



# *West Virginia Music Teachers Association*

**Affiliated with Music Teachers  
National Association**



**[www.wvmta.org](http://www.wvmta.org) WVMTA News Volume 59, Issue 1, January 2024**

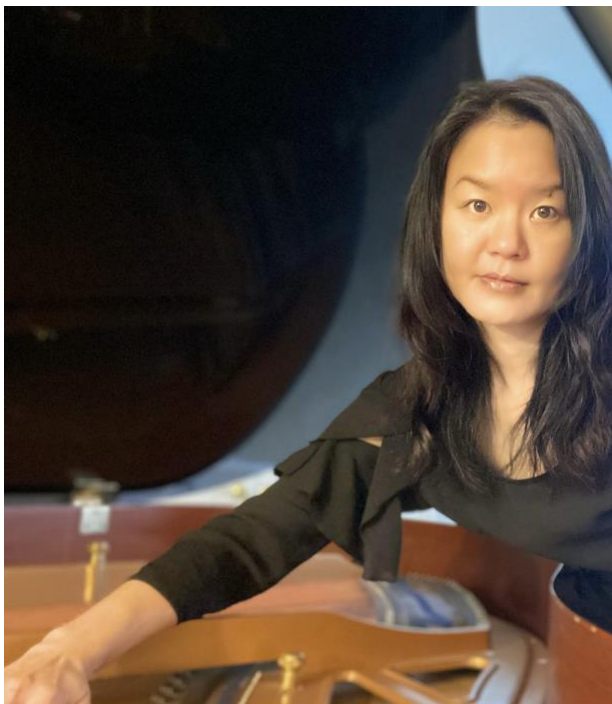
## ***Notes from the President, Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, NCTM***

Happy New Year, fellow WVMTA members!

Our 2023 WVMTA conference at Marshall University was well received—we enjoyed a stellar featured guest artist recital and masterclass with Andrew Staupé, and some interesting presentations given by guests Dr. Thomas Swenson, Narciso Solero, and Dr. Agnieszka Zick.

I want to say “thank you” to everybody who made the 2022 WVMTA Conference a success, especially Dr. Henning Vauth and Immediate Past President Dr. Johan Botes as site coordinators and Miles Helmick as competitions chair for all their hard work, and to Marshall University for the use of their facilities and for accommodating us during the regular teaching schedule.

Congratulations to our two 2023 honorees Robert Ellis, Teacher of the Year, and Dr. Henning Vauth, Distinguished Leader of the Year. Our organizations would not be successful without the many years of service members like Robert and Henning devote to the cause.



I will be traveling to Atlanta for the MTNA National Conference and hope some of you can join me. It will take place at the Hilton Atlanta Downtown on March 16-20, 2024.

I wish all of you a musically fulfilling year and look forward to seeing you soon!

Yu-Hsuan Liao, NCTM  
WVMTA President

## ***Notes from President--Elect, Daniel Bellamy***

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The 2023 WVMTA conference was resounding success, and I cannot thank everyone involved enough for their hard work putting everything together. A special thank you goes out to Marshall University for the use of their facilities, Dr. Johan Botes for his incredible work as site coordinator, Miles Helmick for coordinating an outstanding competition, and to Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao for all her hard work planning the conference!

As we break into the new year, the work begins on planning the 2024 WVMTA conference at Shepherd University. Be sure to stay tuned for more updates throughout the coming months!

Please contact me at [daniel.bellamy@wvstateu.edu](mailto:daniel.bellamy@wvstateu.edu) with any session topic suggestions that you would like to see at the conference, or if you are interested in presenting.

Happy New Year and best wishes to all!

Daniel Bellamy, WVMTA President-Elect

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## ***WVMTA Treasurer's Report, Bruce Rous***

As of January 14, 2024, our bank account balance is \$29,046.73. The current balance of our 5-year CD is \$11,436.92 and our 1-year CD valued at \$10,781.07.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Rous

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## ***MTNA and WVMTA Competitions Results MTNA WV Competition Results***

