



WMTA Newsletter

August 2024

Greetings, WMTA Members!

It has been a pleasure serving as your Newsletter Chair this year, and I'm grateful to be a part of this wonderful community of dedicated music teachers. I am continually inspired by the love and commitment I've seen at the events I have had the honor of attending. I hope you are taking this summer to relax, recharge, and enjoy a well-deserved rest!

This newsletter contains a recap of the 2025 school year! Thank you for the chairs for sending me a recap of this year and I've included it in this newsletter!

Looking forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for another inspiring year ahead!.

Warm regards,

Rachel

Rachel Chen, Newsletter Chair, WMTA

****Membership Fee/Renew Membership Reminder** - Please remember to renew your membership by August 31st to ensure you can re-enter events. We encourage you to renew sooner rather than later, ideally one month before the event you wish to enroll your students in.**



Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Following a very busy April and May filled with music events, year-end studio recitals and the start of summer lessons, festivals and special programs, the Washington DC area experienced sweltering heat and humidity in late June/early July, which thankfully has finally given way to more tolerable temperatures. I hope that your summer has been a time of reflection, refreshment and renewal before the start of the new school year - I'm still hoping to catch a bit of the three "r's" myself. Time seems to fly by faster as the years roll by and I can hardly believe that it's already been a year since I assumed the role of President!

WMTA is served by board members who are dedicated to the task of organizing and managing our recitals, competitions and festivals. Looking back on the busy year that was, I am grateful to each and every chair and co-chair for their faithfulness in carrying out their duties to ensure the success of our events. Considering the relatively small size of WMTA (compared to our DMV neighbors), it is remarkable that we are able to provide opportunities for our students to participate in so many meaningful competitive and non-competitive events. No doubt, our students have benefitted from the insights and feedback received from judges' comments.

Looking ahead, as you prepare your students with new repertoire, be reminded that this year we will have two of our biennial competitions: the **Specialty Competition**, featuring music of Eastern Europe (late February), and the **Bach-Baroque Competition** (early April). The **Haydn Sonata Award** will also take place in March. The **MTNA Competitions** and **Modern Piano Music Celebration** will start off the year's calendar of events this Fall.

As they begin the process of college applications, please encourage your graduating Seniors to consider submitting an essay for this year's **Music Essay Award**.

Welcome! New members to our Board include Mary Kading, who has graciously agreed to chair the Specialty Competition, with Dmitri Nazarenko, Co-Chair. Mary will also chair the Essay and Summer Scholarship Awards. Thank you, Mary. Also, please welcome Lindsay Bass who will chair the **Baroque Festival** in March. *We are still in negotiations with venues for our events. Check the website frequently for updates.*

Save the Dates!

- **Sunday, October 6, 2024, 5:00-7:00pm:** We'll kick off the new year with a Potluck Supper/Cocktails at my residence. We'd love to invite new members to join WMTA. Come and bring a friend.
- **Friday, April 25, 2025, 10:00am-1:00pm:** WMTA General Membership Meeting and Potluck Luncheon

I wish you and your loved ones good health, strength and joy, and am looking forward to another memorable year sharing music together. Stay safe. Stay well.

Grace

Grace McFarlane Bottelier, President, WMTA



The WMTA Summer \$500 Scholarship Program 2024 offers scholarship opportunities to music students ages 12 through 18 for intensive music study in workshops and summer programs in the United States. Applicants are evaluated based on video submissions of two contrasting pieces, letters of recommendation, and an essay answering, “How will this scholarship help me?” All scholarship recipients are encouraged to participate in at least one WMTA in-person or virtual event.

This year, four winners were selected by WMTA board members Hedy Bannon and Lori McCarthy to receive \$500 each to help offset the costs of their summer music programs.

Henry Golden, a rising sophomore who studies piano with Dr. Dmitri Nazarenko and clarinet with Ms. Cheryl Hill, will attend the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Music Center’s Young Artists Composition program. This six-week intensive course, led by professional composition professors, will also provide Henry with private piano and clarinet lessons from Boston University professors and Boston Symphony Orchestra members.

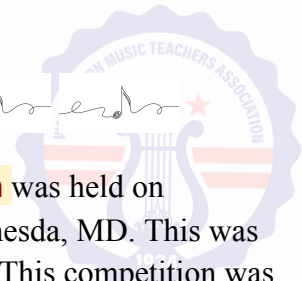
Francesca Cho, age 17, a piano student of Dr. Anastassia Ivanova, will attend two programs this summer: Interlochen Piano Academy at Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan and the Leon Fleischer Academy in Washington, DC. Her goals include forming new bonds with musical peers and faculty and pursuing new chamber music opportunities.

