



# *West Virginia Music Teachers Association*

**Affiliated with Music Teachers  
National Association**

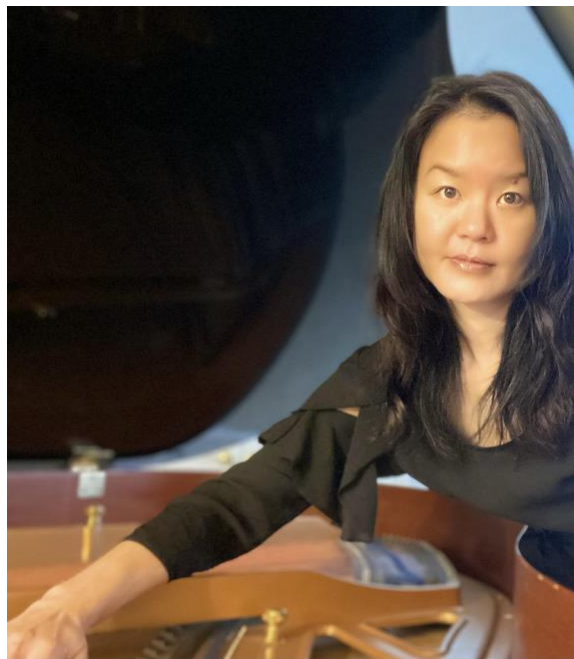


[www.wvmta.org](http://www.wvmta.org) **WVMTA News Volume 60, Issue 3, June 2025**

## Notes from the President, Dr. Yuhsuan Liao, NCTM

Happy Summer to all our WVMTA members! I applaud all the great work our teachers have done in preparing their students for Spring adjudications and recitals. Take some well-deserved rest and enjoy the good weather!

Since March 2025, there has been a significant change within our organization. President-Elect Daniel Bellamy has resigned from his position; he will be relocating out of state at the end of this spring semester to pursue new career opportunities. While I am excited for Daniel and the new path he is embarking on, I am also saddened by his departure from WVMTA. On behalf of the entire organization, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Daniel for his unwavering support and dedication to WVMTA and the piano community in West Virginia. We wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.



In light of this transition, I regret to make a decision that we will not have the Fall State Conference this year, as organizing this event is one of the primary responsibilities of the President-Elect. Instead of trying to find someone to fill up the remaining term as the President-Elect, we've focused on securing the officers for 2025-2027. However, we will still host the WVMTA mountain states and MTNA WVstate competitions virtually. The registration deadline is on Wednesday, September 10 and the video submission deadline is on Wednesday, Oct 29. Stay tuned for more info to come. Thank you for your understanding and support during this time of change.

Please note the Teachers of the Year nominations deadline has been extended to August 31st. Please email your nominations to [YLIAO@shepherd.edu](mailto:YLIAO@shepherd.edu).

Have a very wonderful summer break, everyone!

Yuhsuan Liao  
President, WVMTA



## ***WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award***

August 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2025 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.

### **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 Boeey
2013 Christene Kefferstan, NCTM	2014 Carole Kriewaldt
2015 No award given	2016 James Miltenberger
2017 Henning Vauth, NCTM	2018 Mary Wilson
2019 Jacob Womack, NCTM	2020 John Morrison
2021 Ian Jessee	2022 Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Lee
2023 Robert Ellis	2024 No award given

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## ***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 Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao at [yliao@shepherd.edu](mailto:yliao@shepherd.edu)). The Distinguished Leader of the Year Award was begun in 2006 and replaced the “Member of the year Award.”

## 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 Dr. Jacob Womack, NCTM
2022 John Morrison	2023 Dr. Henning Vauth, NCTM
2024 Dr. Johan Botes, NCTM	2025

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## ***WVMTA Scholarship for an African American Applied Music Student (AAAMS Scholarship)***

- WVMTA will provide a \$500 scholarship for an African American applied music student.
- The scholarship will be awarded annually, if the WVMTA Budget Committee determines there are sufficient funds in the general WVMTA budget.
- Students cannot receive the scholarship in two successive years unless there are no other competitors.
- All African American students shall be eligible, regardless of age and performance level, including pre-college, college, and adult students, and regardless of instrument or voice type.
- Eligible students must be students of a WVMTA member (“dues paid”) at the time of application or start lessons with a WVMTA member by the week after Labor Day.
- A call for applications shall be included in the June Newsletter by the President.
- Applications shall be due on or before August 31, and selections will be made by the WVMTA Budget Committee by September 15. Applications should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the President.
- There is no application fee.
- Selections will be made based on need and/or merit.
  
- The student or legal guardians shall receive the scholarship in form of a one-time payment from the WVMTA Treasurer, postmarked on or before September 30.
- If there are no applicants, the earmarked money shall go back into the general WVMTA budget.

Application:

- A formless one-page letter written by the student's applied teacher, speaking to a) need and/or merit of the student, b) stating that the student either has already been studying with the teacher, or will start lessons with the teacher by the first week after Labor Day, and c) confirming that the teacher has paid WVMTA dues for the current fiscal year.
  - Proof of the teacher's dues payment to MTNA/WVMTA for the current fiscal year.
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## ***MTNA Certification – WVMTA 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](http://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 [vauth@marshall.edu](mailto:vauth@marshall.edu) for more information.

