



# NOTES & NEWS

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COLORADO STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

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PRODUCTION EDITOR: [DR. ENEIDA LARTI](#)

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF NOTES & NEWS IS DECEMBER 1, 2023.

## Why Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Matters to Me

by Chee-Hwa Tan  
Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

### THE MUSIC STAND

COMPILED BY BEN RAZNICK, VP FOR TEACHER ENRICHMENT  
THIS COLUMN ADDRESSES TOPICS PERTINENT TO ALL MUSICIANS—SINGERS, INSTRUMENTALISTS, AND PIANISTS.



Studying piano as a little girl in Malaysia, I recall falling in love with how music brought me comfort and made me feel more whole. "I'll be a composer!" was my first thought.

Unfortunately, the only music I knew and loved was by such composers as Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, and Chopin. My conclusion: "Women must not be very good composers..."

In addition, I thought a composer had to have been dead for at least fifty years to be considered a "real" composer, and they obviously had to be of European heritage. The chips were clearly stacked against me!

I then considered being an orchestra director. Alas, from my limited knowledge of conductors, it seemed that men were better than women at waving their hands frantically in front of a group of musicians as well. Ever pragmatic, I finally concluded, "I guess I'll just have to be a pianist."

Years later, I have since made an amazing discovery: the ability to make beautiful music is not limited by gender or ethnicity, and it's not restricted to historical figures. Even more important, I would not be who I am and where I am today if not for the gift of getting access to the music lessons that changed my life.

Growing up in a rural area, in a developing country in the 60's and 70's, one did not have easy access to classical music study and its resources. All through my teen years, finding an advanced piano teacher or accessing the only flute teacher in the region involved a weekly 6-hour round trip on a public bus by myself, across states. However, I was one of the extremely fortunate ones. Families who lived in even more remote areas, with lower incomes, or with physical or intellectual needs, would have never dreamed of the access to music study that I received.

In my elementary school years, I was a member of a traditional "Angklung" band. An *Anklung* is a single-pitched

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DR. ANDREW COOPERSTOCK, NCTM, CSMTA PRESIDENT

## Welcome!



Welcome to Fall and to the new school year! At press time, President-Elect Emily Book McGree and I will have just returned from the MTNA Leadership Summit held each year in Cincinnati. We will have met with national and divisional officers and representatives from each state in order to learn

more about the organization and to exchange valuable ideas. I especially enjoy the meetings of our West Central Division and of states anywhere of similar size, with whom we have so much in common.

I know you're looking forward to the variety of activities our state and local associations hold throughout the year—Rising Stars Festival, Concerto Competition, Achievement Day, and more—and culminating in our national and state conferences. This is a reminder that our state conference will move in 2024 to Fall to coincide with next year's MTNA state competitions. Please mark your calendars for October 18-19 at CSU Pueblo. Your board hopes that this change will result in a renewed inspiration to participate in this important and rewarding event. With a strong desire to welcome a wide variety of presenters from across the state, especially collegiate members, the organizers have already begun brainstorming exciting programming ideas, and they welcome your input! It's not too early to send your comments to me and to Vice President for Conferences, Christine Ortega, so please feel free.

We also invite you to share ideas with our wonderful new Vice President for DEI, Chee-Hwa Tan with whom I recently had an inspiring brunch meeting at the Broadmoor, considering

ways that CSMTA can better serve all its members, and how it might reach out to students of all types and abilities throughout our state. Please look for more from Chee-Hwa in this issue and beyond.

Finally, the beginning of a new year seems an auspicious time to review our CSMTA mission statement proudly stated on our homepage (<https://comusicteachers.net>):

“The mission of Colorado State Music Teachers Association, an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association, is to promote music study and music making by supporting the professionalism of its members through education, advocacy, and community. We are committed to the highest standards of music teaching, and we encourage our members to inspire enthusiasm within our students, to nurture artistry, musicianship, and creativity, to strengthen our shared and welcoming musical community with kindness and respect, and to continue to grow professionally.”

With a fresh start to the year, please ask yourselves: Will my students participate in the Rising Stars Festival, Concerto Competition, or Achievement Day? Will I explore unfamiliar music with my students, or prepare a special program for my local association? Will I accept an invitation to office? Will I attend our state or national conferences? Will I seek certification?

If you haven't done so already, please be sure to renew your membership, and please continue to read Notes & News and look for us on social media.

I wish each of you a healthy, happy, successful, inspiring year ahead!

