

## End of Year Newsletter 2023

**Dear MCMTA Members,**



I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I was a member of NVMTA 17 years ago, and now I am back in the DC area, having moved to Maryland two years ago. As a military spouse who's moved multiple times around the country and abroad, I have had to transfer my MTA state/local memberships to reflect my location. Despite our transient lifestyle, I have tried to attend meetings to keep inspired and contributed as much as possible to support the efforts of local associations. My membership in MTNA has really been my constant, through which I have been able to meet many wonderful teachers.

For ten years prior to Air Force life, I had a private piano studio in Lincoln, Nebraska, where I attended graduate school. None of those experiences would have occurred without the many influences of teachers and graduate students that I met as an undergraduate at the University of Oklahoma. I feel blessed to have been surrounded by so many pedagogically-minded individuals who laid a rich foundation for me. And now, MCMTA has welcomed me. I want to thank our Immediate Past President, Sara Cronan, for graciously spending time to prepare me for this position. She has worked tirelessly to get our organization through the Covid-19 years and helped initiate a new updated website for us, which will launch this Fall. We are extremely grateful, Sara.

All the Event Chairs have been diligently preparing for next year's activities – please be on the lookout for the 2023-2024 Student Activities Packet. Also, please save the second Tuesdays of every month for our Membership Meetings.

2023 Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12  
2024 Feb 13, Mar 12, Apr 9 and May 14

These monthly meetings will take place at the Korean Baptist Church in Silver Spring (310 Randolph Road). Having lost our relationship after the pandemic with Jordan Kitt's and Steinway, I would like for us to continue our search for a location that may be more convenient for those west of I-270. If you have location suggestions for the '24-'25 school year that you would like to put forth, please email me.

In this newsletter, you'll find an updated list of Officers and Committee Members, information about our recent Spring events, as well as the Board Meeting Minutes from February and April.

If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership yet, here is the link to get you there quickly!

[Membership Renewal for 2023-2024](#)

I look forward to getting to know you all better. I hope you have a wonderful summer filled with rest and recreation! See you in September.

Sincerely,

Debra E. Merritt, NCTM  
MCMTA President  
dmerritt8@unl.edu

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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Executive Board 2023-2024**

## Elected Officers

President \_\_\_\_\_ Debra Merritt  
President-Elect \_\_\_\_\_ TBD  
First Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Edison  
Vice-President for Programs \_\_\_\_\_ Immanuela Gruenberg  
Vice-President for Publications \_\_\_\_\_ Hai Jin  
Vice-President for Organizational Activities \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Edison  
Vice-President for Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Brody  
Recording Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Tina Sinclair Smith  
Corresponding Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Ingrid Mongini  
Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Cynthia Cathcart  
Immediate Past President \_\_\_\_\_ Sara Cronan

## Committees

By-Laws and Parliamentarian \_\_\_\_\_ Ingrid Mongini  
Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Brody  
Mentoring Program \_\_\_\_\_ Bonnie Kellert  
Ensemble Recital \_\_\_\_\_ Alice Ma/Hai Jin  
MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Exam \_\_\_\_\_ Svetlana Volkova  
MSMTA Theory Exam \_\_\_\_\_ Elena Eliseeva  
Swarthout/Hayes Piano Competition \_\_\_\_\_ B. Kellert/Junko Takahashi  
Festival of Music \_\_\_\_\_ Hai Chi  
Elementary Recitals \_\_\_\_\_ Olga Soukhoveev  
HS Outstanding Music Achievement Award \_\_\_\_\_ S. Volkova/E. Eliseeva  
Historian \_\_\_\_\_ Yuri Chayama

Inter/Adv Recitals\_\_\_\_\_Elena Eliseeva/Olga Soukhoveev  
Judged Recitals\_\_Yuri Chayama/Miri Frenkel-Yacobovich  
Adult Recital\_\_\_\_\_Tina Sinclair Smith/Carol Brody  
HS Senior Recognition Reception\_Eugenia Posey-Marcos  
Margaret Weissenfluh Grant\_\_\_\_\_Ingrid Mongini  
Grant for Continuing Education\_\_\_\_\_Carol Edison  
Grant for Graduating High School Seniors\_\_Carol Edison  
Student Activities Packet\_\_\_\_\_Eugenia Posey-Marcos  
Technology/Web\_\_\_\_\_TBA

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### **Thank you to the MCMTA Board:**

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the MCMTA Board. I am so proud of my tenure as President, and am thankful the MCMTA Board has been so easy to work with. I want to thank all the Board for their tireless efforts running all our our student events; and all of the membership for being so engaged in our events.

