



West Virginia Music Teachers Association

**Affiliated with Music Teachers
National Association**



www.wvmta.org WVMTA News Volume 56, Issue 1, January 2021

Notes from the President, Dr. Henning Vauth

Happy New Year, fellow WVMTA members!

Our President-Elect, Dr. Johan Botes, did pioneer work in realizing WVMTA's first virtual conference – let's give him a round of applause! The 2020 WVMTA Conference was a success. We enjoyed a stellar featured guest artist recital with William Chapman Nyaho and learned about music from the African Diaspora. Martha Hilley and Ruta Smedina-Starke gave engaging talks on piano pedagogical topics, and I emphasized wellness as an important part of music-making. I also want to thank Miles Helmick, our First Vice President and Competitions Chair, who organized the WVMTA and MTNA competitions virtually with expertise and ease. The two offices of the President-Elect and the First Vice President have probably changed the most during the 2020/21 pandemic and I want to express our deep appreciation to Johan and Miles one more time.



New Initiatives

As an organization, we have to be active and look ahead to weather the challenges of CoViD-19. The board is working on various initiatives. Our goal should be to make music instruction more accessible to everyone in West Virginia, and to facilitate teaching and participation in our events. The Scholarship for an African American Applied Music Student was a first step: Congratulations to its inaugural recipient Hannah Davis, voice student of Dr. Hope Koehler at WVU! In the same context, the board has decided to reimburse the full cost (up to \$200) for MTNA Certification. We hope thus to attract more of our teachers to take advantage of this important professional development opportunity. Additionally, we are working on making payments easier and are looking at electronic money transfer for registration fees etc.

Congratulations again to our two 2020 honorees Vicki Berneking-Cavendish, Distinguished Leader of the Year, and John Morrison, Teacher of the Year! Vicki and John have served WVMTA (and MTNA!) for many years in a variety of positions and continue to do so. Both were state presidents and are currently active on our state administrative board. Our organization would not be successful without the many years of service that members like Vicki and John devote to the cause.

The national MTNA 2021 Conference will be presented virtually March 13 to 17, 2021. I was part of the five-member planning committee and also poster sessions chair and can assure you that you are in for a treat. Please find more information here, and register early:

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

I wish all of you a musically fulfilling year and look forward to seeing you soon, virtually or in person. We don't know what the future brings, but we will be prepared!

Henning Vauth

WVMTA President

Notes from President--Elect, Dr. Johan Botes

A big THANK YOU to all who made the 2020 Online WVMTA Conference possible. Planning a statewide conference during a global pandemic is not exactly what I had in mind, but there it is. Though it was still lots of fun catching up with colleagues and other members over our Zoom meetings and happy hours! Thank you to all the presenters that have recorded and sent me their videos in a timely matter for the conference, and I especially want to thank our guest artist William Chapman Nyaho for recording his program for us in Seattle. Without presenters and their interesting presentations, conferences can't exactly continue, so thank you! You guys all ROCK!!

Depending on the state of the pandemic at that point in time, **the 2021 WVMTA State Conference will be held at Shepherd University** with Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao serving as site coordinator. I have no date as of yet but will bring that to you in the next newsletter. I look forward to bringing you more information about our guest artist and presenters, further sessions, and the rest of the conference in future newsletters.

Call for Presentations

Please contact me at botes@marshall.edu with suggestions for session topics that you would like to see at the conference, or if you are interested in presenting.

Best wishes for the New Year!

WVMTA Treasurer's Report, Marie Borillo

On January 22, 2021, our bank account balance was \$29,521.21 The current balance of our 5-year CD is \$11,436.92 and our 1-year CD was valued at \$10,781.07.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Borillo, Treasurer

WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award

August 31st was the deadline to submit nominations for the 2020 WVMTA Teacher of the Year. According to rules as set up by the WVMTA Administrative Board on October 25, 1996: "Nominations will be limited to three." Also according to rules, the qualifications are:

- Demonstrates innovative teaching and creative musicianship and,
- Has held membership in WVMTA for at least five (5) years.

Congratulations to WVMTA Teacher of the Year 2020, **John Morrison!** John has been a longtime active WVMTA member, as well as president, and we honored him during the 2020 Online Conference.

John Morrison is an Assistant Professor of Music in the Department of Performing Arts at Fairmont State University where he is an instructor of piano and strings and choir and recital accompanist. Mr. Morrison is also an instructor with the FSU Academy for the Arts where he teaches students of all ages. John is the Immediate Past President of WVMTA and has also served in the roles of Conference Site Coordinator and Secretary.

Mr. Morrison is an active collaborative pianist and has served for several years as the WVACDA Collegiate Honor Choir accompanist and the WV All State Children's Choir accompanist. He has accompanied for the the WV

Governor's School for the Arts at the Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan.