*Dr. Andrew Cooperstock, NCTM  
CSMTA President*

## UPCOMING CSMTA BOARD MEETINGS

Saturday, January 13, 2024

&amp;

Saturday, April 13, 2024

1:00PM via ZOOM

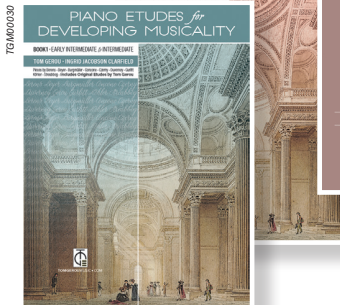
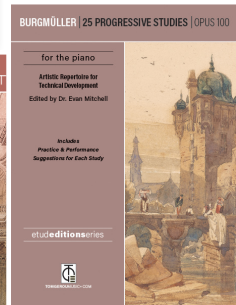
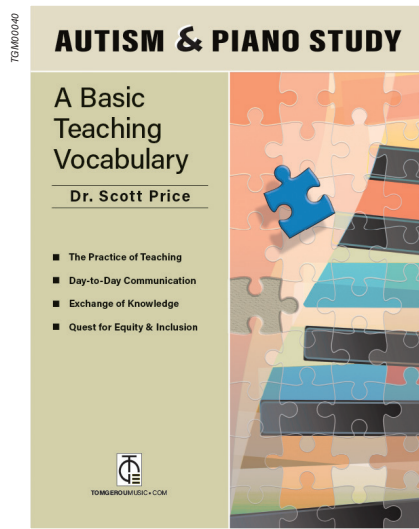
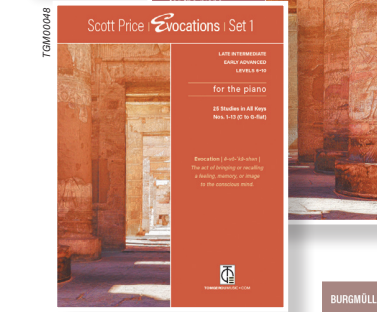
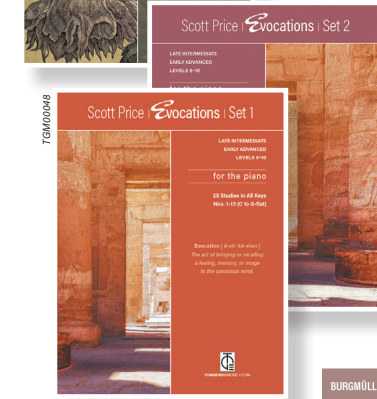
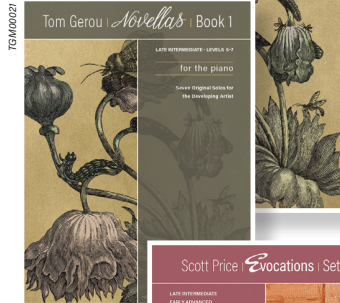
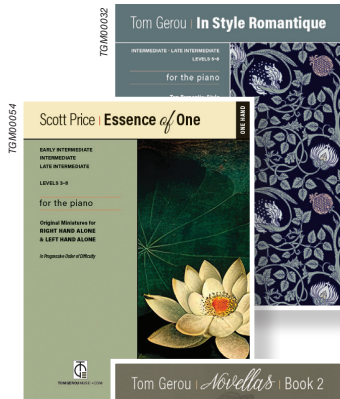
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## REACHING OUT

FERNANDA NIETO, CSMTA COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR



Community is the first part of community outreach. As teachers, we know the importance of this word because everything we do has to do with establishing a connection to others. In our formative years, our relationship with our teachers is essential. Later on, we rely on our peers for feedback, validation and advice. Throughout our careers, we build upon the expertise of those who have come before us. We learn and thrive by building connections and community. I know this to be true in my professional life as well because I experienced it at the many teacher associations, conferences and professional events I attended last year.

Connections and meaningful collaborations are the thread holding us together as professionals, and more importantly, as human beings. The importance of social connectedness for our health is underlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention: “Research shows that social connectedness can lead to longer life, better health, and improved well-being.”<sup>1</sup> The sense of belonging we build through our connection to others is paramount for our brain to feel safe. Being part of a community that supports us through good times and bad can help prevent serious illnesses such as dementia or depression.

It can also help us recover from daily stress and anxiety, promoting sleep and a better quality of life.

