



West Virginia Music Teachers Association

*Affiliated with Music
Teachers National
Association*



www.wvmta.org

WVMTA News Volume 56, Issue 4, September 2021

Notes from the President, Dr. Henning Vauth NCTM

The new school year has started, and the pandemic continues to disrupt our daily lives in ways we had never imagined. There is hope, though. I want to congratulate all of you on your resilience and your creativity in delivering music lessons to our students, be it as private music instructors, as employees at community music schools, as music teachers in the school system, or as collegiate faculty members. Many of us have found ways to safely teach in-person through wearing masks, taking advantage of the freely available vaccines, or in keeping distance. Others have become comfortable teaching remotely, using one of the several online platforms.



Pending further developments, our annual conference will take place face-to-face this year, on October 8 at Shepherd University. A big thank you to Dr. Johan Botes, president-elect and Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, site-coordinator for making this happen. As I wrote one year ago, I can't wait to talk to you then and to share some of our experiences. Socializing and staying connected is SO important in times that require distancing and sometimes isolation. I hope many of you will be able to make it to our conference this year.

Please join me in congratulating our 2021 awardees, Ian Jessee (Teacher of the Year) and Dr. Jacob Womack (Distinguished Leader of the Year). Personally, I am grateful for Jacob's leadership and advice beyond his offices, as well as Ian's extensive work in string education in the state. We are also glad to be able to provide financial assistance to an African American applied music student by way of our \$500 scholarship. The recipient is a wonderful young musician, a junior in high school, who loves taking cello and piano lessons, and whose family is more than appreciative of our support. Congratulations to Devoyne Montgomery, and thank you to his piano teacher, DeNeil Hartley for the nomination.

As you will know by now, our competitions will be held virtually again, and the application deadline is September 15. It's never been easier to join the competitions, so please encourage your students to participate.

My own leadership as WVMTA president comes to an end, and with one laughing and one crying eye, I realize this is the last newsletter article I have the honor of writing for you in this office. I do so, knowing that we have an excellent slate of officers ready to be confirmed during the general membership meeting on October 8 at Shepherd University.

I am grateful for everyone on the outgoing board. It's been wonderful to work with you. Thank you for the support, advice, and generosity you have shown me over the past two years. It's been an absolute pleasure.

Please stay tuned and monitor your email addresses for further announcements regarding the WVMTA conference, competitions, the national conference, and other information. These days, we have to be "on our toes!"

With respect, admiration, and gratitude for your important work,

Henning Vauth

President, WVMTA

Notes from President--Elect, Dr. Johan Botes NCTM

The 2021 WVMTA State Conference will be held IN PERSON at Shepherd University October 8-9 with Dr. Yuhsuan Liao as site coordinator. Thank you Yuhsuan!! *With COVID policies still in place across much of the country, at Shepherd University we are required to wear a mask indoors regardless of your vaccination status.*

Program

I am excited to announce that we will host the American violinist Andrew Sords as our Featured Guest Artist. He will be performing an evening recital on Friday, October 8th, with me at the piano, and he'll conduct a string master class on Saturday, October 9. It is a very special honor for us to welcome Andrew to West Virginia and I'm so glad we are reaching out to our fellow instrumentalists! Please check out his impressive biography on his website: www.andrewsords.com

On top of welcoming Andrew to our conference, we are also looking forward to a presentation by pianist Sheryl Iott, who just released her first book, called *Thinking and Playing Music – Intentional Strategies for Optimal Practice and Performance*, published by Rowman & Littlefield. She will talk about these strategies, aiming it towards the intermediate level student.



Andrew's concert on Friday night (at 7:30pm, October 8th, 2021) is also open to the public and tickets are \$10 per person. Faculty and students at Shepherd University can attend for free. This concert will also be dedicated to Dr. Scott Beard, longtime member of WVMTA.

**WVMTA Conference, October 7-9, 2021: Schedule
Shepherd University, Shepherdstown WV**

Thursday, October 7

6:00 pm Executive Board Meeting at the Bavarian Inn
164 Shepherd Grade Rd, Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Friday, October 8

9:00 am – 3:00 pm Registration and hospitality (except during lunch)

10:00 am – 11:00 am Presentation: Thinking and Playing Music — Intentional Strategies for
Optimal Practice and Performance
Dr. Sheryl Iott, Lansing, Michigan

11:15 am – 12:15 pm Presentation: Lesser-Known Intermediate Repertoire for the Advancing
Pianist
Gary Mullenax, NCTM, Martinsburg, West Virginia

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm *Lunch On Your Own*

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Presentation: Leveling Piano Music by Black Composers
Dr. Leah Claiborne, Washington D.C.

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm Presentation: How to Foster Wellness and Health in Performing and Visual
Artists
Alicia Amado, Sarena Hernandez, Nic Keller, Becca Leonard
Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm General Membership Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Banquet in the McCoy Rehearsal Room (dinner buffet style). Awards
Ceremony will follow.

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Featured Guest Artist Recital with Andrew Sords, violin and Johan Botes,
piano
Frank Arts Theatre

Saturday, October 9

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Masterclass with Guest Artist Andrew Sords
Frank Arts Theatre

NOTE: The competition portion of the 2021 WVMTA Conference is taking place online.

