



Dear MCMTA Members,

It has been a pleasure getting to know more of you over the past year. The performances at student events that I have heard have left me feeling very proud to be part of such an amazing group of teachers. The care, dedication and efforts towards enhancing the musical lives of your students have truly been inspiring.

I invite you to read through our Spring Newsletter as many events have transpired since our last one. Please scroll down to see information regarding our events as well as exciting news from the MTNA National Conference and the Art of Piano Education Awards regarding two of our Board Members – wholehearted congratulations to both Junko Takahashi and Immanuela Gruenberg!

Sincere gratitude is extended to three of our members who will be leaving our organization. Long-time members Kristin Butler and Ingrid Mongini will be retiring, and Sara Cronan will be moving to South Carolina. We can't thank you enough for your many years of service to MCMTA.

Kristin's offer to donate her music scores, music history books and composer biographies to students who can use them still stands. Her 1926 Steinway O grand piano, totally rebuilt in 2000 and in excellent condition, will be up for sale as well. Please reach out to her at kristinbutler05@gmail.com if you are interested or know someone who may be.

Lastly, I'd like to return to a topic that was foremost on my mind when I took over as President. You all had an opportunity to fill out a survey last summer regarding our meeting location. The outcome resulted in having our meetings moved to a more "central" location. However, sadly, attendance numbers overall did not improve. I wanted to share that the idea of reducing the number of meetings per year has been raised. The board is considering a motion to decrease the yearly meetings. If this motion passes, a vote will be brought to our membership.

Hope you can join us this Tuesday for our last meeting of the '23/'24 academic year, a Members' Concert followed by a potluck lunch.

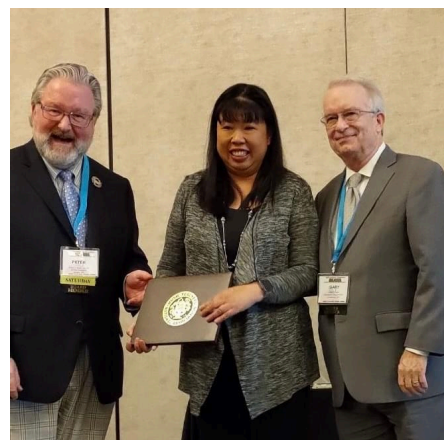
Sincerely,

Debra E. Merritt, NCTM
MCMTA President
dbr.red.mrrtt@gmail.com



Inaugural MTNA State Leadership Award

Congratulations to Junko Takahashi, of Bethesda, Maryland, who has received the inaugural MTNA Gary L. Ingle State Leadership Service Award. In honor of Ingle's retirement this year, Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz established the award to recognize his 28-year legacy and the dedicated service of MTNA's state affiliate presidents. The MTNA Board of Directors selected Junko Takahashi as the recipient of the inaugural award, which was presented to her at the 2024 MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 20.



Junko attended the Eastman School of Music where she received her B.M. in Piano Performance. She received her M.M. in Piano performance and D.M.A in Piano Pedagogy from the Catholic University of America. During her studies, she won several awards which resulted in her appearing as a soloist in concerto performances. Since moving to Maryland, Junko has maintained an active studio of more than 45 students. Many of them have participated and won prizes at both local and state competitions. She is the Founder and Director of Musical Expressions, a music school that now has enrollment of over 200 students in the southern Montgomery County area.

Junko has been on the board of the Montgomery County MTA, Maryland State MTA and Washington D.C. MTA, and has chaired multiple competitions and recitals. From 2007–2009, she served as a president of Montgomery County MTA, and she has twice served as president of Maryland State MTA. She continues to chair/co-chair 6 events and serves on multiple committees between 3 MTNA affiliate organizations.



Nominations for The Art of Piano Education Awards 2024

Congratulations to Immanuela Gruenberg, our VP for Programs, for being nominated and shortlisted as one of the 2024 Finalists for The Best Classical Piano Repertoire Book or Series. Through Hal Leonard, Immanuela has published *Piano Music by Women Composers, Book 1 and Book 2*.