Having a strong sense of community makes our health better. Think about the importance of this in our own studios. The sense of belonging and safety we create for our students correlates directly with their well-being, their health and their learning abilities. It can, in turn, inspire them to give back to the community as well. The interactions we foster between our students during group classes, the environment we create for them as they learn and our own capacity for authentic connections are the building blocks for an engaged studio.

During one of the many conversations I had last year, a community organizer I spoke with said: “I know there is a path forward and I know we will find it by connecting to each other.” As our schedules fill up and we get caught up in the hustle of life, we should be intentional about our connection with those around us, especially students. This is where community engagement begins. Cultivating safety and belonging in our studios will create a ripple effect for which the whole community will thank us.

<sup>1</sup> National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health Link. Accessed August 27, 2023.

## THE MUSIC STAND

COMPILED BY BEN RAZNICK, VP FOR TEACHER ENRICHMENT

THIS COLUMN ADDRESSES TOPICS PERTINENT TO ALL MUSICIANS—SINGERS, INSTRUMENTALISTS, AND PIANISTS.

## Why Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Matters to Me

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bamboo instrument that resonates when shaken. Each player is responsible for just one pitch, shaking their instrument at appropriate times to produce complete melodies. I like to think that my “talent” was the reason I was given responsibility for two pitches, “fa” and “fa-sharp!” However, truth be told, each player was of value and needed to be heard, to bring any folk song to fruition. Looking back, participation in this unique band where I was exposed to traditional Malaysian folk songs was a precious gift. This rich musical heritage risks being forgotten by future generations with the prioritization of western music and songs.

To me, having variety (diversity), giving value to each person (equity), and advocating for opportunities and resources for children and adults who might otherwise never experience the power of music (inclusion), makes me more whole as a person and as a musician. When my children were growing up, we

regularly took instruments to the Salvation Army homeless shelter, doing early childhood classes with moms and children who were there in unimaginable life circumstances. It was a lesson about the power of music—one that impacted us as much as those who we served.

I share all this to explain why DEI matters to me. I am honored by CSMTA’s trust in choosing me for this new position, and I look forward to laying the foundation for how it approaches diversity, equity, and inclusion in music study with the needs of the individual in mind. It is important to me that this is a process that honors and values each student and teacher and that we advocate for those who would not otherwise have access to the opportunities and resources in this field we love. Like the *anklung* band, it will take each of us caring and working together to produce a beautiful and complete melody!

## INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHER FORUM

LEILA VISS, IMTF CHAIR

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE CHAIR IS TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON TIMELY TOPICS FOR INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS SUCH AS BENEFITS, INSURANCES, LEGALITIES AND BUSINESS. LET ME KNOW YOUR SUGGESTIONS OR QUESTIONS FOR FUTURE TOPICS AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO ADDRESS THEM.



Were you a *Piano Explorer Magazine* fan and disappointed to learn that they stopped publication in June 2021? If so, you will be pleased to learn that the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy has recently released a similar magazine called *Piano Inspires Kids*. The quarterly publication is aimed at pianists aged 8-14 and features articles

on composers, musicians, and music styles. It also provides opportunities for students to connect with each other around the world by inviting them to submit questions, ideas, poetry, art, and videos of their musical performances.

The inaugural issue of the magazine contains an excellent article on the music of Alberto Ginastera, written by Alejandro Cremaschi, Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Colorado and past president at CSMTA. The two-page spread provides insightful information, including a colorful timeline of the composer's life, a listening guide, and even a QR code that links to a video of Cremaschi playing Ginastera's "12 American Preludes." Although many of us may never teach students ages 8 to 14 to play these preludes, the article broadens pianists'

knowledge of music beyond the traditional classical canon. The article's digestible tidbits make it valuable for anyone who plays Ginastera's music.

Magazine editors Sara Ernst and Andrea McAlister oversee the curricular ideas that are intended to enrich your teaching of young pianists. Although it's for kids, the content is not childish, and musicians of all ages will find it interesting. Many teachers have saved decades of *Piano Explorer Magazine* issues due to the high-quality articles and the community it offers. I predict that *Piano Inspires Kids* is of equal value, and each issue will be a worthwhile addition to your reference library and a potentially unique community for your students.

Group subscriptions are available, so you could order one for each piano family and add the cost to their annual book fee. There's an option to send all the magazines to one address (your studio) or directly to students' homes. Another option is to purchase a studio subscription and place the magazine near the door of your studio so that students who arrive early have something to read while they wait for their lesson. I'm looking forward to creating lesson plans based on the theory and improvisation activities.