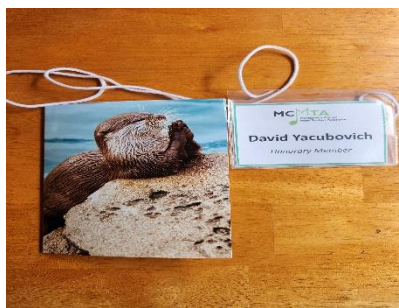
I know that under our new President, Debra Merritt, MCMTA will continue to grow and thrive. Thank you so much, for being so supportive during my time. I look forward to an exciting new school year under her guidance!

Sincerely,  
Sara Cronan  
MCMTA Immediate Past President

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### **New Honorary Member: David Yacobovich**

I am excited to announce that during the February Board meeting, the board awarded the title of Honorary Member to David Yacobovich. This was awarded for the extremely generous donation of his time and skills to revamp our website. While we all know that David did this out the the kindness of his heart, we want to acknowledge how deeply we appreciate all he has done for MCMTA. Sara delivered him a thank you note, and his very own MCMTA Honorary Member Nametag, like the ones we wear. We hope that he can see our gratitude for his hard work. Thank you so much, David!



Warmly,  
Sara Cronan  
MCMTA Immediate Past President

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**The 2023 Swarthout Hayes Piano Scholarship Competition / Sunday, April 16 / PianoCraft**

Nine students represented five studios.  
The winners are:

1st prize - \$400 – Melody Chen, student of Dmitri Nazarenko  
2nd prize - \$300 – Lavinia Bonvini, student of Dmitri Nazarenko  
3rd prize - \$200 – Derek Yang, student of Chen-Li Tzeng

\$100 – Best Performance of an American Composer  
Samwit Dangol, student of Audrey Andrist

Our two distinguished judges were:  
Dr. James Litzelman  
Dr. Irina Koulikova

Submitted by  
Bonnie Kellert and Junko Takahashi, Co-Chairs

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### **Ensemble 2023**

MCMTA 2023 Ensemble Recitals were held in-person on February 25 (Saturday) and February 26 (Sunday). Over 110 students formed 57 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 51 teams and honorable mention RIBBONS for 6 teams. Congratulations to all teachers and students for their excellent preparation and performances! The students were from the studios of Elena Dubovitsky, Miri Frenkel-Yacobovich, Meri Gugushvili, Yoon Huh, Alice Ma, Lara Parris, Olga Soukhoveev, Chenli Tzeng and Svetlana Volkova.

Our esteemed Judges were Li-Ly Chang, Dr. Junwen Liang and Dr. Jeni Maneva. Great thanks to Miri Frenkel-Yacobovich, Meri Gugushvili, Lara Parris, and Svetlana Volkova for monitoring and additional tasks. And, 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 and Hai Jin, Co-Chairs

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### **Festival of Music 2023**

On Sunday afternoon, March 5, 2023, the Festival 2023 Recital took place at the home Piano Studio of Guity Adjooodani. Unfortunately, there were only seven entrants who were all able to play on a one-hour recital. The Theme for this year's Festival was "French Piano Music." The students who played were from the studios of Barbara Benoit and Eugenia Posey-Marcos. As Barbara Benoit was unable to judge that day, it left only one available teacher, Eugenia Posey-Marcos, to judge all the students. However, since five of the seven entrants were Eugenia's own students, Sara Cronan, generously gave

up her time to come and be another judge. In order for Sara to not have to judge 5 students in a row, Guity judged the two remaining students. The music of French composers, Debussy, Franck, and Schmitt were performed by the 7 students: Neluki Sarathchandra, Devon Chen, Cailyn Farrell, Suhani Agrawal, Emily Ponsiano, Kyle LI and Caitlin Spendley. They provided an enjoyable hour of music for the audience. Certificates, individual critiques and flowers were handed out to each student after the recital and though a bit cramped, all the parents were invited to come into the piano studio and take pictures, which they gladly did. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a variety of muffins, cookies, fruits, candies and drinks which were set out nicely in the kitchen for the reception.