Winners of The Art of Piano Education Awards will be announced at the awards ceremony on June 17 at the Elgar Room of the Royal Albert Hall, London.

JUDGED RECITALS

Judged Recitals (In-Person)

The Judged Recitals were held in person on December 3rd, 2023 and April 14th, 2024 at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Silver Spring.

For **December**, a total of 41 students registered, 40 students participated, and there were four recitals.

Our honorable judges were Dr. Hyun-Sook Park and Mr. Narciso Solero. Special thanks to them for their long hours of judging to provide helpful and insightful comments to our students. The Judges awarded 11 High Honor Trophies, 19 Honorable Mention Ribbons, and 10 Certificates.

We had students from 16 studios: Audrey Andrist, Jeongseon Choi, Pangji Du, Elena Dubovitsky, Elena Eliseeva, Yuliya Gekhman, Meri Gugushvili, Yoon Huh, Shwu-Ching Jeng, Beatrice Ko, Alina Konshina, Vivian Kwok, Eugenia Posey-Marcos, Junko Takahashi, Svetlana Volkova, and Yuri Chayama.

For **April**, a total of 37 students registered, 35 students participated, and there were five recitals. Our esteemed judges were Ms. Anna Soukiassian and Dr. Michael Angelucci. The Judges awarded 13 High Honor Trophies, 20 Honorable Mention Ribbons, and 2 Certificates.

We had students from 14 studios: Li-Ly Chang, Meri Gugushvili, Bonnie Kellert, Vivian Kwok, Jaewon Lee, Yee-Chen Pao, Eugenia Posey-Marcos, Olga Soukhoveeva, Junko Takahashi, Svetlana Volkova, Guity Adjoodani, Elena Eliseeva, Yuliya Gekhman, and Alina Konshina.

Many thanks to our dedicated teachers who participated and helped as volunteer monitors to run the event smoothly. For April, my deep gratitude goes to Shwu-Ching Jeng, who graciously helped to support logistics for the entire day of the event. Special thanks to our President Debra Merritt for overseeing the event and giving us support! And a big personal thanks to Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich for all the assistance and advice she provides!

I look forward to seeing you and hearing your performances in the next school year!

Sincerely,

Yuri Chayama
Chair of the MCMTA Judged Recital (In-Person)

Judged Recitals (Video Submissions)

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to share some exciting news about our recent Online MCMTA Judged Recital that took place on February 11th!

We had a total of forty-seven students sign up, and almost all of them, forty-six to be exact, shared their videos. Our participating students came from the following studios: Junko Takahashi, Svetlana Volkova, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Alice Ma, Olga Soukhoveeva, Hsien-Ann Meng, Yeechen Pao, Chenli Tzeng, Beatrice Ko, Elena Eliseeva, Eugenia Posey-Marcos, Meri Gugushvili, Schu-Ching Jeng, Yuri Chayama, and Katerina Zaitseva.

A big shoutout to our wonderful judges, Dr. Andrist, Dr. McWilliams, Mrs. Yoon Huh, and Mr. Douglas Guiles. They spent a lot of time giving helpful feedback and awarded 29 trophies and 15 ribbons to our young musicians.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all the teachers who played a part in making this event possible. Your commitment and passion for music education are truly appreciated! 🎵

I can't wait to hear more wonderful performances next year.

Warm wishes,

Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich
Chair of the Online MCMTA Judged Recitals

The Festival of Music: Dances

The Festival of Music was held on February 3rd, 2024, at Calvary Church. Seven students from the studios of Yuliya Gekhman, Lois Jones, Olga Soukhoveeva and Junko Takahashi participated. Unfortunately, due to the declining number of participants over the past several years, the Board voted to close this particular event. We are grateful to Hai Chi for organizing this year's Festival and to Lois and Olga for adjudicating.