Subscribe at <https://kids.pianoinspires.com>.



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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

## CSMTA Music Business Partners

Partnership week was celebrated from August 28 through September 4. With a Facebook post and e-mail blast, we connected with teachers in the community who benefited from the many businesses participating in this important collaboration. Many of the teachers highlighted the importance of these businesses' efforts:

"As piano teachers, these businesses are an invaluable resource for me and my students."

"Student competitions, exams, master classes, beautiful halls for students' recitals and teachers' meetings... these places offer all with the utmost friendliness and professionalism."

"We are so incredibly fortunate to have several excellent piano stores in our area!"

Many thanks to our wonderful 2023-2024 business partners:

Boulder Piano Gallery [boulderpianogallery.com](http://boulderpianogallery.com)

Calliope Music Studios [www.calliopemusicstudios.org](http://www.calliopemusicstudios.org)

Classic Pianos [denver.classicpianos.net](http://denver.classicpianos.net)

Lamont School of Music Piano Preparatory Program

<https://liberalarts.du.edu/lamont/content/lamont-piano-preparatory-program>

Rockley Music [rockleymusic.com](http://rockleymusic.com)

Schmitt Music <https://www.schmittmusic.com/stores/denver/>

Submitted by Fernanda Nieto, CSMTA Grants Chair

## CSMTA State Conference Date Moved to Fall, 2024

A reminder that our state conference will move in 2024 to Fall to coincide with next year's MTNA state competitions. Please mark your calendars for October 18-19 at CSU Pueblo. Your board hopes that this change will result in a renewed inspiration to participate in this important and rewarding event. With a strong desire to welcome a wide variety of presenters from across the state, especially collegiate members, the organizers have already begun

brainstorming exciting programming ideas, and they welcome your input! It's not too early to send your comments to [me](#) and to Vice President for Conferences, [Christine Ortega](#), so please feel free to contact us.

Submitted by Dr. Andrew Cooperstock, CSMTA President

## CSMTA Concerto Competition Changes

There is updated information for this year's concerto competition.

The Percussion piece has now been chosen:

Emmanuel Séjourné: *Concerto for Marimba and Strings, I. Tempo Souple.*

The Piano Elementary piece has been changed to

Joseph Haydn's *Keyboard Concerto No. 1 in D, I. Vivace.*

The Saxophone piece has now been chosen:

Alexander Glazunov's *Concerto for alto saxophone and string orchestra, Op. 109, in E-flat major.*

Submitted by Jill Ice, Vice President for Student Activities

## Boulder Chamber Orchestra to Showcase CSMTA Concerto Winners in New Partnership

"I'm so excited to begin this meaningful and rewarding collaboration with the CSMTA where we have the opportunity to showcase top young musical talents in the state for years to come," says Bahman Saless, BCO's Music Director.

The Boulder Chamber Orchestra started its journey 19 years ago in 2004, with humble beginnings as a community ensemble, to fill a niche of performing orchestral chamber music in the Colorado Front range. Today the fully professional orchestra is one of the premier ensembles in the country that showcase performing artists from all around the world. This season

features local stars such as pianists Hsing-ay Hsu, Jennifer Hayghe, and Adam Zukiewicz along with the orchestra as well as internationally acclaimed artists such as Petar Klassan. CSMTA winners performing with the BCO are indeed in good company. To learn more about the Boulder Chamber Orchestra and their offerings, please visit

<https://www.boulderchamberorchestra.com/>

Submitted by Jill Ice, NCTM  
Vice President for Student Activities

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

## Leila Viss, 2024 MTNA Foundation Fellow



Your Colorado Executive Board is pleased to announce that Leila Viss has been nominated to be Colorado's Foundation Fellow for 2024.

Leila graduated with a Master of Arts Degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Denver, Lamont School of Music, in 1990. She opened an independent

piano studio in Centennial, Colorado in 1991. Her goal has been to offer innovative, tech-savvy lesson plans to develop pianists who will play for a lifetime.

Leila has worked with blogs such as [88pianokeys.me](http://88pianokeys.me), which became [LeilaViss.com](http://LeilaViss.com) in 2018. She has worked with iPads and apps for iPads, and she authored [The iPad Piano Studio: Keys to Unlocking the Power of Apps](#), published by Alfred Music. She has over 700 videos on YouTube as well.

Leila helped plan the MTNA Jazz/Pop Tracks, and served as chair of the Creative Pianist Track for the NCKP in 2015.