Caroline Su, a rising sophomore and piano student of Ms. Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt, is one of only 20 students invited from across the U.S. to participate in the 2024 Southeastern Piano Festival at the University of South Carolina. There, Caroline will perform in public concerts and compete in the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition.

Layla Johnson, entering her senior year at the Levine School of Music under her teacher Rachel Chen, will expand her musical abilities and perspectives at the Interlochen Intensive Arts Camp for Piano this summer.

Honors Recital concluded the year with a spectacular Honors Recital, as described by the Honors Recital Chair, Yoon Huh. Twelve exceptionally talented young pianists, selected by judges from the 2023-2024 Judged Recitals, delivered mesmerizing performances that captivated the audience.

The recital featured an array of music from composers such as Bach to Schumann, filling the hall with the purest form of joy as the young performers skillfully glided across the keys. The event highlighted the students from the studios of Junko Tahahashi, Silva Blazquez, Mary L. Kading, Douglas Harrington, Nancy Breth, Tzu-Yi Zoe Chen, Patricia Huff-Palumbo, and Stanislav Khristenko.



The 2024 Ylida Novik Memorial Piano Concerto Competition was held on Saturday-Sunday, April 13-14, 2024, at Steinway Piano Gallery, North Bethesda, MD. This was hosted by the Chair, Grace McFarlane and Co-Chair, Nancy O’Neill Breth. This competition was established in recognition of Mrs. Novik, who served as President of WMTA from 1965-1967. A Hungarian-American immigrant, internationally recognized and highly respected pedagogue, author and editor, she contributed generously to musical life in the Washington Metropolitan area. Known for her flaming red hair, kindness, and generosity, she was a true advocate for Bartok's music. Her high-quality teaching, which led to her students excelling in competitions, inspired other teachers and included notable students like Brian Ganz, Jessica Krash, and Ana-Maria Vera.

Since 1981, this biennial competition has recognized and encouraged excellence in piano concerto performance among students in the Washington Metropolitan area. It supports healthy competition, awards monetary prizes, and gives the Senior winner a chance to perform with an orchestra. The competition has two divisions, Junior and Senior, with Juniors performing a concerto movement and Seniors performing a full concerto in the Preliminaries and Finals.

This year’s preliminary competition attracted a field of nineteen competitors. Repertoire submitted included the following concerti: Grieg, Haydn in D, Mendelssohn No.1 in g, Mozart K.413 in F, K.466 in d, K.488 in A, Polunin in a, Prokofiev Nos.1 and 3, Rachmaninoff No.2 in c, Saint-Saens No.2 , and Schumann.

WMTA gratefully acknowledges the longstanding generosity of Paul Sekhri, who has underwritten all prizes and costs for the 2024 Competition in honor of his respected teacher, Mrs. Novik. **Congratulations** to the winners and thanks to all the teachers who participated and prepared their students so well for this year’s competition!

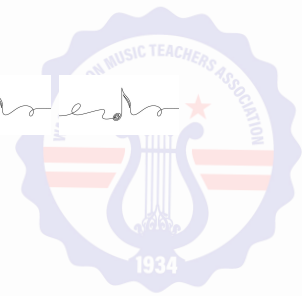
Sophia Lin, student of Dr. Marjorie Lee, 1st prize winner in the Senior Division received an award of \$1,750 plus an invitation to perform as soloist with the Capital City Symphony under the baton of Maestro Victoria Gau in the coming season.

Anna Bray, student of Alexander Shtarkman, was awarded 2nd prize in the Senior Division, and received a monetary award of \$900.

John Samuel, student of Todd Fickley, 1st prize winner in the Junior Division, received an award of \$900 plus the Junior Trophy.

Ethan Chen, student of Patricia Huff-Palumbo, was awarded 2nd prize in the Junior Division and received a monetary award of \$500.

The Finals judges were Michael Adcock, Victoria Gau and Thomas Hecht. The Semifinals were judged by Thomas Hecht, Francesca Hurst and Elissa Miller-Kay. Many thanks to all the wonderful accompanists who supported the students’ concerto performances. See you in 2026!



2025 Upcoming Events

Speciality Competition- Piano Music of Eastern Europe

When: February 22, 2025, 1:00-6:00 pm; St. Columba's Episcopal Church

Repertoire Requirements: One or more piano solo pieces performed from memory by composers from the following countries in alphabetical order: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine.

Divisions: Junior I, Junior II, Intermediate, and Senior

The Chair of this event is Mary Kading and Co-Chair is Dmitri Nazarenko. Please prepare your students for this event. Check the WMTA website for further details closer to February 22, 2025.

If you'd like to contribute to our next newsletter, we welcome your submissions! Please reach out to me at rchen@levinmusic.org to share your updates, studio achievements, or any content you'd like featured.