Submitted by Guity Adjoodani



### **MCMTA Adult Piano Recital 2023**

Due to availability issues of our former location at Strathmore Mansion, MCMTA's Adult Recital almost didn't happen this year! I had several students who were ready to perform, and put the word out to the membership to see if there were others who would like to participate. Two other teachers responded, bringing the student participation up to six. With the help of member teachers and our outgoing President, Sara, an affordable location was found. I secured a large space with a Kawaii grand piano at the Gaithersburg Regional Library.

A small but congenial group of students, teachers and guests met on June 4th at 2:30 PM. The students ranged from late beginner to advanced, and played a variety of piano pieces from the Baroque, Classic, Romantic and Modern periods. Most of the students played two pieces, and two played three.

Following the recital, I asked each student to share how long they'd studied, and what Piano Study meant to them. It was very interesting to hear their comments! We then enjoyed delicious cookies, brownies and sodas provided by Co-Chair Carol Brody.

I hope to be able to find locations for two Adult Recitals next year, so that our adult students can have more opportunities to share their music with a friendly audience.

Adult Piano Recital Chair,  
Tina Sinclair Smith



## **MINUTES FROM MCMTA BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

President Sara Cronan called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. The meeting was held via Zoom format.

Present were: Carol Brody, Kris Butler, Cynthia Cathcart, Yuri Chayama, Sara Cronan, Carol Edison, Elena Eliseeva, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, David Yacubovich, Immanuela Gruenberg, Alice Ma, Debra Merritt, Ingrid Mongini, Tina Smith, Olga Soukhoveev, Junko Takahashi, and Svetlana Volkova.

The Agenda was distributed electronically in advance. Carol Brody made a motion to accept the Agenda, it was seconded by Immanuela, and the members voted to accept the Agenda.

The Minutes from the November 1, 2022 board meeting were circulated in advance. Miri requested the minutes be changed, eliminating the sentence that she would call the Church about keys. Event chairs who need a key should talk to Cindy,

our contact person at the church.

Carol Brody made a motion to accept the Minutes, Cynthia seconded, and the vote passed to accept the Minutes.

### President's Report

Sara welcomed the new President-Elect, Debra Merritt. She gave her access to the Money Minder application, and has begun working with her to get her up to speed. She takes over as president in June.

### New Website Presentation

Honored guest David Yacubovich has generously offered to modernize the website, making it more efficient. He has worked with our web advisor John to see how to improve it. David gave the board a preview of the redesigned website. He tried to keep it as similar as possible to former one. The menus on the top remain, with a simpler, more modern look. Some functions have changed, such as the subscription area. Some pdfs were converted to pages. The pdfs that remain no longer require you to download them as it can be done right on the website. The download function is still available as an option. The teacher search remains. The Calendar now automatically opens on current month. It is not a pdf and can be updated. The Agenda can now be seen by week or month etc. The remaining pdfs can be converted in the future.

The login has been simplified to go directly to the website rather than going to MSMTA's site first. When using a cell phone or iPad, collapsing menus is much easier to navigate.

To edit data, users must have access to the server. The new drop down menu "Admin" is for users to manage events. All functionality matches the old website exactly. It's not necessary to understand website development to make changes. There are no passwords anymore, just first and last name. If we wish we can easily convert to requiring a password again.

David added a QR Code generator right on website, which can be downloaded and pasted into documents where needed.

Cynthia said that we are no longer providing teacher referral, so a link could be provided to the teacher search on MSMTA's website. There was some discussion about whether or not to keep MCMTA's teacher referral link.

Carol Edison said the website should reflect the fact that the grant for teacher continuing education is still open. Sara will check into this.

Alice asked how, if someone wants to use a pdf, that would work. David said a QR code will generate the image that can be used. It can be put on some shared platforms with file share such as Microsoft 1, Dropbox, etc. Once you have the link, it can be copy/pasted.

Members can go to Testmsmta.org to check it out. Sara said she was impressed, and thanked David for his hard work. Sara said the top menu is a little hard to see.

Sara said along with new website and talking to John, she hopes the functionality of application forms for the chairs is improved. Miri mentioned having trouble with the adjudication form. Sara suggested making it more like state level forms. John added a new form that is similar to MSMTA's. Sara questioned whether we need to add some informational sentences for judges on bottom of the forms. Elena said this would just raise expectations on the part of students and parents. Immanuela agreed there is no need to have the information on the forms since judges will comment the way they see fit. There isn't enough time to cover every aspect. Cynthia suggested that MCMTA may want to do offer training for judges. As a new member, Sara thought the instructions for judges was helpful.