With Bradley Sowash, she cofounded *88 Creative Keys* that provides online clinics and workshops. Many of her articles have been published in the *American Music Teacher* and *Clavier Companion* (now *The Piano Magazine*). She also serves on the editorial committee of the *AMT Magazine*.

Leila currently teaches around 25 students and has worked as pianist, accompanist, and organist at South Suburban Christian Church for several decades. She and her husband have three grown sons.

Please honor Leila with a donation to the Foundation Fund in either of the following two ways:

1. Visit [www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/](http://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/) (MTNA Foundation Fund MTNA webpage). Make sure you designate Leila Viss as your Foundation Fellow.

2. Mail a check to: [MTNA Foundation Fund, 600 Vine St., Ste. 1710 Cincinnati, OH 45202](#). Write 'Leila Viss' on the memo line for Foundation Fellow for Colorado.

*Submitted by Elinore Quander, MTNA Foundation Chair*

## Spotlight on Local Associations from WCD: Part 2



Did you know that the 8 states comprising the West Central Division have a total of 78 active local associations? In this two-part article, enjoy reading about some special programs and events that 14 of these associations have presented this past year. Congratulations to all of our local association leaders and members for outstanding service and engagement in the music profession!

*Article submitted by Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM, West Central Division Director*

### **SOUTH SUBURBAN MTA, MINNESOTA**

**Submitted by Karen Stiles, NCTM, President, SSMTA**

In our local SSMTA (South Suburban Music Teachers Association) we have 3 recitals planned: one each in November, January and April. Playing in 2 of the 3 recitals results in the student being awarded a medal with their name on it. We do charge a small fee for the recitals and offer an online option for those who may need it. The 3rd recital highlights students' names who have earned "Honors" in MMTA, MFMC and RCM programs. These recitals have helped our teacher organization provide opportunities for our students to perform and listen to others perform, enhancing our teaching.

### **CENTRAL NEBRASKA MTA, NEBRASKA**

**Submitted by Linda Dahlstrom, President, CNMTA**

Nebraska Music Teachers Association held four local district music festivals this spring: Omaha, Lincoln, Central Nebraska, and the eFestival chaired by our state president, Angela Miller-Niles. Student participants from all over the state totaled nearly 450 children in grades K - 12. Several teachers new to NMTA entered their students for the first time. Comments from those teachers include how grateful they were for the support and collegiality they receive from the organization. Also, now they know exactly what to expect and how to better prepare their students to meet the requirements for the coveted medals at districts and trophies at state!

As the Central District chair, I enjoy seeing the music students exhibit a healthy mixture of nervousness and excitement as they arrive. Many are dressed up for their performance with fancy dresses or shirts and even new shoes. Those that get a medal awarded around their necks are the picture of pure joy. When I first joined MTNA/NMTA, I was encouraged to enter my students in the festivals. After studying the state festival manual, it was clear to me that this offered the perfect opportunity for my students to strive for the highest level of achievement. I learned right along with those first participants as we all improved our performance levels.



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

## Spotlight on Local Associations from WCD: Part 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

### QUAD CITY MTA, IOWA

Submitted by **Laura Crumbleholme, President, QCMTA**

The Quad City Music Teachers Association held its second annual Piano Ensemble Festival. This festival held its inaugural concert in the spring of 2022 (after cancelling 2020 & 2021). It encourages piano ensemble playing by students: four-hands, duos, quartets, concertos, etc. The ensembles consist of students from QCMTA and from our local federation group. Some of the ensembles include parents and teachers. Professional duo teams are also invited to play and/or give a masterclass.

This year the festival was dedicated to the memory of Cathy Carney, who passed away in 2022. Cathy was a member of QCMTA and will be missed. The family of Cathy Carney has offered to continue to sponsor the festival each year moving forward. This year's duo, consisting of Dr. Sharon Jensen and Dr. Elisa Cooper, performed Sonata in D Major Op. 6 by Beethoven and Dolly Suite Op. 56 by Fauré. In addition, there were twenty different student ensembles playing repertoire of all levels.

### ST. LOUIS AREA MTA, MISSOURI

Submitted by **Dr. Sharla Bender NCTM, President, SLAMTA**

SLAMTA's Monster Concert is an annual event that brings together students of all ages and abilities to participate in group piano performances. This is a great opportunity for children, teens, and adult students who may not like to play solo recitals to present music for their family and friends in a more casual atmosphere. This musical celebration also builds student confidence and a sense of community and collaboration across our St. Louis area studios.