Ensemble Recitals

The MCMTA 2024 Ensemble Recitals were held in-person on February 24 (Saturday) and February 25 (Sunday) at the Korean Baptist Church of Washington.

81 teams with over 160 students performed. We had seven recitals (all Judged groups). Since we had a very small number of non-Judged teams this year, we combined them to perform in some Judged groups. In addition to piano, we had other instruments such as violin and flute.

Many teams were well prepared with high standards that the Judges awarded High Honor TROPHIES for 41 teams and Honorable Mention RIBBONS for 26 teams. Congratulations to all teachers and students for their excellent preparation and performances! The students were from the studios of Elena Eliseeva, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Meri Gugushvili, Yoon Huh, Hai Jin, Beatrice Ko, Jaewon Lee, Alice Ma, Lara Parris, Olga Soukhoveev, Chen-Li Tzeng and Svetlana Volkova.

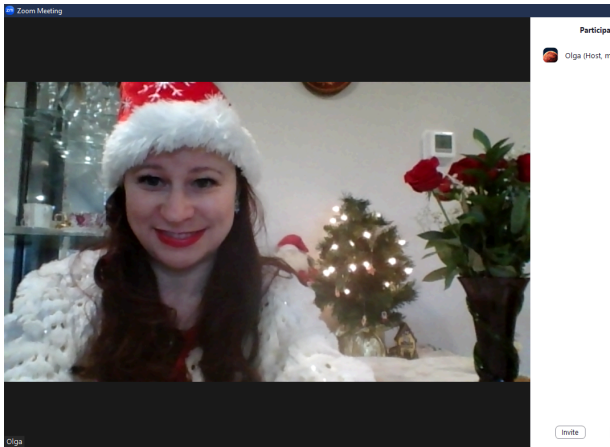
Our esteemed Judges were Ms. Narae Lee and Dr. Shirley Yoo.

Great thanks to Elena Eliseeva, Meri Gugushvili, Yoon Huh, Beatrice Ko, Jaewon Lee, Lara Parris, Olga Soukhoveev, Chenli Tzeng and Svetlana Volkova for the inside/outside monitoring. And, thanks to all of the teachers who participated in this event. See you all next year!

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

Elementary Recitals

Elementary "Holiday" Zoom Recitals



On December 16, 2023, we had 5 recitals via Zoom format. There were 51 students from the following teachers' piano studios: Meri Gugushvili, Lori Mc Carthy, Olga Soukhoveev, Dr. Svetlana Volkova, Lara Parris, A. Lee, Miri Frenkel-Yakuovich, Beatrice Ko and Szu-Yi Li.

Students played holiday music as well as some classical music, arranged pieces and folk songs.

Elementary "Spring Fling" Recitals

On April 20th, 2024, we held the 3rd Elementary Recital Event of the 2023-2024 school year.

4 recitals took place at Calvary Lutheran Church, in Silver Spring. We had a total of 65 students from the following piano studios: Alina Konshina, Elena Dubovitsky, Meri Gugushvili, Olga Soukhoveeva, Dr. Svetlana Volkova, Guity Adjoonani, Elena Eliseeva, Lara Parris, Debra Merritt, Beatrice Ko, Hai Chi and Vivian Kwok. Students played elementary level pieces, including folk songs, arranged and easy classical repertoire. One recital was designed for older elementary students, in which performers could play more complicated repertoire or they were older than the average elementary school-aged student.

Big thanks to all who helped monitor, register or set up for the recitals.

Intermediate and Advanced Recitals

Intermediate-Advanced Online Recitals

On January 20th, 2024, there were Intermediate-Advanced online recitals through video submissions. We had 47 participants in 4 groups from the studios of Meri Gugushvili, Junko Takahashi, Dr. Svetlana Volkova, Elena Eliseeva, Szu-Yi Li, Lori McCarthy, Olga Soukhoveev, Bonnie Kellert and Lara Parris.

