, for allowing us to use their performance space.

Bonnie Kellert, Chair and Junko Takahashi, Co-Chair

Comparing Toru Takemitsu's Musical Language to Messiaen and Debussy

By Hai Jin

This lecture recital examines how Toru Takemitsu's musical language in his piano music shows influence from Messiaen and Debussy. Takemitsu has acknowledged that Messiaen and Debussy have both influenced his music, but the full extent of his influence has not been examined in detail. Through analysis of pitch, rhythm, and texture, I will explore how Takemitsu finds Japanese elements in the French music of Messiaen and Debussy.

In this lecture recital, I will compare Takemitsu and Messiaen's music, focusing on Takemitsu's *Rain Tree Sketches I & II*, dedicated to Messiaen, Messiaen's "Première Communion de la Vierge" from *Vingt regards sur L'Enfant-Jésus*, and Debussy's "Ondine," from *Preludes*, Book 2.

I will examine these three composers' musical language for use of the octatonic collection, rhythmic patterns and ostinatos, and contrasting textural patterns, and formal structure, to explore how Takemitsu absorbed Messiaen's and Debussy's musical styles. The study not only observes similarities in musical language between Messiaen and Debussy, but also shows how Takemitsu draws on the language of these composers to create his own style.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL CONTENT](#)