Alice said this is true for ensemble recitals too. Miri said with the judged recitals, she saw it only as a suggestion. Time is so short, and she never expected the judge could write about all things listed. She agreed that training for judges would be helpful, and if possible, held online. She never asked a judge to follow them. She never had a problem with a parent asking why the information wasn't all covered. Tina suggested keeping the list of recommendations on a separate sheet that only the judge and chair see.

There was a motion to accept the new adjudication form which just has the judges signature, group, teacher id, piece, and composer. The form was approved for John to put it on the website. She asked whether the area to write "Teacher ID" could be removed. Elena said she has access to the teacher ID's.

Sara said it is an \$800 expenditure to make things function better. She will ask whether or not that is necessary. We will continue to review the website over the next few meetings. Right now we need to approve the expense. A motion was made by Carol Brody, and seconded by Elena, to improve the functionality of the website. It passed unanimously. Sara thanked everyone for their input, doesn't want anyone to feel their opinion does not matter.

#### Doris Chase Sonata

MSMTA sent a notification that Doris Chase has passed away. She was a very influential teacher with area teachers. Junko suggested that we donate \$100, a one-time gift to the Sonata in her name. Cynthia said it was no problem to take the money out of savings. Immanuela made a motion, and Carol Brody seconded. The motion passed. Junko said the check should be made out to MSMTA and sent to Carol Wolfe-Ralph.

#### Honorary Member

Sara spoke about David Yacubovich's many contributions to MCMTA, including the website work and with performance events. Sara wants to give him recognition of some kind. Miri said he does not care about recognition. We should save money, and send a thank you card instead. Carol Edison said he could be made an honorary member of the board. Carol Brody made a motion to make him an honorary member in recognition of all his hard work and contributions. Svetlana seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Treasurer's Report

Cynthia discovered that, for MCMTA's State of Maryland record, we need to change the principal agent from Kris Butler to her. She made a motion to file the information that she is the new Treasurer. Carolde Brody seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

## Peggy Wooley Martin Fund

Cynthia said the Peggy Wooley Martin Fund is currently being managed by T Rowe Price. She asked T. Rowe Price to change its name from "in care of Kristin Butler" at her address. This is why we had to change the meeting minutes to reflect that she had been elected as new Treasurer. Cynthia sent them to T. Rowe Price. They then said we had to fill out an ownership change form. This procedure requires a medallion signature notary. She called Sandy Spring Bank for help with this. Medallion signature guarantee is a higher level of vetting than just proving your identity. She went to their legal department, but they would not sign it, because the Margaret Woolley-Martin Music Resource Fund is not a legal entity. Since this fund was established, Congress has passed an Act that investment funds may not be opened unless you are a legal entity. We are now unable to access the T. Rowe Price Fund. She talked to our investment advisor, and he suggested Cynthia or Sara order T. Rowe to put the money into a money market, then move it to Edward Jones so that we can have the same access to these funds as we have to the investment we already have with Edward Jones.

Sandy Spring bank also recommends that we do it this way. Cynthia made a motion for the board to authorize her to transfer the money from the mutual fund at T. Rowe Price into a money market fund, then write a check to move the funds to Sandy Spring Bank or Edward Jones. Carol Edison seconded, and the board voted unanimously in favor. Board members thanked Cynthia for her hard work.

## Covid Policy

Sara said as we enter into Spring, we need to revise our Covid policy. She suggested we leave the current guidelines in place of 1) requiring masks, 2) a limit of 3 audience members attend with performers, 3) recommending use of hand sanitizer, and 4) advising participants that they should follow CDC recommendations and not attend if they have symptoms.

Elena said that because the church is large and the groups are small, it isn't necessary to wear masks anymore. Junko said some older judges will not attend. Miri said that we can't control families, but just hope they respect the rules. It was suggested that we change #2 to a recommendation of only bringing 3 audience members. Sara said chairs can elect to make the policy more stringent. She made a motion to revise the Covid Policy to say that we recommend no more than 3 audience members. Carol Brody seconded, and the board voted to approve the change.

Sara adjourned at 11:34 AM. The next board meeting will be held April 18.

Respectfully submitted by Tina Sinclair Smith,

Recording Secretary

## **MINUTES FROM MCMTA BOARD MEETING APRIL 18, 2023**

President Sara Cronan called the meeting to order at 10:05AM. The meeting was held via Zoom format.