The students uploaded videos of their intermediate to advanced levels piano pieces. Huge thanks to our judges Lori McCarthy and Lara Parris for their valuable critique.

This event would not have been possible without the excellent tech team support -- Miri Frenkel-Yakubovich and her husband David Yakubovich.

Intermediate-Advanced Recitals

On Sunday, April 7th, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, we held two recitals with a total of 34 students. Participants were from the following studios: Svetlana Volkova, Meri Gugushvili, Junko Takahashi, Linda Benoit, Eugenia Posey-Marcos, Guity Adjoodani, and Elena Eliseeva.

All participating teachers helped to organize this event. Our judges were Dr. Svetlana Volkova, Linda Benoit and Dr. Junko Takahashi.

2024 Swarthout Hayes Piano Competition

The 2024 Swarthout Hayes Piano Competition was held on April 14 at PianoCraft in Gaithersburg. Five teachers registered 8 students. The level of performance was very high. Our two esteemed judges were Carol Wolfe-Ralph and Narciso Solero.

Congratulations to the winning students!

1st prize: Caleb Wen, student of Dmitri Nazarenko

2nd prize: Ethan Pei, student of Hyun Park

3rd prize: Kana Puttkammer, student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Special award: Performance of an American Composer: Ethan Pei

Bonnie Kellert and Junko Takahashi, co-chairs

Senior Recognition Awards Day

The 2024 Senior Recognition Awards Day Event was held on Saturday, May 4, at the Gaithersburg Public Library Music Room. Thirty students received trophies from MCMTA. Over 20 students participated in the actual event and there were more than 80 in attendance.

The program consisted of a brief introduction by each student, a musical presentation, and ended with the presentation of certificates and trophies to the graduating high school Senior Class of 2024. A lovely reception followed.

The 2nd place winner of the Swarthout-Hayes Piano Competition, Ethan Pei (a student of Hyun Park), began the musical presentation with the 4th movement, the Fugue, from the Barber Sonata. Next our own composer/pianist Li-Ly Chang presented some of her recent compositions reflecting a variety of Asian cultures as well as themes of nature. Following Li-Ly's lovely, humorous, and jazzy compositions, the Maryland State winners of two ensemble groups performed. Ksenia Antipova,

Prisha Emmanuel and Alexandra Soukhoveev (students of Olga Soukhoveev) played a piano trio, "Mama Mia," to an ecstatic audience and then the exquisite duet, Vocalise, by Rachmaninov was performed flawlessly by Maximilian Belyantsev and Alexandra Soukhoveev (students of Lara Parris). Our own concert pianist, Guity Adjoodani completed the program with a most difficult and hauntingly beautiful Iranian composition, "Overture and Four Plectrum in Esfahan Mode" (Marcel Der Stefani) that simulated Persian instruments using plectrum. This wonderful program of diverse music was so well received by the audience. Everyone was jubilant.

The Senior Recognition Awards Day Event was made possible through Chairperson Eugenia Posey-Marcos. Teachers who assisted were: Guity Adjoodani, Li-Ly Chang, Rosanne White, Carol Edison, Sara Cronan, Olga Soukhoveev, Lara Parris, and Swarthout-Hayes Chair and co-Chair Bonnie Kellert and Junko Takahashi, respectively.