***Miles Hemlick, WV Competitions Chair and  
First Vice President***

## Results of 2023 State Competitions WVMTA Mountain State / MTNA State Level

Mountain State Performance WVMTA					
Number	Division	Instrument	Student	Place	Instructor
1	Elementary B	Piano	Danny Flanagan	Honorable Mention	Juliana Yap
2	Elementary B	Piano	Walker Boh Lin	Honorable Mention	Juliana Yap
3	Elementary B	Piano	Avery M. Akers	Runner Up	Vicki Cavendish
4	Elementary B	Piano	Evan Wu	First Place	Juliana Yap
1	Junior High	Piano	Grace Lu	First Place	Gary L. Mullenax
2	Junior High	Piano	Juliet Owunna	Runner Up	Gary Mullenax
3	Junior High	Piano	Hope Wu	Honorable Mention	Vicki Cavendish
4	Junior High	Piano	Bailee King	Honorable Mention	Vicki Cavendish
5	Junior High	Piano	Eleanor Elbakidze		Juliana Yap
6	Junior High	Piano	Riya Zinn		Juliana Yap
7	Junior High	Piano	Tali Bennett		Vicki Cavendish
8	Junior High	Piano	Owen Lorimer		Juliana Yap
9	Junior High	Piano	Simon Scanlon		Juliana Yap
1	Senior High	Piano	Brandon Lu	First Place	Gary L. Mullenax
2	Senior High	Piano	Emily Nguyen	Honorable Mention	Juliana Yap
3	Senior High	Piano	Keely Taylor		Juliana Yap
4	Senior High	Piano	Callum Lorimer		Juliana Yap
1	Collegiate	Piano	Charles Stonestreet		Henning Vauth
2	Collegiate	Piano	Calvin Riggs	First Place	Henning Vauth
3	Collegiate	Piano	Dylan P. Morgan	Honorable Mention	Henning Vauth
MTNA Performance					
1	Senior Performance	Piano	Soleil Sarah Gloss	Representative	Vicki Cavendish
1	Young Artist Performance	Piano	Azalea Kelley	First Place	Lucy Mauro
2	Young Artist Performance	Piano	Zirui Peng		Peter Amstutz
3	Young Artist Performance	Piano	Ryan Richard Walker	Runner Up	Lucy Mauro
Mountain State Composition WVMTA					
1	Elementary A	Composition	Morgan Cashman	First Place	Yevgeniya Jenny Anderson
1	Elementary B	Composition	Lila Brynne Sowards	First Place	Rayme Pullen
2	Elementary B	Composition	Rebecca Gilhooly	Runner Up	Yevgeniya Jenny Anderson
3	Elementary B	Composition	Jonathan Gilhooly		Yevgeniya Jenny Anderson
1	Junior High	Composition	Colton Labenske		Yevgeniya Jenny Anderson
2	Junior High	Composition	Magda Palko		Rayme Pullen
3	Junior High	Composition	Autumn Gilhooly	Runner Up	Ms. Yevgeniya Jenny Anderson
4	Junior High	Composition	Cecelia White	First Place	Yevgeniya Jenny Anderson
1	Senior High	Composition	KateLin Zappe	Runner Up	Yevgeniya Jenny Anderson
2	Senior High	Composition	Jenna Gilhooly	First Place	Ms. Yevgeniya Jenny Anderson
3	Senior High	Composition	Addison Smith		Yevgeniya Jenny Anderson

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

August 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Booey
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

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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	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 8, and selections will be made by the WVMTA Budget Committee by August 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 1.
- 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 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](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 [jwomack@concord.edu](mailto:jwomack@concord.edu) for more information.

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

- With view to the new 2023-2024 membership year, using the month of April 2023 as a starting point, according to dues paid during April 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023, WVMTA confirms 66 total members, 8 of whom are collegiate.
- Membership updates from September 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023:
  - WVMTA welcomes Bruce Rous as a reinstating member. Bruce is from Catlettsburg, KY and specializes in piano, voice, and music theory.
  - WVMTA welcomes Yiwen Zhang as a reinstating member and transferring member from New Jersey. Yiwen is from Montevallo, AL and specializes in piano and accompanying.

- WVMTA welcomes Deanna Ruth Crowe as a new member. Deanna is from Ironton, OH and specializes in voice.
  - WVMTA welcomes Mark Reinhardt as a new member. Mark is from Minford, OH and specializes in piano and voice.
  - WVMTA welcomes James Newsome as a reinstating collegiate member. James is from Huntington, WV and specializes in piano.
  - WVMTA welcomes collegiate member, Calvin Riggs, adding memberships in both WVMTA as well as District 5 Huntington MTA. Calvin is from Ashland, KY and specializes in piano and oboe.
  - WVMTA welcomes Josiah Alexander Wransky as a new collegiate member. Josiah is from Huntington, WV and specializes in piano.
- If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership to WVMTA for the 2023-2024 year.
- Do you know someone who would benefit from MTNA membership? Now is the time to introduce prospective members to MTNA with a trial membership! Between now and June 30, anyone joining for the first time as an active member will receive 50% off national dues. The new membership year will begin July 1, so new members should take advantage of this promotion now to get the most value. Your colleagues can join online at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). The website will reflect the pro-rated amount automatically for new members. Thank you for your support in growing and strengthening MTNA!
- 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](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

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## ***Districts Reports***

### **Morgantown MTA/District I Report:**

District One Technique Test was held on Friday, November 17, 2023, at the College of Creative Arts, WVU. 39 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.