Present were: Guity Adjoodani, Carol Brody, Kris Butler, Cynthia Cathcart, Yuri Chayama, Sara Cronan, Carol Edison, Elena Eliseeva, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Immanuela Gruenberg, Hai Jin, Alice Ma, Debra Merritt, Tina Smith, Olga Soukhoveev, Junko Takahashi, and Svetlana Volkova.

The Agenda was distributed electronically in advance. Carol Brody made a motion to accept the Agenda, it was seconded by Immanuela, and the members voted to accept the Agenda.

Minutes from the February 21, 2023 board meeting were circulated in advance. Alice asked that a change be made to the February 21 board minutes on page 2 by omitting the sentence "The judge has been there a long time, and doesn't look at the information." Cynthia asked for a change to the sentence about the Peggy Wooley Martin Fund on page 3. It should read, "the Margaret Woolley-Martin Music Resource Fund is not a legal entity. Since this fund was established, Congress has passed an Act that investment funds may not be opened unless you are a legal entity." Carol Brody made a motion to accept the Minutes, Cynthia seconded, and the vote passed to accept the Minutes.

Sara announced that our new VP of Publications is Hai Jin. She will create MCMTA's Newsletter. Hai Jin said she came to the US in 2010. She attended the University of Cincinnati. The offer of a conducting job brought her to Maryland in 2019. She expressed her thanks for the opportunity to join the board.

Sara thanked Hai Jin for accepting the position. She has been looking two years for someone to take over. Guity made a motion to accept her nomination, Yuri seconded, and the members voted unanimously in favor. Sara will send out a notice to the membership so that they can vote electronically. The results will be announced at the May 9 General Membership meeting.

Hai Chi is taking over as chair of the Festival of Music. Guity will provide her with the information to get her up and running. This year the event was in between two others and turnout was low. She would like to see it moved earlier in the year, at a time that would generate better turnout.

Cynthia addressed the resolution to change the principal office for MCMTA's resident agent, which was very out of date. She filed the paperwork on April 5, and paid the \$70 fee, which now puts us in compliance. Additionally, she needs W-9 forms from judges whose pay exceeds \$600 within the year. She knows of one judge already over \$600 and another approaching the limit. Cynthia recommends that we welcome judges

to volunteer their time if they reach the \$600 limit, or they fill out the W-9, or they withdraw from judging. She asked that event chairs tell her who the judges are and how much they expect to be paid. She will then give them the information. The chair is on the email exchange, and would be notified if they need another judge. Immanuela thinks this is a good idea. She was given similar information by another organization that she judged for. Olga said she thinks the judges would continue who are close to the limit. She is concerned about losing a judge. Cynthia said they just need to be notified. Junko said it is common practice with MSMTA events, and she has never seen a problem.

Cynthia made a motion that the Treasurer will notify event chairs if a judge approaches the \$600 income cap. If they do not want to fill out a W-9 to be in compliance with the tax law, they may 1) Donate their time, or, 2) Withdraw from judging and notify the event chair. Immanuela seconded, and the members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Cynthia suggested a notice be included in the upcoming Newsletter to let everyone know that we will begin issuing 1099's from now on to anyone working for MCMTA who goes over the \$600 limit within a calendar year. There is a \$400 fine from the IRS for those found in non-compliance.

Cynthia suggested ways to save money with the Outstanding Music Achievement Award. Svetlana and Elena negotiated with Crown Trophy award company to get the fee down to \$70 for the placks, but the fee goes up \$5 every year. We also occasionally order placks for other reasons, such as members receiving commendations. She questions why the trophies are so expensive. Cynthia contacted other local trophy suppliers, and they said they don't provide trophies anymore. She recommends that we change to a very nice certificate like the ones MSMTA gives in a folder. Junko said Carol Wolfe-Ralph found a company that charges half the price of the company they were using. She will get back to us with what Carol found.

Elena said she has no problem with Cynthia looking elsewhere. Svetlana said the requirement to do an extra recital for the High School Award will bring in more income. Sara said the students anticipate receiving the same plack, so we should try to keep it. Alice said it is getting expensive ordering trophies for the Ensemble Recital. She went online and found something cheaper for \$47.

Sara said we will continue investigating ways to reduce cost. She asked members to send ideas to her, Cynthia, or president-elect Debra when she takes over in June.