Ksenia Antipova (Teacher: Olga Soukhoveeva)	Carolyn Fu (Teacher: Hyun Park)	Leah Nokkeo (Teacher: Yoon Huh)
Maximilian Belyantsev (Teacher: Lara Parris)	Alvin Guo (Teacher: Hyun Park)	Ryan Qi (Teacher: Svetlana Volkova)
Carleigh Bendit (Teacher: Carol Edison)	Mandy Guo (Teacher: Svetlana Volkova)	Rian Russell (Teacher: Jaewon Lee)
Nate Champion (Teacher: Guity Adjoodani)	Bentham Hu (Teacher: Svetlana Volkova)	Nicole Schwartz (Teacher: Olga Soukhoveeva)
Jimmy Chen (Teacher: Yevgeniya Yolesh)	Bernard Jin (Teacher: Svetlana Volkova)	Isabella Shields (Teacher: Yoon Huh)
Nathan Lam Chen (Teacher: Yoon Huh)	Dylan Jones (Teacher: Eugenia Posey-Marcos)	Lela Skopec (Teacher: Lara Parris)
Nathan Park Chen (Teacher: Yoon Huh)	Alexei Kaloshin (Teacher: Lara Parris)	Alexandra Soukhoveev (Teachers: Olga Soukhoveeva & Lara Parris)
Patrick Donahue (Teacher: Li Ly Chang)	Karolina Konieczny (Teacher: Sara Cronan)	Caitlin Spendley (Teacher: Eugenia Posey-Marcos)
Prisha Emmanuel (Teacher: Olga Soukhoveeva)	Joelle Lee (Teacher: Hyun Park)	Katie Xiang (Teacher: Svetlana Volkova)
Patrick Foley (Teacher: Rosanne White)	Sameer Mehta (Teacher: Sara Cronan)	Sunny Zhang (Teacher: Svetlana Volkova)

Adult Recital 2024



This year's Adult Recital was a great success, with five teachers entering a total of 7 students. The event was held at the Marilyn J. Praisner Branch Library in Burtonsville on Sunday, May 5. The program was quite ambitious with pieces representing 4 periods of piano literature. Co-chair Carol Brody did a great job again of providing a large table of fruit, cookies and lemonade. I asked the teachers to encourage their students to invite guests, so we had a nice group of around 40.

We heard works by Bach, Beethoven, and MacDowell. We also heard a Mozart Sonata movement, two works by Debussy, and a Schubert Impromptu. The modern category was also represented well.

I encourage all MCMTA teachers to participate in future adult recitals. One way to get jittery students involved is to attend as an audience, or program duets with them. I would love to have regular performance groups for adults, where they could learn performance preparation, share their experience, and give each other support. Playing more often in public is the solution to successful performance!



Tina Smith, Chair

Weissenfluh Grant Chair, Ingrid Mongini

When Ingrid sent me her letter to tell me that she would not be renewing her membership this year, I knew that MCMTA would be losing a long-standing, well-loved colleague and a multi-chair Board Member. Not only will we be without a Bylaws Chair, a Parliamentarian and Corresponding Secretary, but also the chair of the Margaret Weissenfluh Grant Committee. She has served on this committee for over 20 years, with about 15 years as the Chair.

I had asked her if she would be willing to share information regarding Margaret Weissenfluh, and the grant named after her. Since it was important to her, she agreed to share some of the history of its origination and also how it has impacted the life of one of its beneficiaries. Thank you, Ingrid.

-Debra Merritt

Sasha Soukhoveev, an eight-year Weissenfluh awardee, has excelled in her piano studies. A student of Lara Parris, Sasha has played in recitals and competitions at the local and Maryland State levels. She has passed Level 9 of MSMTA's music theory exam and is currently taking the college AP exam in music theory. During her high-school years, she taught piano and theory to children. In addition, she plays piano in nursing homes, putting smiles on residents' faces.

In the fall, Sasha begins studies at Washington and Lee University. She has been awarded a full scholarship to study neuroscience in the pre-med program. At university she will continue to play piano whenever she has an opportunity.

Sasha is one of hundreds of students who have received Weissenfluh grants since the program was officially established in 2004. That year, John Weissenfluh, a Maryland entrepreneur, gave MCMTA fifty thousand dollars to establish a grant in honor of his wife, Margaret, a former member. The Margaret E. Weissenfluh Grant for Musically Inclined Children was created "To assist children who are musically inclined and wish to study and play but who otherwise would not be able to do so." The grant has helped children whose families have few resources. Divorce, catastrophic illness, and job loss are the reasons most families apply for help. The grants allow children to receive the benefits of playing music during times of great stress and loss.