Below are short descriptions from our presenters.

"Thinking and Playing Music — Intentional Strategies for Optimal Practice and Performance"

Today's session will explore the cognitive topics that relate to the intermediate musician and demonstrate helpful practice strategies to facilitate efficient and effective practice. Making conscious choices to work in a way that supports the brain's innate functions make practice not only more efficient and effective, but supports the flexibility and security needed for reliable and musically expressive performance.

- Dr. Sheryl Iott

"Lesser-Known Intermediate Repertoire for the Advancing Pianist"

It consists of looking at pedagogically sound intermediate repertoire by composers that may not be as well known, that can develop the advancing pianist both technically and musically.

- Mr. Gary Mullenax, NCTM

"Leveling Piano Music by Black Composers"

Dr. Leah Claiborne will present piano music by Black composers for beginning, intermediate and advanced students. She will discuss the pedagogical benefits to incorporating this important literature into the teaching repertoire and provide resources for locating the scores.

"How to foster wellness and health in performing and visual artists"

The presentation introduces how to foster wellness and health in performing and visual artists through education, clinical services, and research. Learn about Marshall University's Center for Wellness in the Arts, and how your school or studio could introduce similar initiatives.

- Alicia Amado, Sarena Hernandez, Nic Keller, Becca Leonard (CWA Teaching Assistants)

Accommodations

I have reserved blocks of rooms at the Quality Inn in Kearneysville and the Holiday Inn Express in Charles Town. Our usual Clarion Inn in Shepherdstown is currently undergoing renovations until the end of this year. The negotiated conference rates are significantly below the hotels' regular asking prices, so I encourage you to book early. Simply ask for the West Virginia Music Teachers Association rate.

- Quality Inn & Suites (1937 Short Road, Kearneysville, WV 25430)
Phone: 304-263-8888
Conference rate: \$74.99 per night, if booked by September 24, 2021
- Holiday Inn Express (681 Flowing Springs Rd, Ranson, WV 25438)
Phone: 304-725-1330
Conference Rate: \$96 per night, if booked by September 15, 2021

Call for Master Class Participants

If you have advanced string students who would like to perform for our Featured Guest Artist Andrew Sords in the master class on Saturday morning between 10am and noon, please also write to me at japbotes@gmail.com.

Johan Botes, NCTM

Registration Form - WVMTA State Conference October 8-9, 2021
Shepherd University, Shepherdstown WV

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please check all that apply and send this printed copy with a check payable to WVMTA to:

Johan Botes, School of Music, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755

_____ \$35 WVMTA Member Registration Fee (by September 17th postmark)

_____ \$40 Non-Member Registration Fee

_____ \$15 Student Members of MTNA or NAFME

_____ \$20 WVMTA Banquet and Awards Ceremony (dinner will be served in the McCoy Rehearsal room on Shepherd University's campus and will be a "Grilled Salmon in a Moroccan Herb sauce" including a salad, Italian seasoned green beans, mashed potatoes, and a New York-Style cheesecake, with coffee, water and iced tea.)

_____ I would like to contribute \$_____ to the MTNA Foundation Fund.

_____ **\$ TOTAL (Make check payable to WVMTA)**

The Banquet will be held in the McCoy Rehearsal room on Friday, October 8 at 5:30pm

*Note: Teachers who enter students in the Mountain State Competitions must register for the conference.

2021 WVMTA Convention Program Ads

The WVMTA Board of Directors would like to invite you to consider a donation to the:

2021 West Virginia Music Teachers Association State Conference Program Book.

The 2021 WVMTA Conference will be held at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown on October 8 and 9, 2021. Your donation will provide an opportunity for you to visually display your conviction to the importance of music education in all our lives. Listed below are the prices and instructions for purchase of a range of ads--from full-page to "I'm a Music Education Supporter" one-liner, to be included in our conference program book. WVMTA is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization and all donations to this association are tax deductible. WVMTA reserves the right to accept or deny ads for publishing.

WVMTA Conference Program book ads (please check)

- ___ Full page (4.5" x 8") \$100
- ___ Half page (4.5" x 4") \$55
- ___ Quarter page/Business Card (4.5" x 2") \$30
- ___ Eighth page (2.25" x 2") \$20
- ___ "Music Education Supporter" (one-line listing) \$10

Please provide camera-ready artwork (b/w) or business card. **Deadline: September 24, 2021.** Mail or email (preferred) this signed contract, ad copy, and check (payable to WVMTA) to:

Dr. Johan Botes
Marshall University School of Music
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
E-mail: botes@marshall.edu

Amount of check: _____ (USD)
Name of Advertiser: _____
Contact Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____



Notes from Miles Hemlick, Competitions Chair and First Vice President

Dear fellow WVMTA members,

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our annual conference next month. As always, we hope you will encourage your students to participate in the competitions that align with the state conference. These competitions should be a celebration of the hard work both teacher and student accomplish throughout the year. Please make note of these dates and links:

Competition Deadlines:

MTNA National Competition (State level round):

Application deadline: September 15th, 2021 3:00pm

Venue: Online Video Submission

Application: [Competitions Guidelines](#)

Video Submission Deadline: October 9th, 2021

WVMTA Mountain State Competition:

Application deadline: September 15th, 2021 3:00pm

Venue: Online Video Submission

Application: <https://www.wvmta.org/state-competitions>

Video Submission Deadline: October 9th, 2021

Reminder, all teachers submitting students for the WVMTA Mountain State Competition **must** register for the conference.

