



West Virginia Music Teachers Association

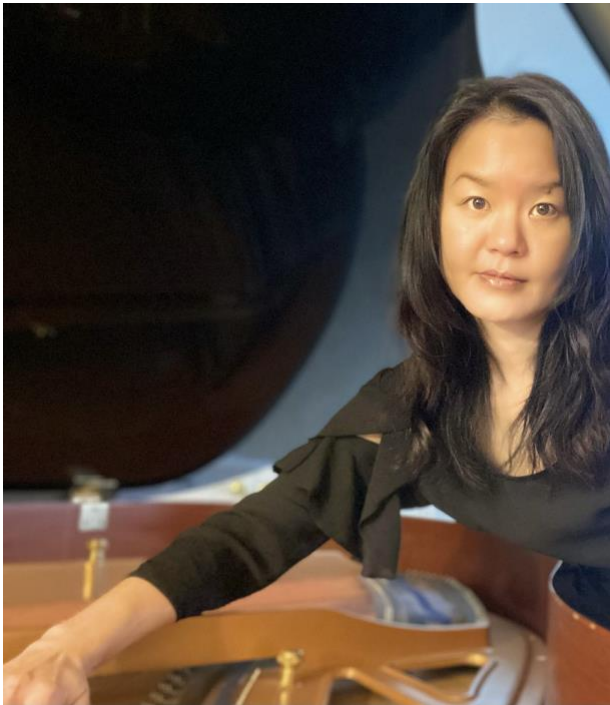
**Affiliated with Music
Teachers National
Association**



www.wvmta.org **WVMTA News Volume 59, Issue 3, June 2024**

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! I, myself, just came back from a trip back from my home country Taiwan where I haven't visited since the pandemic. It was lovely to catch up with my family and friends, and to enjoy countless delicious foods and drinks!



Don't forget to plan on attending the State Conference in the Fall during October 11-12, 2024, at Shepherd University with the competitions taking place October 12. President-Elect Daniel Bellamy is doing a fantastic job organizing the conference and it will be well worth your time to travel to Shepherdstown to enjoy the sessions, guest artist, and of course the networking with your fellow state music teachers. This year's conference also includes a commissioned composer, Dr. Stefan Swanson, who is on the faculty of Shepherd University.

The WVMTA board has been working on updating the WVMTA Student Performance Plan, we will post it on our website in the upcoming fall.

Please note the Teachers of the Year nominations deadline has been extended to August 31st. Please email your nominations to YLIAO@shepherd.edu.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and hope to see you at the Fall Conference in Shepherdstown!

Best wishes,
Yuhsuan Liao
President, WVMTA

Notes from President--Elect, Daniel Bellamy

The 2024 WVMTA State Conference will be held in person at Shepherd University on October 11-12. A big thank you goes to Yuhsuan Liao for being site coordinator and Miles Helmick for being competition coordinator!

Guest Artist Concert

I am excited to announce that we will host Billboard #1 Dr. Joshua Wright as our Featured Guest Artist. He will be performing an evening recital on Friday, October 11, and he'll conduct a piano master class on Saturday morning, October 12.

“Billboard #1 artist **Dr. Josh Wright** has delighted audiences across the United States and in Europe. The *Washington Post* described him as a pianist possessing “rarer gifts – touch, intelligence and the ability to surprise.”. His work in the field of online music teaching and performance has reached over 175,000 subscribers and nearly 20 million views. Josh is a listed Steinway Artist. He was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame in October 2019. “

Please check out his full biography and impressive body of content on his website and YouTube Channel:

<https://www.joshwrightpiano.com/>
www.youtube.com/@joshwrightpiano

Presentations

We will also enjoy three diverse presentations. Stay tuned for more information about our guests and their presentations!

1. Dr. Michael Langer (SC): Limestone University
“Improvisation as Political Resistance: Frederic Rzewski’s “North American Ballads”
2. Nicole DiPaolo (IN): Indiana University
“Teaching the Hypermobile Piano Student”
3. Felicia Zhang (CT): President, Connecticut State Music Teachers Association
“New Century Piano/Music Teaching in Business A-Z”

Accommodations

I have reserved blocks of rooms at the Holiday Inn in Charles Town. The hotel is 15 minutes away from the Shepherd University campus.

Holiday Inn Express (681 Flowing Springs Rd, Ranson, WV 25438)
Phone: 304-725-1330 Conference Rate: \$139 per night (+tax)
Must book by 9/10/24

Booking link: <https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=event-facilities&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=CWVSR& PMID=99801505&GPC=MTTC&cn=no&viewfullsite=true> If book via phone, mention WVMTA.

Call for Master Class Participants

If you have advanced students who would like to perform for our Featured Guest Artist Dr. Josh Wright in the master class, please also write to me at danielsbell97@me.com. Stay tuned for the online conference registration form, we will post it on the WVMTA website and email to the members in the coming weeks. Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference!!

Daniel Bellamy
President-Elect

WVMTA Treasurer's Report, Bruce Rous

As of June 15, 2024, our bank account balance is \$29,612.85. The current balance on our 5-year CD is \$11,436.92 and our 1-year CD valued at \$10,781.07.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Rous

WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award

August 31st is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2024 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 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 Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Lee |
| 2023 Robert Ellis | 2024 |

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). 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 | 2025 |

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.