50 students participated in the Fall Festival "World Music" on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at the Grand Hall, WVU Museum Education Center. At this event, the students prepared and delivered an introductory speech, as well as performed a literature. Participating teachers include Mary Morrison, Karen Taddie, Natalia Liston, Tatyana Heis, and Hooi Yin Boey.

The upcoming Theory Testing will be held on Friday, March 22, 2024, and Spring Adjudicated Performances will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at the College of Creative Arts, WVU.

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The following students participated in The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Exams in Fall 2023:

Kacen Lin, student of Yiwen Zhang, successfully passed Grade 2 Piano Practical Exam.

Emily Liu, student of Yiwen Zhang, successfully passed Grade 6 Piano Practical Exam.

Elliot Jackson, student of Tatyana Heis, successfully passed Grade 8 Piano Practical Exam.

Jude Al-Qudah, student of Natalia Liston, was the State Award Winner in Level 1 Piano Practical Exam as she received the highest marks for the respective Practical Exam in West Virginia in 2023.

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The following students competed in MTNA and WVMTA Competitions in November 2023, at Marshall University:

Mountain State Elementary Piano - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Evan Wu (student of Juliana Yap)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Walker Lin (student of Juliana Yap)

Honorable Mention: Danny Flanagan (student of Juliana Yap)

Mountain State Junior High Piano - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Emily Nguyen (student of Juliana Yap)

MTNA Collegiate Piano - Winner: Azalea Kelley (student of Lucy Mauro)

Alternate: Ryan Walker (student of Lucy Mauro)

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Xinhe Xu, Emma Lu, and Xinxi Xu, students of Hooi Yin Boey, were selected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner in their categories respectively in 2024 Elite International Music Competitions. They have been invited to perform at the Winners' Recital in New York City this Spring.





*Fall Festival, November 11, 2023*



*Fall Festival, November 11, 2023*



Fall Festival, November 11, 2023

## Clarksburg MTA/District II Report:



On November 18, 2023 the District II Fall Festival took place at the Historic Waldomore in Clarksburg, WV.

Students from the studios of Robert Ellis, John Morrison, and Rayme Pullen presented solos in various styles—standard classical, contemporary, Broadway, jazz, and two original student compositions.

Two students from Rayme Pullen’s studio entered the Mountain State composition competition: Lila Sowards (elementary) and Magda Palko (junior). Lila Sowards won the elementary

division with her multi-movement composition: “A Fairy Suite”.



After the recital portion of the festival, Dr. James Miltenberger gave a brief presentation on the joy and importance of improvising at the piano. He also graced us with a rousing improvisation of “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”.

Our district is also very proud of long-standing WVMTA member, former District Chair, and 2023 Teacher of the Year: Robert Ellis. He has been active in the association for many years, and he is an exemplary member of WVMTA. This award is well-deserved.

### **Rayme Pullen, Chair**

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

District Three held their Fall Festival on Saturday, December 2. There were 16 students participating from 2 studios, all piano. The Theory Test will be March 2.

The piano Spring Adjudication will be Saturday, April 20. Dr. Botes will serve as our judge.

### **Vicki Cavendish, Chair**

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



EPMTA Winter recital was held on December 9th at the Falling Waters Presbyterian Church, located in Hedgesville, WV. A total of 40 students of Jenny Anderson, Gary Mullenax, Donna Coyle, Melissa Larson, and Natalie Sigety, participated in the event.

Siegel-Hoffman Concerto Competition, founded by the late Dr. Scott Beard (WV State event), was originally scheduled at the Fellowship Bible Church in Shenandoah Junction, WV on January 20, 2024. However, due to the snow, it was rescheduled to January 27, 2024 and held at the Falling Waters Presbyterian Church, located in Hedgesville, WV. This year the event was an uncompetitive festival. A total of 28 of Jenny

Anderson and Gary Mullenax students participated.

Theory and technic testing are scheduled on March 16, 2024 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Williamsport, MD. EPMTA Spring recital will be held on May 4, 2024 at the Old Opera House, located in Charles Town, WV.



Spring Adjudication is scheduled on May 18, 2024 at the Fellowship Bible Church in Shenandoah Junction, WV.

**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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