Cynthia is looking for a new accountant. We have been using Kris Butler's personal accountant, and she would like to end her service. Sara said the Treasurer needs an accountant they feel confident about working with. She told Cynthia to go ahead and find a new one. She will ask her own accountant, who is a CPA.

Sara introduced Hai Chi who has accepted the position of chair of the Music Festival.

A chair for the Adult Recital is needed. Eugenia Posey-Marcus, chair of the High School Senior Recognition Reception which used to be held the same day, is holding the event at the Gaithersburg Regional Library. She is willing to assist with the Adult

Recital. Tina offered to chair if the event could be moved later. She asked everyone to encourage their adult students to participate.

### Student Activities

Sara sent out revised adjudication forms to all event chairs, and asked that they notify her if there is additional info to add, then John will update the website. She asked chairs if they had suggestions. Some chairs apparently did not receive her notice. Miri said she would forward it to them. Junko suggested adding the teacher and student ID.

There was a discussion about making changes to the Festival of Music registration form. Olga said the heading at the top should say what it is, an adjudication form.

Sara will advise John of the changes, and see what he can or cannot change. She thanked Miri and the other event chairs for compiling the information.

Eugenia sent a report about the Senior Recognition event. She said 15-16 students are participating. Junko asked whether, in the future, we could find the location earlier and get the information out so that more students could participate.

Elena said enrollment for Intermediate/Advanced recital has dropped. She wonders if Steinway Gallery may let us use their space again. Miri said the fee charged for the Judged Recital was very reasonable because the church doesn't charge by the hour but for whole day.

Sara said as we become more established at Calvary, we might be able to negotiate with a yearly calendar and price in advance.

Sara reminded everyone that June 6 is the next board meeting. Event chairs need to have locations decided, and what they will cost, in order to set the calendar. This has been the big challenge over the last couple of years. Carol Edison said Calvary is very reasonable compared to what other local venues charge. Sara said Steinway Gallery was \$300 for up to 4 hours, and more for additional time.

Alice said there is a change in the Ensemble Recital. Now that the event is in-person, Hai Jin is taking over one day, so they are changing their positions to both be co-chairs.

Miri suggested that the point system be changed for the Judged and Ensemble Recital. Students are confused about how to achieve high scores. She suggested changing the Honorable Mention categories to be without points. She spoke to Alice & Hai Jin and they decided to keep the system for now. Next year, the new chair Yuri can make changes. They will remove the third digit in the scoring to simplify it. Miri will assist Yuri with the October recital.

There was some discussion about changing time limits so that events do not run late and create problems with location limitations.

Miri suggested changing the format of the Judged Recital to have only one virtual event, possibly in February. At that date, the recital could be expanded because it is easier for the judges. The trophies must be shipped Crown Trophy. Miri shipped some

things herself at a nominal cost. She suggested teachers could pick up the trophies at Jordan Kitt's after the event. Sara likes the online event because some students prefer recording. Some said they preferred in-person for the Judged Recital, while others said they had students who preferred having the option. Miri agreed recording is a learning experience, and students can learn from both. Junko suggested the chairs be surveyed.

Sara thanked Miri, and said she has been a great help. She said it's important to know what teachers and students want. Keeping one on-line event should be fine.

Miri made a motion to change the scoring system for the Judged Recital and Ensemble Recital, to change the lower range from 8-9.9 to 7.5-10, and there will no longer be a 3<sup>rd</sup> digit. Carol Edison seconded, the members voted, and the motion passed. Miri emphasized that this is just an expansion of the range of the points, not a change in the rules.

Olga suggested that the Theme Festival have two options for type of pieces students can perform, to include theme related and/or popular music. The new chair Hai Jin can think about it. Sara said we will discuss it at the June board meeting. Sara suggested that we announce the theme further in advance. She also needs to know if other recitals are using a theme.

Svetlana discussed an idea for an event called Composer Circle. Students could perform online or make a recording. A chair would have to be found. Junko said attendance in the past has been very low for that type of event. The members were asked to think about it, and whether it would be an online event. Sara said MSMTA's event has had fairly low attendance. Junko said it does not have to be an advanced level.

Miri said she would send a survey to all participating teachers asking them about the online event. A decision can be made at the June board meeting.

The next board meeting will be held June 6.

Sara adjourned the meeting at at 12:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Sinclair Smith  
Recording Secretary