Direct any questions to WVMTAcompchair@gmail.com

We're looking forward to hearing the amazing performances from our amazing WV students!

Sincere regards,

Miles Helmick

WVMTA Treasurer's Report, Marie Borillo

On September 1, 2021, our bank account balance was \$31,973.31. The current balance of our 5-year CD is \$11,550.83 and our 1-year CD was valued at \$10,795.36.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Borillo

WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award

August 1st was the deadline to submit nominations for the 2021 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.

The nominating committee is pleased to announce **Ian Jessee** as recipient of the 2021 WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award. Ian has served as WVMTA 1st vice president and competitions chair. He is a professional violinist, award-winning music educator, administrator, and, since summer 2021, the newly appointed Executive Director and CEO of the Huntington Symphony Orchestra. He maintains an active private violin studio and serves as the conductor for the West Virginia Youth Symphony’s (WVYS) middle-tier ensemble, Youth Strings. He formed the Cadet Strings, the youngest string orchestra ensemble tailored for beginner students within the WVYS after cultivating a robust Elementary School Strings Program throughout Kanawha County in Charleston, West Virginia through the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and Kanawha County Board of Education joint String Education Program. He received his formal training in violin performance at The Ohio State University. We are grateful for Ian Jessee’s abundant involvement in string education in the State of West Virginia and congratulate him to this well-deserved award!



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 Boeoy |
| 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 |

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. 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."

Dr. Jacob Womack joined WVMTA in 2007 and has been active as president-elect 2013-2015, president 2015-2017, and as immediate past president 2017-2019. He served as Certification Commissioner of the MTNA Eastern Division 2019-2021, and he is nominated as WVMTA treasurer for the 2021-2023 term. Jacob teaches Piano Pedagogy, Applied Piano, and Introduction to Music as assistant professor at Concord University. He received the MTNA Star Award for demonstrating excellence as a graduate teaching assistant in 2009 and, as an undergraduate student, the first prize in the West Virginia Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) "Young Artist Competition",



representing the state in the MTNA Eastern regional competition. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance from West Virginia University, a Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from The Pennsylvania State University, and a Bachelor in Music Education from West Virginia University. His teachers include Dr. James Miltenberger, Dr. Steven Smith, and Marylène Dosse. Please join in thanking Dr. Womack for his dedicated leadership and continued service to WVMTA. Congratulations!

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 |

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

The scholarship committee is pleased to announce **Devoyne Montgomery** as recipient of the AAAMS scholarship. Devoyne was recommended by his piano teacher, DeNeil Hartley. He also studies the cello with Steven Schumann and takes part in a variety of musical activities, for instance performing bass guitar on his church's lead worship team and in the junior praise band. Devoyne is a junior at Paul Blazer High School in Ashland, KY. According to his teacher, Devoyne is one of two children in "a family that invests as they are able in their son's musical dreams. This scholarship will provide nearly two full semesters of applied lessons for Devoyne."

We cordially congratulate Devoyne, his teachers, and everyone else who applied for the scholarship. We wish you all the very best in your musical endeavors. Please keep WVMTA abreast of your life and your music!

Henning Vauth
President, WVMTA

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

- In view of the 2021-2022 membership year, using the month of April as a starting point, according to dues paid during April 1 – July 31, 2021, WVMTA confirms 51 total members, 5 of whom are collegiate.
- Membership updates during June 1 – July 31, 2021:
 - WVMTA welcomes Christopher Engel as a new member from Charleston, WV. Christopher specializes in piano, accompanying, organ, choir, and church music.
 - Gary Mullenax added Maryland State Music Teachers' Association as well as Frederick County (MD) Music Teachers' Association to his membership.
 - WVMTA welcomes Dr. Carline Waugh as a reinstating member from Huntington, WV. Dr. Waugh specializes in voice and pedagogy.
 - WVMTA welcomes Sianna Nora King as a new collegiate member from Shepherd University. Sianna specializes in piano.
- If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership to WVMTA for the 2021-22 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

Eastern Panhandle MTA/District VI Report:

During the meeting last month, we voted approve to set aside \$300 (Dr. Beard memorial scholarship) on a continuing budgetary basis for student with financial needs and collegiate scholarships to cover tuition and membership fees. Member teachers must submit a nomination for student scholarships to Dr. Liao no later than the end of August. Any money remaining in the collegiate scholarships after payment of their membership fees may be used to augment professional development activities for the collegiate chapter.

For the Fall Festival and Winter Recitals this semester, EPMTA will determinate later whether to host zoom recitals or in-person.

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

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