



Dear Colleagues,

I hope you had an enjoyable restful summer and are having a smooth start to a new school year!

MCMTA will offer a total of 17 student activities this year. Our website event calendar is up-to-date, and online registrations have been open since early summer. The "Student Activities Packet 2025-2026" is now available to view! I am grateful to all the Event Chairs and Officers for their dedication and willingness to help organize activities for our students and fellow teachers! Please visit our website at [www.mcmta.msmta.org](http://www.mcmta.msmta.org) and check under "Activities" to access these documents. More detailed information is included in this newsletter.

Our first general membership meeting was on September 9, 2025. We are grateful to Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville for their generosity in welcoming us again to have our meetings in their concert hall. We had a good number of attendees, and it was nice to meet new and returning members. Our VP for Programs, Immanuela Gruenberg, arranged a presentation by Mr. Narciso Solero, and the members enjoyed his informative presentation. We are looking forward to the next meeting on October 14 with presenter Dr. Minji Kim, who will be giving a lecture entitled "From Eye to Ear: Translating Visual Elegance into Sound in Arabesque." Please join us!

The first student event starts on October 19 with Judged Recitals, chaired by Anna Xuan Song, followed by "Magic Autumn" Elementary Recitals on October 25, chaired by Olga Soukhoveev, the latter of which will be held at Steinway Piano Gallery in Rockville, MD. Many thanks to Steinway Gallery and Mr. Jason Hung for supporting our local organization and community to give our students the rare opportunity to perform on a peerless instrument in their recital hall.

Did you know that MCMTA celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year? It was founded in 1965. I had an opportunity to review MCMTA historical documents during the summer. Special thanks to our beloved longtime member, Lois Jones, for inviting me to her house and handing over a box of papers from MCMTA files that she kept. Together with her son, she even scanned most of them for our archives! Many thanks to our own Junko Takahashi who stores our documents safely at her residence. It was an inspirational moment when I touched and read the original copy of our "News Bulletin" dated September 15, 1965! We are excited to have our new VP for Publications, Ella Wu, who will start documenting more of our organization's history and activities in the newsletters. I hope for many more successful years for MCMTA.

Wishing all members and students a wonderful year!

Warm regards,

Yuri Chayama, DMA  
MCMTA President



## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**Meeting Location: [Jordan Kitt's Music](#)  
[11726 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852](#)**

Please note: MASKS ARE **OPTIONAL**, but highly recommended  
*New Masking Policy approved by MCMTA Board 6/6/23*

10:00 a.m. Networking  
10:15 a.m. Meeting  
10:30 a.m. Presentation

September 9, 2025  
October 14, 2025  
December 9, 2025

February 10, 2026  
March 10, 2026  
May 12, 2026

## Executive Board Meetings

10 a.m. via **Zoom**

September 16, 2025  
November 18, 2025

April 21, 2026  
June 2, 2026

For information contact  
President Yuri Chayama, [mcmta\\_president@msmta.org](mailto:mcmta_president@msmta.org)

Any member may address the board upon one week's notification to the president  
Minutes of all board meetings are available upon request.

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

## 2025 – 2026



Judged Recitals (In-Person)	Sun Oct 19, 2025	Steinway Piano Gallery
“Magic Autumn” Elementary Recitals	Sat Oct 25, 2025	Steinway Piano Gallery
Intermediate/Advanced Recitals	Sat Nov 15, 2025	Calvary Lutheran Church
Celebrating Music Festival	Sun Nov 16, 2025	Calvary Lutheran Church
Judged Recitals (In-Person)	Sun Dec 07, 2025	Calvary Lutheran Church
“Holiday” Elementary Recitals	Sat Dec 13, 2025	Virtual Format via “Zoom”
MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Exam	Sun Dec 14, 2025	Washington Adventist University
Online Intermediate/Adv Recitals	Sat Jan 10, 2026	Video Submission
Online Judged Recitals	Sun Feb 8, 2026	Video Submission
Ensemble Recitals – Two Day Event	Sat/Sun Feb 21-22, 2026	Jordan Kitt’s Music
MSMTA Theory Exam	Sun Mar 15, 2026	Watkins Mill High School
Judged Recital (In-Person)	Sun Apr 12, 2026	Jordan Kitt’s Music
Intermediate/Advanced Recitals	Sun Apr 19, 2026	Jordan Kitt’s Music
“Spring Fling” Elementary Recitals	Sat Apr 25, 2026	Calvary Lutheran Church
Swarthout/Hayes Piano Competition	Sun Apr 26, 2026	PianoCraft
Adult Recital	Sun May 03, 2026	Jordan Kitt’s Music
Peggy Woolley Martin Senior Awards	Sun May 03, 2026	TBA
Outstanding Music Achievement Award	Sept 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026	
Application deadline for MCMTA Grant to HS Graduating Seniors w/Declared Music Maj/Min in College	June 1, 2026	
Application deadline for MCMTA Grant for Continuing Education for Teachers	June 1, 2026	
Application deadline for MCMTA Weissenfluh Grant	July 15, 2026	