He is the music director and organist at First Presbyterian Church of Fairmont where he directs the Chancel Choir and Cambridge Handbell Choir. He serves on the board of directors of the Fairmont Chamber Music Society. John was the honored in 2012 with a City of Fairmont Arts & Humanities Commission "Excellence in Music" award and recently featured in a profile of *20 People to Know in 2020* in the Times West Virginian. John has a double Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance and French and a Master's Degree in Piano Performance at WVU.

Past Teacher of the Year Awards Recipients:

1991 Peggy Johnston, NCTM	1992 Christine Kefferstan, NCTM
1993 Carol Beall, NTCM	1994 Linda Seime, NCTM
1995 Lena Lim, NCTM	1996 Mary Wilson
1997 Ray Martin, NCTM	1998 Leslie Petteys, NCTM
1999 Ruth Carder, NCTM	2000 Catherine Crotty, NTCM
2001 Bonnie Miltenberger	2002 No award given
2003 Lya Cartwright	2004 Olive Meyer, NCTM
2005 Mila Markun, NCTM	2006 Scott Beard, NCTM
2007 Elaine Tutt	2008 Vicki B. Cavendish
2009 Harriet Tucker, NCTM	2010 Jan Jemison Smith, NCTM
2011 Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM	2012 Hooi Yin Booey
2013 Christene Kefferstan, NCTM	2014 Carole Kriewaldt
2015 No award given	2016 James Miltenberger
2017 Henning Vauth	2018 Mary Wilson
2019 Jacob Womack, NCTM	2020 John Morrison
2021	2022

WVMTA Distinguished Leader of the Year

- This award is based on accumulated years of leadership and service contributed to the organization, over and above 10 years.
- This award will be based on whether the award was or was not already received by a particular member previously. The award CAN be granted to the same individual more than once.
- This award will be based on the recommendation, every year, of the current committees' research and records (If you are interested in becoming a future member of the Awards Committee, please notify Henning Vauth at vauth@marshall.edu). The Distinguished Leader of the Year Award was begun in 2006 and replaced the "Member of the year Award."

Congratulations to WVMTA Distinguished Leader of the Year 2020, **Vicki Cavendish!** Vicki has been a longtime active WVMTA member, and president as well, and we honored her as well during the 2020 Online Conference.

Victoria Berneking-Cavendish is Professor of Music Emerita at James Madison University, where she taught piano, music theory, music honors seminars and directed the Accompanying Program for 21 years. Her principal teachers were John Wustman, Dalton Baldwin, Thomas Mastroianni, and Wesley True. She has also participated in masterclasses by such major artists as Menahem Pressler, Samuel Sanders, and Joan Dornemann. Ms. Berneking –Cavendish has performed extensively as a collaborative pianist in the United States, Europe and the Virgin Islands. Her pianism and highly sensitive chamber playing have earned her much critical acclaim. The Staunton News Leader often referred to Ms. Berneking-Cavendish as a "cultural treasure". She has performed with such notable musical artists as Jean-Pierre Rampal,

Michel DeBost, Harold Robinson, Joseph Robinson, Pablo Elvira and Sharon Christman. Ms. Berneking-Cavendish served as accompanist for the annual Peter Lloyd Flute Masterclasses for twelve years and has premiered a number of compositions, including runningtheEdge, by Jennifer Higdon, and San Antonio, by John Harbison. She also collaborated with Rostropovitch and the National Symphony in the premier of the concerto for double bass, Jack and the Beanstalk, by Jon Deak. She has recorded for the Golden Crest and Roncorp labels, and has recordings with Steven Seward, Harold Robinson, and Sonya Baker. Ms. Berneking-Cavendish also maintains a private studio in her home.



Member of the Year Honorees

1991 Mary Shep Mann, NCTM	1992 Bobby Loftis, NCTM
1993 Judy Lambert, NCTM	1994 Jane Mangus, NCTM; Sandra Hastings
1995 Mila Markun	1996 Marija Sommer, NCTM
1997 Marguerite Bostonia, NCTM	1998 Jean Douglass, NCTM
1999 Connie Arrau Sturm, NCTM	2000 Olive Meyer, NCTM
2001 No Award given	2002 No Award given
2003 James Miltenberger	2004-05 No Awards given

Distinguished Leader of the Year Honorees

2006 Barbara Heckert	2007 Carol Beall, NCTM
2008 Mary Wilson	2009 Karen Taddie, NCTM
2010 Gary Mullenax, NCTM	2011 Janna Kisner, NCTM
2012 Scott Beard, NCTM	2013 Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM
2014 No award given	2015 Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM
2016 Laura Hamm, NCTM	2017 Gerald (Jerry) Lee
2018 No award given	2019 Hooi Yin Boey
2020 Vicki Cavendish	2021



MTNA Certification – WVMTA Challenge and Incentive

\$200 Reimbursement Check Available for Any Newly Certified NCTM!*

Yes, for anyone who successfully becomes a NEW NCTM! No stipulations. Receive a \$200 award from the WVMTA board for completing certification, which covers the entire fee. Find out the latest information on requirements for the National Certification Program at www.mtnacertification.org.