The music is chosen months in advance, published on our website, and emailed to our membership. SLAMTA works in conjunction with our local music store, Midwest Sheet Music, so that the music is available to purchase on demand. Teachers select pieces for their students based on their skill level.

The Monster Concert is presented on a Sunday afternoon at Lacefield Music, one of our local piano and sheet music stores. There is a mandatory dress rehearsal the day before. Students are allowed to partner with their teacher, parent, another student, or a sibling. SLAMTA hires a fun-loving conductor who is great at getting everyone smiling and working together. The stage is set for multiple pianos/electronic keyboards with two performers on each instrument. The program ranges from classical music to jazz standards and may include pop music and movie tunes, along with other children's favorites. Teachers often get involved by performing some of the advanced multi-hand literature. The students really enjoy watching their teachers perform!

An annual T-Shirt Design Contest is held, where students can submit artwork in any form to be considered for that year's t-shirt. The winner receives a gift card and has the pleasure of seeing their design on everyone's Monster Concert t-shirt at the concert!

[SLAMTA Monster Concert 2022 - Pics and Videos](#)

### FOUR CORNERS MTA, COLORADO

Submitted by **Mika Inouye, President, 4CMTA**

Four Corners MTA's Young Artist Festival honored student/teacher (and parent) accomplishments, strengthened our wonderful music community, and inspired us all to keep growing in our pursuit of music! There was a lively atmosphere in Jones Hall at Fort Lewis College in Durango as bright, color-coded balloons guided students, parents, music teachers, and student runners through the halls (past student art work, medals, and refreshments) to the right room at the right time.

The event was spearheaded by our co-presidents, Kristen Folden, and Mika Inouye. There were 50 piano, cello, and violin students from 9 participating teachers, 8 adjudicators and 9 student helpers who kept the wheels rolling smoothly. In addition to the 50 adjudicated performances, 23 students tested in music theory and 15 students graced the entryway with creative, music-themed artwork. As another branch of the festival, 25 additional string students participated in the ASTACAP program in the same building.

Smiles were ignited as medals were awarded and local Cream Bean Berry ice-cream coupons were given out to all participants. The Young Artist Festival celebrated another year of the step-by-step journey towards mastery of technique, artistry, and the joy of musical expression.

### OMAHA MTA, NEBRASKA

Submitted by **Mark Dickmeyer, President, OMTA**

The Omaha Music Teachers Association holds an annual event called the Music Fundamentals Fair which we affectionately call the Fun Fair. This year we had 25 teachers and 281 students participate. We take over the entire music building at the University of Nebraska at Omaha which is filled with lots of fun and excitement. With twelve levels of difficulty, the students are judged in eight different events including scales, chords, cadences, arpeggios, ear training, sight reading, theory and performance. They do a musical treasure hunt to get a prize, enjoy treats from the snack bar, and receive rosettes and trophies at an awards ceremony. This is a truly unique event—as far as we know, OMTA is the only music association in the country that offers an event like this. We celebrated our 40th anniversary this year!



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

## Spotlight on Local Associations from WCD: Part 2 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

### MCPHERSON AREA PIANO TEACHERS LEAGUE, KANSAS

Submitted by Dawn Ivers, President

The McPherson Area Piano Teachers League just wrapped up its fifth annual piano summer day camp. Expressivo Piano Camp is held the first week in June each year, Monday through Friday, and is open to local piano students of all levels from second grade through high school.

Each day following some musical icebreakers and Rhythm Cups, campers divide into 4 groups by level and age, rotating through different classes that focus on some extra musical learning that may not always get the spotlight during piano lessons. This year we offered Music History, Theory & Games, Improvisation & Composing and Performance Skills. In each class, campers gain further understanding and context to enhance what they have learned in their piano lessons; and since it's all in a fun summer camp environment, we can make the most of the social learning component and 'off-the-bench' opportunities!

Piano camp also features a special guest teacher in the middle of the week. These guest teachers have included a piano technician, a classical guitarist, a ballet teacher who taught the campers a couple of Baroque dance forms, and an organist who, after passing around some of the different pipes, gave the campers an opportunity to play it.

The grand finale for Espressivo Piano Camp is, of course, a camp recital. This concert is open to the public, so piano campers can showcase what they've learned throughout the week and have that big celebratory moment with the larger community!