Student Event Registration Link: <https://www.mcmta.msmta.org/local/events>

Event addresses:

Calvary Lutheran Church  
9545 Georgia Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

PianoCraft  
211 Perry Parkway #2  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Watkins Mill High School  
10301 Apple Ridge Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Jordan Kitt’s Music 11726  
Parklawn Drive  
Rockville, MD 20852

Washington Adventist University  
7600 Flower Ave.  
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912

Steinway Piano Gallery  
11611 Old Georgetown Rd  
Rockville, MD 20852

**\*\* ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE \*\***

Locations of MCMTA events are subject to change. In addition, there are contingency plans for most MCMTA events to go "virtual" should the need arise: health situations such as Covid-19 resurgence or other extenuating events. Changes will be announced in the MCMTA Newsletter, at meetings, via email by Mailchimp and/or through our Groups.io listserv.

## Announcements

### MSMTA Annual Conference

The 2025 Annual Maryland State Conference will be held on **this coming Sunday, October 12, 2025**, virtually on Zoom, from 1 pm to 6:30 pm, with a meet and greet starting at 12:45 pm. For programs and presenters' biographies, please click: [https://mcusercontent.com/895b9aeadcfe4bfb59ced9f4d/files/f5d5a923-beaf-b256-5edb-bbae2e1c7772/letters\\_for\\_invitation\\_and\\_mail\\_chimp\\_8\\_6.01.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/895b9aeadcfe4bfb59ced9f4d/files/f5d5a923-beaf-b256-5edb-bbae2e1c7772/letters_for_invitation_and_mail_chimp_8_6.01.pdf)

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### Judged Recitals

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share that our first Judged Recital of the season will take place on **Sunday, October 19, 2025**, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Silver Spring. The next recital will be held on **Sunday, December 7, 2025**, at the same location.

Online registration for the October recital is closed. Registration for December will close on **Friday, November 7, 2025**. As always, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please note that the **Sunday, April 12, 2026** recital will move to Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville, so be sure to mark your calendar for this different venue location.

I look forward to seeing our students' wonderful performances this season. Thank you for all the time, energy, and care you put into preparing them—it truly makes these events special for our community.

Warmly,  
Anna Xuan Song  
Chair, Judged Recitals

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### Celebrating Music Festival – Sunday, November 16, 2025


Give your students the chance to shine! The Celebrating Music Festival is a wonderful opportunity for young musicians to perform in a welcoming and supportive setting. Unlike traditional competitions, participants are encouraged to use their music scores while performing.

Each student will receive thoughtful written feedback from an esteemed judge, helping them refine their piece, build confidence, and even prepare it for memorization and future performances. Students will be recognized with platinum, gold, silver, or honorable mention awards.

 Event Date: **Sunday, November 16, 2025**

 Registration Deadline: **Thursday, October 16, 2025** (online only)

 Time: 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm

 Location: Calvary Lutheran Church – 9545 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD, 20910

This year, each studio may register up to 7 students with a combined performance time of 23 minutes. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for growth, encouragement, and a true celebration of music!

For questions, please email: Miri ([miri@yacubovich.com](mailto:miri@yacubovich.com)) or Bonnie ([bkellert88@gmail.com](mailto:bkellert88@gmail.com)) - We'll be more than happy to help!

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## **December Members Concert and Potluck Lunch**

Dear Members,

Our December Members Concert and Potluck Lunch will take place **Tuesday, December 9, 2025**, at Jordan Kitt's at 10:30AM.

If you are interested in performing, please send your proposals to me at [igrenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:igrenberg@yahoo.com). Proposals should include the following:

Composer's name and dates

Music title

Names of performers

Time limit: 10 minutes

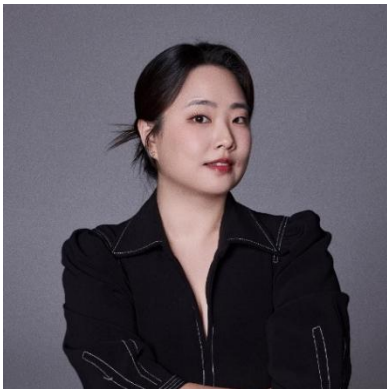
Deadline for submission: **Saturday, November 8, 2025.**

Immanuela Gruenberg, Program Chair

Come join us at the 2025 October Program!