When John Weissenfluh first gave grants to MCMTA, stipends between \$250 and \$350 were given to piano and violin students. MCMTA Treasurer, Kristin Butler, invested the initial \$50,000, and the value of the fund soon increased to \$75,000. As inflation and the cost of private instruction increased, the board voted in 2014 to increase the total annual distribution to \$4,000. Cynthia Cathcart is the current administrator of the Weissenfluh grant. Today MCMTA can proudly say that individual scholarships are now between \$750 and \$1,000.

As Sasha Soukhoveev has shown us, having money to pay for piano lessons has enriched her life, helped her through hard times, and given her lofty goals to achieve. Sasha has written to us every year expressing gratitude for receiving a Weissenfluh grant. As she says, "Playing piano is a lifestyle. You can't live without it."

Ingrid Mongini, Chair
Weissenfluh Committee

MINUTES FROM MCMTA BOARD MEETING
September 26, 2023 (APPROVED 11/21/23)
(moved from Sept 19)

President Debra Merritt called the meeting to order at 10:05AM. The meeting was held via Zoom format.
No Secretary

Present were: Sara Cronan, David Yacubovich, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Junko Takahashi, Debra Merritt, Olga Soukhoveev, Carol Brody, Cynthia Cathcart, Svetlana Volkova, Alice Ma, Yuri Chayama, Hai Chi, Carol Edison and Eugenia Posey-Marcos.

The Agenda was distributed electronically in advance.

Due to time availability, per request to speak as early as possible in the meeting, David Yacubovich, Honorary Member and website designer, generously offered to go over the new MCMTA website functionality. David shared his screen on Zoom to explain the “Administration Menu.” He explained how to manage events, how to group recitals, set playing/performance order and prepare programs.

After questions from event chairs, David said he would work with John Ralph to try and make moving students between groups easier, and he would also check on the email function regarding teachers/judges to make sure it works properly. David reminded the chairs that if their event does not generate the way it should, let Debra know and she will relay the message to John and/or David.

The website may not work on iPads, but if Chrome is installed on an iPad, it should work correctly. In Safari, it does not work.*

For those managing both MCMTA and MSMTA events, Junko gave the reminder to check on one’s locality.

Miri inquired about Swarthout/Hayes critique sheets, as David is customizing them for each event, to which Junko said she would check on the details and get back with him.

Other topics that were mentioned were duet registrations (solo vs ensemble) and whether Ensemble registrations allow for 3 students?*

Yuri shared her discovery that the Excel file generated from the website is not connected to John’s program. Fixing an issue on the Excel sheet does not fix it on the website.

Alice noticed that the Rules for Events used to be on each registration page, and now they are not. The need to refer to them involves going to the SAP and scrolling to search for the specific event. Debra said she would send these over to John to get them uploaded onto the registration pages.

Svetlana asked about having a “return to MSMTA” button added to the menu. Svetlana motioned to have this added, to which Alice seconded – a halfhearted vote ensued, with no opposition. David offered to make this addition.*

The June 6, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes were unsuccessfully shared in advance, with only a few able to view them before the meeting. After being forwarded again and viewed, issues were found in the T. Rowe Price information of the Treasurer’s Report, Woolley Martin’s name was discovered to be misspelled, and the wording in the Ensemble Recital section was seen as misleading. Not wanting to take up any more time to come up with solutions, Debra announced she would communicate with Cynthia and Alice to resolve the errors. She would make the necessary corrections and resend the minutes via email to be approved.**

The president reminded everyone of the upcoming State Conference scheduled for October 15th. Call for articles for the Sept/Oct Newsletter were given an October 10 deadline. Articles to be sent to Hai Jin.

Cynthia shared her screen to discuss the Budget Report. Last year’s budget, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 was displayed to help event chairs make adjustments to this year’s budget projections.