### MUSIC TEACHERS OF CENTRAL IOWA, IOWA

Submitted by Pam Sibbel, President, MTCI

Music Teachers of Central Iowa (MTCI) had an active and productive year. MTCI hosted the Ames Piano Festival, involving 70 students and 9 teachers, and hosted the Ames District IMTA Piano Auditions, involving 66 students and 9 teachers.

Highlights of this past year include a program by local piano technician Tom Russell entitled "Grand Piano Action, Regulation, and Voicing" in which Tom took out the action of a grand piano in order to explain the tuning and regulation process, and a program by adult student Patrick Anderson entitled, "Looking Deeper into Brahms Through the Love Songs," in which he lectured and then performed several love songs with his teacher, Janci Bronson.

Also this year, thanks to the extensive volunteer efforts and funding of MTCI member Aaron Lott and his husband, Urtzi Pascual, MTCI launched an online website for members as well as non-members. <https://musicteachersia.org/>

### BOULDER AREA MTA, COLORADO

Submitted by Carol Wickham Revier, NCTM, President, BAMTA

Our BAMTA board made two significant changes to our meeting format that resulted in over a 50% increase

in attendance at our monthly meetings. For the first time in at least two decades, we returned to meeting in the home studios of our members where we included a studio tour as a part of our program. Additionally, we changed our meetings to Friday mornings from Wednesday's. We are thrilled with the results.

We were able to return to a completely in-person format for our biggest event of the year, our annual Multiple Piano Festival. Since 1985

with the exception of one year, this event has been held—including during COVID. This year, we were able to include 147 students, coached by 23 teachers on 9 pianos in a nearly filled auditorium and we almost broke even!

We are also partnering with the University of Colorado Boulder Collegiate Chapter for the second year in a row and are delighted with the energy and enthusiasm these young graduate student/teachers have brought to our organization. Three of them participated in the 2022 Boulder Achievement Day and we're hopeful that some will prepare students to perform with us in the 2023 Multiple Piano Festival this coming November.



BOULDER AREA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

## Spotlight on Local Associations from WCD: Part 2 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

### SPRINGFIELD AREA MTA, MISSOURI

Submitted by **Dr. Jason Hausback, President, MMTA**

SAMTA (Springfield Area MTA,) was quite active this year. Our annual piano festival was held in February at Evangel University where high school students had one-on-one sessions with our local music faculty (Drs. Wei Han Su and Greg Morris). Middle School students were judged for ratings and elementary students played for a critique, ribbon and certificate. We had over 105 students and 13 teachers participate.

The Young and Petite Artists of SAMTA was led last year by Connie Osgood. We did several YA and PA recitals at Missouri State University – Hamra Hall. We are grateful for this partnership with the music department. YA and SAMTA also co-sponsor the Beverlie Roper Competition which is held at Drury University in the Fall. Last year students prepared pieces from the Contemporary Period. Winners from grades 9-10 and grades 11-12 were selected and given prize money. SAMTA is a student driven organization. We strive to do events geared to our students.

### ROCHESTER AREA KEYBOARD CLUB, MINNESOTA

Submitted by **Kathryn Horntvedt, NCTM, President, RAKC**

The program that stands out in my mind as uniquely special this year for our chapter was presented by one of our members, Janice Jurgenson, who shared a series of her own original compositions. It was a delight for our members to hear her refreshing songs sung and played, along with her accompanying at the piano, including a singalong for us all to share. It is a wonderful thing that out of her rich background as piano teacher, choir director, singer, and instrumentalist, Janice has branched out further and successfully explored the art of composition. She is a beloved gift to our larger community.

### MUSIC TEACHERS OF NORTHERN IOWA, IOWA

Submitted by **Gail Morris, President, MTNI**

The Music Teachers of North Iowa (MTNI) meet monthly. We have programs that range from *Favorite A-F Baroque to Contemporary Literature* listed in our state syllabus; *Incentives, Games and Awards Given to Students*; a program on *How to Inspire and What to Teach Teenage Students*; members sharing *How to Teach Scales and Arpeggios in Lessons*; a roundtable discussion on *Memorizing Techniques*; *Sightreading Materials and Teaching These Skills*; and a roundtable discussion on *Preparing for Music Theory Tests*; *All about Chords*; and *Business and Studio Policies*.

Each year our district holds its Piano Festival and District Auditions. We sponsor an “Honors Recital” following auditions where we showcase the winners, alternates and honorable mention students. In April, our local studios have students participate in a “Multi-Keyboard Festival” held at The Music

Man Square in Mason City. Six to eight pianos/keyboards are provided by Rieman Music for our use.