*This award does not apply to people who complete their renewals or their permanent professional certificates. This award is only for new certifications. Contact jwomack@concord.edu for more information.

Notes from the Membership Chair, Dr. Jerry Lee

- For the current 2020-2021 membership year, according to dues paid during April 1 – December 31, 2020, WVMTA confirms 73 total members, 11 of whom are collegiate.
- Membership updates during September 1 – December 31, 2020:
WVMTA welcomes 3 new members, and one reinstating member!!
 - WVMTA welcomes back Ian Jessee, from Charleston, WV as a reinstating member. Ian specializes in violin, viola, and chamber music.
 - WVMTA welcomes James Newsome, from Huntington, WV as a new collegiate member. James specializes in piano.
 - WVMTA welcomes Lorie Payne, from Harpers Ferry, WV as a new collegiate member. Lorie specializes in piano and organ.
 - WVMTA welcomes Felicity Jenkins, from Kitts Hill, OH as a new active member. Felicity specializes in elementary music and piano.

As we start a new year, MTNA is still focused on lapsed members from the past year but we are also working to recruit new members. The following 3 bullet points summarize a brief overview of the current initiatives:

- MTNA offers a 50% discount on national dues for new members joining in January. This promotion was sent to a list of several thousand prospective members. Also known as the “trial” or “6-month” membership. The last day to take advantage of the offer is February 1, 2021.
- This year we are extending the 50% off national dues offer to former members who were members for 2019-2020 but did not renew for 2020-2021. There are only 6 months left in the membership year, so it'd be a poor value if a returning member decided to renew and had to pay full price. We hope the 50% off national dues offer brings back some members and allows them to be engaged with MTNA this spring.
- Current MTNA members were sent an email with subject line “Refer a Friend or Colleague to Join MTNA”

which mentioned the 50% off offer. Any teachers referred to MTNA will be followed up with individually and added to our prospective member list.

- If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership to WVMTA for the 2020-21 year.
- In addition, please encourage and recruit new members to join WVMTA so that our organization stays as strong and active as possible!
- To join online and to learn more about specific member benefits, please visit the following website and click on the link towards the top of the page, "Join + Renew": www.mtna.org
- The text below is from MTNA, describing the benefits of membership:

Choices for a More Musical Tomorrow

MTNA offers a number of membership types for teachers, students and those involved in the music industry.

For well over a century, MTNA has been the backbone for a collaborative community of music-teaching professionals, connecting both the seasoned educator and those at the beginning of their career.

Membership with MTNA does more than simply complement your career as a music professional—it supports, supplements and shapes it. It empowers music teachers nationwide to become better educators through networking, leadership, mentoring and educational opportunities.

MTNA Membership Delivers:

- **Peer Connections**—a network of outlets, forums and channels for like-minded individuals in the music profession to collaborate and communicate, both locally and nationally
 - **Ongoing Education**—conferences, events and advice on teaching tips and pedagogy, technology and web trends, master classes and informational sessions
 - **Invaluable Resources**—access to countless benefits, from Certification, publications and consultation services to competitions, teacher enrichment grants and insurance
-

Districts Reports

Charleston MTA/District III Report:

District Three held their Fall Festival via a private YouTube channel on December 12. Forty-nine piano and strings students participated.

We plan to do a Theory Test by mail on March 20. Hopefully Spring Adjudications can be held live this Spring. For the moment, we plan on doing both strings and piano on Saturday, May 8.

Vicki Cavendish, Chair

Huntington MTA/District V Report:

The week before our Fall Festival was scheduled in November, we decided to change our format from a live performance, to an online recital. The Covid numbers were climbing, and parents and teachers were uncomfortable with in-person performances. We're in the process of compiling our students' videos, and will be posting our two recitals for everyone to enjoy. Our theme is "Dancin' Through the Decades!"

DeNeil Hartley and Kim Wiebe, Chairs

Eastern Panhandle MTA/District VI Report:

Siegel-Hoffman Ensemble Festival/Competition on Feb 6 is canceled.
WVMTA Theory and Technique Testing on March 13 will be conducted virtually.

Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, chair (NCTM)

News is published quarterly online at www.wvmta.org and mailed to members who do not have an email address. If you have a change of street address or email address, contact MTNA at www.mtna.org or call 888-512-5278

Dr. Johan Botes, Newsletter Editor, japbotes@gmail.com

Volume 56, Issue 1, January 2021