The topic of trophies, which was postponed from previous meetings, was taken up.

Will the Celebrating Music Festival use the same Trophy Vendor?

Svetlana discovered The Trophy Place Inc., which she uses for the HS plaque, however, Miri has left over trophies from last year and she needs to be sure that The Trophy Place's trophies match exactly to the current trophies. Therefore, Miri may consider using the new vendor in 2024. Miri plans to use Crown Trophy for the upcoming Judged Recitals.

Olga mentioned that for the Elementary Recitals, she depends on the teachers to donate candy for the October recital, so the budget for "treats" is dependent on these donations.

Ensemble Recitals are planned to be held at the Korean Baptist Church, so for the "Room Rental Fee," \$100 will be budgeted for this donation.

Festival of Music has a new chair. Hai Chi will be assisted in figuring out a budget for this event.

Intermediate/Advanced Recitals plan for \$500 room rental, \$650 for Judge Fees and \$50 for Printing.

For the Judged Recitals, income for last year was overestimated somehow. Participation was not down, according to Miri. Income should be about \$3,875, Rental Fee \$750, Judges Fees \$2,500, Meals \$70. Trophies will be researched for a lower cost vendor in the future.

Senior Recognition – Cynthia suggested that MCMTA may want to consider renaming this event to something like "The Woolley Martin Senior Recognition Awards" in order to preserve Peggy Woolley Martin's name, as this event is typically paid through this music resource fund. Need to ask Kris Butler as to why/how this event was set up this way? Eugenia is thinking of holding this event at the Gaithersburg Library once again. Her expense of trophies through Crown Trophy has remained consistent over the years at \$205. Printing is her biggest expense.

Cynthia asked about the Teacher grants. Were there truly no grants given last year? Carol Edison was no longer present to answer this question. However in the Zoom chat box, there was a message from Carol relaying a message from Ingrid Mongini about the Weissenfluh Grant. Ingrid is requesting a \$2000 increase (from \$4000 to \$6,000). Weissenfluh funds are usually dependent on the dividends earned in the Edward Jones account. Board discussions are needed to decide if MCMTA wants to continue the usual practice of using the dividends or if it wants to start taking from the principal amount.

Final discussions were about the cost of everything going up and how we could possibly help offset these costs. Membership dues could be raised slightly and fees for our events could also be raised. It has been 4 years since we have raised event fees. It was determined that raising fees every year may not be a good idea, but perhaps every 3-4 years would be tolerable.

At the November Board Meeting, Membership Fees must be voted on as this figure will need to be reported to MTNA in January 2024.

Cynthia moved to adjourn. Olga seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:15.

Debra Merritt, President

*Sept 29, David successfully added/fixed: an option for Olga's event to be able to register both soloists and ensembles, a new page that allows chairs to move players between groups and within groups much easier, Alice's Ensemble Recital registration, a link back to the MSMTA website, and the ability to open PDF files on iPads

**Sept 26 at 23:26, Email sent via MailChimp to show changes requested by Cynthia and Alice. Minutes stand as corrected.

MINUTES FROM MCMTA BOARD MEETING
November 21, 2023 (APPROVED 4/16/24)

President Debra Merritt called the meeting to order at 10:08AM. The meeting was held via Zoom format.
No Secretary

Present were: Ingrid Mongini, Alice Ma, Carol Brody, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Immanuela Gruenburg, Cynthia Cathcart, Yuri Chayama, Svetlana Volkova, Bonnie Kellert, Debra Merritt, Junko Takahashi, Olga Soukhoveev, Elena Eliseeva, Junko Takahashi

A proposed agenda as well as the draft of Sept. 26 board meeting minutes were distributed electronically in advance.

Cynthia moved to accept the minutes, Carol seconded. Voted. Approved.

Tina Smith (not in attendance) wished to add to the agenda regarding adult recital venue options.