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## ***Notes from Immediate Past President, Dr. Johan Botes, NCTM***

Hope everyone is doing well. On behalf of the nominating committee, thank you again for your willingness to serve on the WVMTA Board of Directors for 2025-2027. The Board will include:

Immediate Past President – Yuhsuan Liao  
President – Johan Botes/Yuhsuan Liao (Finishing out Daniel Bellamy's term)  
President Elect – Rayme Pullen  
First VP – Henning Vauth  
Second VP - Jerry Lee  
Treasurer – Bruce Rous  
Secretary – Jerry Lee

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## ***Notes from the Membership Chair, Dr. Jerry Lee***

- From January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, 3 members renewed their membership, and 1 new member joined WVMTA.
- With view to the 2025-2026 membership year, using the month of April 2025 as a starting point, according to dues paid during April 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025, WVMTA confirms 22 members, including 1

collegiate member. This total number usually increases significantly over the summer months.

➤ Membership updates from January 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025:

- WVMTA welcomes Savannah Wright, from Bolt, WV, as a new active member specializing in piano.
- WVMTA welcomes Hsiaofen Kimmy Lin, from Morgantown, WV, as a new collegiate member specializing in group piano, accompanying, church music, and piano.

➤ 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](http://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
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## ***Districts Reports***

### **Clarksburg MTA/District II Report:**

District 2 hosted theory and technic testing on Saturday, March 29th at Fairmont State University. Seven students from the studios of Rayme Pullen and John Morrison participated in this event. All students received satisfactory scores in technic, and the written test scores were between 80 - 99% overall. Congratulations to these students for excellent preparation and high scores!



The annual spring adjudication recital was also hosted at Fairmont State University on Saturday, May 3rd. There were 22 total students from the studios of Alison Bishop, DeAnn LoCasto, Robert Ellis, John Morrison, and Rayme Pullen. In addition to the 22 solos, there were 2 additional duet entries from Rayme Pullen's studio. There were also 2 woodwind entries from DeAnn LoCasto's studio: 1 B-flat clarinet student and 1 bass clarinet student.

We are grateful for Dr. Hooi yin Boey's work as the piano adjudicator at this event, as well as Bailey Philipps' work as the woodwinds adjudicator. The students received helpful critique, thoughtful encouragement, and fair ratings. Congratulations to the students of District 2 for presenting a lovely and varied program on Saturday May 3rd!

### **Rayme Pullen, Chair**

### **Charleston MTA/District III Report:**

Our Theory Test was held on Saturday, March 15. at Kanawha United Presbyterian Church. Fourteen students from two studios participated.

Our Spring Adjudication for Piano was held on Saturday, April 5, at Cavendish Hall. Fourteen students participated from one studio. Our judge was Dr. Johan Botes.

Hopefully we will have a few new members participating next year!!

### **Vicki Cavendish, Chair**

## **Mid-Ohio Valley MTA/District IV Report:**

Mid-Ohio Valley district 4 held Spring Performances for 12 students on May 17. Participating teachers were Laura Hamm, Barbara Heckert and Amy Rice.



Sixteen students took Theory and Technique tests in April.

**Laura Hamm, NCTM, Chair**



## **Huntington MTA/District V Report:**

Technic/Theory Testing

March 9, 16 at Aspire and Grace Gospel Church

110 students from 7 studios tested

100 technic tests

97 theory tests

Spring Performances

May 4, First Presbyterian Church, Huntington

37 students from 6 studios performed

27 piano students-adjudicated by Leslie Petteys

10 students-adjudicated by Carline Waugh

**DeNeil Hartley and Kim Wiebe, Co-Chairs**

## **Eastern Panhandle MTA/District VI Report:**

We had 5 events at the first half of 2025 year.

**The Siengel - Hoffman Ensemble Festival** was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025 at the Fellowship Bible Church, located at Shenandoah Junction WV. 49 students of Gary Mullenax, Jenny Anderson, Natalie Sigety, Mellisa Rickman participated. Students performed concertos, duos and duets.



Our annual **Theory and Technic tests** were held on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 at the the Zion Lutheran church, located at Williamsport MD. 39 students participated at the theory test and 47 students at the technic test. Studio participants: Jenny Anderson, Gary Mullenax, David Loi, Natalie Sigety, and Melissa Rickman studios.

Our **Spring Adjudication** was held at the Fellowship Bible Church on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2025. 12 students of Gary Mullenax and Jenny Anderson participated. Dr. Jay DeWire, a music professor at Frostburg State University was the adjudicator. All 12 students we prepared well and received superior rating:

Students of Jenny Anderson: Samaira Sharma, Anastacia Marshall, Aurora Mallawaarachchi, Pippa Love, Anne Nguyen, Cadence Edleblute.

Students of Gary Mullenax: Greta Bata, Lila Hayes, Clara Seville, Grace Lu, Juliet Owunna, Brandon Lu.

Our **Spring Recital** was held at the Old Opera House, located at the historic Charles Town, WV on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

59 students pperformed of Jenny Anderson, Gary Mullenax, Natalie Sigety, Donna Coyle, and Mellisa Rickman.

**Jenny Anderson, Chair**



**News is published quarterly online at [www.wvmta.org](http://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](http://www.mtna.org) or call 888-512-5278**

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