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.

*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 for more information.

Notes from the Membership Chair, Dr. Jerry Lee

- With view to the 2024-2025 membership year, using the month of April 2024 as a starting point, according to dues paid during April 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024, WVMTA confirms 25 members, including one collegiate member.
- Though the number above may seem low, for sure, the total membership numbers will increase significantly over the next several months.
- Membership updates from April 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024:
 - WVMTA welcomes Francesco Domenico Pisaturo as a new active member. Francesco is from South Charleston, WV and specializes in voice 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
- 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

Morgantown MTA/District I Report:

District One Theory Test was held on Friday, March 22, 2024, at the College of Creative Arts, WVU. 28 students participated in the event and successfully passed the test. Participating teachers include Mary Morrison, Karen Taddie, Natalia Liston, Tatyana Heis, and Hooi Yin Boey.

Spring Adjudicated Performances was held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, in Bloch Hall and Falbo Theatre, at the College of Creative Arts, WVU. 48 students participated in the event. Brittany Blair, Adjunct Instructor at WVU School of Music, and John Morrison, Assistant Professor at Fairmont State University, were the adjudicators. Participating teachers include Mary Morrison, Karen Taddie, Natalia Liston, Tatyana Heis, Yiwen Zhang, and Hooi Yin Boey.

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The following 10 students participated in and successfully passed The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Exams online in Spring 2024 and in-person on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the College of Creative Arts, WVU:

- Carter Chapman (student of Karen Taddie) - Grade 1 Piano Practical Exam
- Vedhik Venkatesh (student of Mary Morrison) - Grade 1 Piano Practical Exam
- Jude Al-Qudah (student of Natalia Liston) - Grade 2 Piano Practical Exam
- Shelby Basden (student of Mary Morrison) - Grade 2 Piano Practical Exam
- Emma Liu (student of Hooi Yin Boey) - Grade 5 Piano Practical Exam
- Tony Buckley (student of Mary Morrison) - Grade 5 Cello Practical Exam
- Lucy Sarkisian (student of Tatyana Heis) - Grade 6 Piano Practical Exam
- Ethan Liu (student of Hooi Yin Boey) - Grade 7 Piano Practical Exam
- Sebastian Duenas-Diaz (student of Tatyana Heis) - Grade 7 Piano Practical Exam
- Mailey Jackson (student of Tatyana Heis) - Grade 8 Piano Practical Exam



*Spring Adjudicated Performances, Bloch Hall, May 4, 2024*



*Spring Adjudicated Performances, Bloch Hall, May 4, 2024*



*Spring Adjudicated Performances, Falbo Theatre, May 4, 2024*



*Spring Adjudicated Performances, Falbo Theatre, May 4, 2024*

**Dr. Hooi Yin Boey, Chair**



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

District 2 hosted a well-attended spring adjudication on May 18 at the Historic Waldomore in Clarksburg WV. Dr. Miltenberger adjudicated twenty-four students in total between the 10:45 and 1:30 recitals. Five instructors in the district prepared students for this event: Allison Bishop, Robert Ellis, DeAnn LoCasto, John Morrison, and Rayme Pullen.

Two students earned their first trophy with six points: Zofia Palko (Rayme Pullen's student), and Flavia Paul (Allison Bishop's student). We are so proud of these students for their dedication and participation in district events!

We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Miltenberger for his excellent work as an adjudicator. His comments and ratings were encouraging and constructive to our students.

As the student and instructor participation in district 2 continues to increase, the district chair is hopeful that we will have increased participation in the fall festival, testing events, and state-level competitions.

**Rayme Pullen, Chair**



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

District 3 held their Theory Test on Saturday, March 2. Eighteen students participated from two studios.

Our Spring Adjudication was held on Saturday, April 20. Again, Eighteen students from two studios participated. Dr. Johan Botes was our adjudicator.

**Vicki Cavendish, Chair**

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



WVMTA Mid-Ohio Valley district 4 held Theory and Technique tests for 11 students of Laura Hamm and Barbara Heckert.

Spring Performances were held at Trinity Episcopal Church. Fourteen students of Laura Hamm and Amy Rice participated. Merewyn Weinkauff was the adjudicator. First trophies were awarded to four students.



**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:

The **Spring recital** (our district event) was held on April 22, 2024 at the Old Opera House, located in Charles Town, WV. A total of 46 students participated (Anderson, Mullenax, Coyle, Rickman, and Signety studios).

**The Spring Adjudication** was held on May 18th, 2024, at the Fellowship Bible Church in Shenandoah Junction, WV.



16 students participated (Mullenax, Anderson, Loy, Coyle studios) in the event. Dr. Francesca Hust from Northern Virginia served as our Adjudicator. She possesses a DMA and MM in Piano Performance from the Catholic University of America.

### **The following participants received superior ratings:**

Students of Gary Mullenax:  
Lila Hayes (Jr-A), Clara Saville (Jr-A)  
and Grace Young (Jr-B).

Students of Jenny Anderson:  
Aurora Mallavaarachchi (Jr-A), Nellie  
Gamage (Jr-A), Anastacia Marshall (Jr-A),  
Cadence Edleblute (Jr-B).

**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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