Cynthia asked to remove discussion on the GoDaddy account.

Carol moved to accept the adjusted agenda, Cynthia seconded. Vote inadvertently not taken.

President's Report

Debra reminded chairs of events to double check the Administration pages of their events to make sure it is set up as intended. She asked to be informed if the video of David's presentation from September's board meeting is needed. She then mentioned the precarious state that MCMTA is in with the fact that we have a vacancy in our list of elected officers. The need for others in the organization to step in to fill vacancies is urgent. The office of the president is the only position that has a term limit, and it has been suggested that perhaps a term limit be considered for the office of the Treasurer as well.

Discussion moved to waning attendance numbers. Immanuela had asked via email prior to the meeting that we not wait until the end of this meeting to discuss possible ideas on boosting attendance. Debra mentioned that permission was granted from the Unitarian Universalist church for our holding a brunch after our December meeting. It was suggested that perhaps each of us could call a set number of members whom we haven't seen and invite them verbally.

Treasurer's Report

Budget will be off by a couple thousand dollars. \$2,000 was transferred from savings to help balance the budget. Our savings account currently has about \$31,000, because the money being pulled from the T. Rowe Price account has been placed into our savings account. The T. Rowe Price account has approximately \$7,000 remaining in it. Final withdrawal will be made in December, and then the TRP acct will be closed. The Peggy Woolley Martin Fund for Music Resource will be sitting in our savings account.

Should we open another Edward Jones investment account? In the past, Kristen Butler would use the dividend checks to pay for the Senior Recognition Awards Day. What is the best way to utilize this gift? Should we continue to invest so that we do not deplete it? Ideas welcomed.

Cynthia had mentioned in previous meetings that it would be nice to recognize how the Senior Recognition Awards Day is being funded, and also nice to honor Peggy's legacy by renaming this event. Debra made a motion to rename this Awards Day to *The Peggy Woolley Martin Senior Recognition Event*. Cynthia seconded.

Unanimous vote - yes - passed.

Reviewed budget line by line. Adjustments to be made.

On the topic of '24-'25 membership dues, it was suggested that we raise our price from \$32 to \$35. However, for those age 70 and above, the amount will remain at \$32.

Debra made a motion to increase MCMTA (non-Senior) dues from \$32 to \$35.

Carol Brody seconded the motion. Vote taken. 11 in favor, 2 abstained, 1 opposed. Motion was adopted.

Discussions were had regarding Donations/Fundraisers/Grants.

Regarding the Weissenfluh chair's request to increase the annual Weissenfluh distribution, Cynthia indicated that what can be distributed is determined by what was earned in our Edward Jones investment account. Ingrid suggested we table the discussion

for March/April (?). Debra seconded.

1099's will be sent to teachers who received a check for more than \$600.

One additional item, for future reimbursement checks requested by chairs, Cynthia will be sending checks directly through our bank, which will cut the check and mail it – eliminating the need for an envelope or postage. To be aware of what said envelope would look like, she shared her screen to show a picture.

Committee questions/proposals

Carol Edison (non-present) asked for clarity regarding the Grants for Teachers and HS Seniors.

The information page in the SAP for Teacher Grants indicates one teacher will be awarded (\$500). Will need to make the change to “will award up to two teachers” on the application form (already says, “when funds are available”). Cynthia indicated that the HS award is for one student, \$1000.

Regarding the Celebrating Music Festival, and the desire to increase the registration fee, Miri and Bonnie decided to table this discussion until the next meeting.

Event Incident

Discrepancies in our SAP were discussed to clarify how we handle rules that are broken during our events.

Consequences of actions are needed.

Debra to circulate suggested written changes to our General Policies/Rules and Regulations to help us enforce consequences.

Board Opinion Re Adult Recital Venue

Debra read Tina's email about the possibility of using the John Hopkins APL and requesting ideas.

Bonnie moved to adjourn. Sara seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:02.

Debra Merritt, President