## **Topic: From Eye to Ear: Translating Visual Elegance into Sound in Arabesque**

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, Kitt's Music  
by Dr. Minji Kim



**Description:** Join us for a lecture-recital exploring the Arabesque in classical music—its origins, stylistic evolution, and pedagogical applications. The arabesque, a decorative motif found in both visual art and music, has roots in various cultures, from Islamic geometric designs to Greco-Roman ornamentation. In music, the genre emerged in the 19th century, with composers like Schumann shaping its identity through

flowing melodic lines and intricate ornamentation. This presentation will highlight different stylistic approaches to the arabesque, from virtuosic etudes to expressive character pieces and hybrid forms. The program includes works by Cécile Chaminade, William Gillock, Kirill Monorosi, Hugo Reinhold, and others, with insights into how these pieces can be beneficial to students. Dr. Minji Kim, a native of South Korea, is an active soloist and chamber musician who has performed across the United States, South Korea, the Czech Republic, and Russia. She has appeared at venues such as Hill Auditorium and the Detroit Steinway Gallery and has performed as a soloist with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. A passionate chamber musician, she is a founding member of CASM (Chamber Artists of Southeast Michigan) and the award-winning Duo Sori. Duo Sori won 2nd prize at the 2024 Lancaster International Chamber Music Competition. She recently performed at the Hansong Summer Music Fest in Yangsan, South Korea, and at ClarinetFest 2025 in Fort Worth, TX. Currently she is a piano faculty member at the Levine School of Music in Washington, DC.

Dr. Kim earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Seoul National University, graduating first in her department. She later received Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance and Chamber Music Performance from the University of Michigan, where she also earned a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Piano Performance under Christopher Harding and a Certificate in Art Leadership and Entrepreneurship.

## Past Events

### **Leveling Up Mozart and Scarlatti: So many Sonatas...and More!**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 @ 10:30 am  
by Narciso Solero



This program was 6th in Mr. Solero's popular Level It Up! series. He organized them into levels ranging from the easiest to the most advanced. Mozart and Scarlatti were voted upon by those attending the first series to conclude those sessions; the session was advertised as "Attendees' choice." Mozart and Scarlatti tied as top vote-getters.

Mozart presents interesting challenges in leveling and deciding when to choose what piece only because so many of the sonatas are of a comparable technical level overall, so different criteria were used to determine order of study from the usual. Scarlatti presents a formidable challenge in leveling since there are over 550 sonatas. In this program, we looked at the characteristics of pieces that are important factors in leveling music of any composer and can help teachers and pianists alike in figuring out an organized approach for determining difficulty and appropriateness of repertoire choices for our students or themselves.

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On the next page you will find MCMTA's first newsletter published sixty years ago, on 9/15/1965. I'd like to point out an unusual membership meeting time and a special presenter noted in that newsletter.

The first membership meeting was held at 8 pm, and they watched a one-hour film called, "What is Sonata Form?" by Leonard Bernstein.

Frances Clark was invited as the esteemed guest speaker at the Southeast and Montgomery chapters after the first annual dinner. Menu choices and prices were listed.

Only three student recitals were planned in 1965, the first one being near Thanksgiving, the next in February, and the last in May. More history about our organization will be included in our upcoming newsletters.

Ella Wu, Vice President of Publications

MONTGOMERY CHAPTER  
of the  
MARYLAND STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

NEWS BULLETIN #1

9/15/65

The 1965-66 season of the Maryland State Music Teachers Association, Montgomery Chapter, starts with an exciting and appealing meeting: Wednesday, September 29, 8:00 p.m. Columbia Union College Recital Hall, 7707 Greenwood Ave., Takoma Park, Md. (The college is located near the intersection of Piney Branch Rd. and Flower Ave., Greenwood Ave. being parallel to Flower.) Come and meet present members! Meet prospective members! See a one-hour film, "What is Sonata Form?" as Leonard Bernstein presented it on TV. Refreshments! Bring interested friends!

Those members wishing to pursue certification are requested to make application for certification before October 15, 1965. This involves sending (1) a Teaching Outline, described in the recent notice mailed to members, Certification Procedures; (2) the application form which can be obtained from Allen Garrett, Secretary of Certification Board, 10102 Forrest Grove Drive, Silver Spring, Md., and (3) a \$25.00 check to Julio Esteban, Chairman of Certification, Sutton Place, 1111 Park Ave., Baltimore, Md. When you have done this please phone me, Jeanne Tourin, OL2-0417. I am keeping a list.

Miss Frances Clark accepted the invitation of the Southeast and Montgomery chapters to be after-dinner speaker at the first annual dinner to be jointly sponsored by these groups.

Date: Friday, October 1, 1965

Place: Prince George's Motor Hotel

Time: Reception 7:30 p.m.

Dinner 8:00 p.m.

Food: (Price includes tip and \$1.00 speaker assessment)

One-half Baked Chicken

\$4.55

Mariner's Fish Platter

5.75

Prime Rib of Beef

6.60

October first is nearly here. Plan now to attend and have a ready "yes" when you are called.

Three student recitals are planned on a very informal basis. Mrs. Lyle Asch volunteered to be chairman. Mrs. Dorothy Kalmbach offered to arrange to have the recitals held in the Suburban Music School in Kensington. Arthur Borsky offered to obtain a gift certificate for each performer. Mrs. Borsky, a guest at the meeting, offered to be hostess. The first recital will be on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 21st at 3:30 p.m. Another recital is planned for February and the last one for May.

I expect to see you September 29th,

Jeanne Tourin, Chairman  
Montgomery Chapter, MdSMTA