### MID-MISSOURI AREA MTA, MISSOURI

Submitted by **Dr. Peter Miyamoto, President, MMAMTA**

MMAMTA co-presented with Columbia’s Odyssey Chamber Series a Pre-Collegiate Concerto and Aria Competition in which winners performed with an orchestra on one of the Odyssey Chamber Music Series’ subscription concerts. MMAMTA co-presented pre-collegiate auditions for the Plowman Chamber Competition’s master class series with the judges of the 2023 Competition (Lucille Chung, piano and Amit Peled, cello). Winners participated in the master classes, which are part of the Plowman Chamber Music Competition, a national event.

MMAMTA held two fundraising events called Musicathons in Jefferson City and Columbia. These are the main means of fundraising for the MMAMTA Camp Scholarship and College Scholarship programs. Six students were awarded scholarships to help attend summer music festivals held throughout the country, or to help cover their first year as a music major.

MMAMTA also helped support the Odyssey Chamber Music Series’ Kids@Heart concert, with students of members performing piano ensembles on this popular Odyssey Chamber Music Series free concert and instrumental petting zoo.

Additionally, MMAMTA presented four honors recitals at local venues to help pre-collegiate and collegiate students prepare for MMTA District and State Auditions. They also presented the Evaluative Auditions, held at the University of Missouri, in which students performed for outside adjudicators for comments.

### SOUTH SUBURBAN MTA, COLORADO

Submitted by **Patricia Kershaw, President, SSMTA**

One of our popular events is SSMTA’s Composer Club. Designed and launched by Pam Simpson, NCTM, in 2020, this annual yearlong program consists of 7 SSMTA member-created video modules. Each module contains information and techniques that guide students through the composition process. A modest \$10 annual fee allows students to participate during the school year. Students create their pieces and have options on their music presentations. Participants earn points by videoing themselves performing their compositions (on a private You-Tube channel), watching other students perform their compositions and writing positive comments on the music they’ve viewed. They also earn points for notation of their pieces and creating “cover art” for their self-publishing efforts. 10 points earns each student a small music pin. In addition, student pieces may be featured during Achievement Day in the Composition Corner and can be submitted to our Composition Contest held in April.

# They Say the Darndest Things! Opus 7

by Uri Ayn Rovner, CSMTA Immediate Past President



In the short term, laughter can relieve your stress. In the long term it can help your immune system, ease pains, and improve your mood. In the much longer term, one can enjoy laughter over

and over again by revisiting humorous moments from students in their lessons. Some warranting a belly laugh, others a head shake!

For over 25 years I have kept such a log of my own and of other fellow teachers, which I enjoy reading through again and again. Here is the seventh installment of candid moments from among my favorites. Did you see the other Darndest Things published in recent issues of *Notes & News*?

## B Careful

“So Nancy,” I inquired, “what’s to remember about the Key of F?” Nancy proudly responds, “It has a B minus!”

## Make the Grade

Explaining to Ian that the LH note he was trying to figure out was actually an Ab:

“You see, this note here is an A... *plus* it’s a flat.

“Oh good,” he exclaimed, “I got an A plus!”

## Who Knew?

What a pleasant afternoon with my adult students playing for the folks at a local retirement village.

Everything is going well, except for the fact that the low Ab seems to not play. I take a look inside the piano and notice there are no strings there for that particular note! A bit disconcerting, but everyone plays well without that note.

After the event I ask for any thoughts about the missing Ab.

A few remarks of note:

“Better Ab than for me to Bb!”

“Should we call ‘*Triple A*’ (AAA)?”

“I thought it was the G#!”

## Would that it Were

“Evie, I’m not sure this piece in the lesson book was finished last week. It has no sticker.”

“Well...I’m declaring it finished honorarily!” She announced with her fingers crossed.

## Keep Wondering!

Vincent asks at the end of his lesson, “What do you do for your job?” Astonished, I throw out a “What?!”

“Well...we only pay you once a month. Where do you get your money for the rest of the month?”

Sometimes I wonder!

## 7/8 x 6 Inches

After some difficulty finding the first few notes to his song “Autumn,” Brian remarks: “I wish the notes on your piano had the same shapes as mine!”

## Give it a Label

Josh is exploring New Age pieces. In his lesson I ask what style of music he considers them to be.

He offers: “Classical? Romantic? *Post Modern*?”

## Vocab Lesson

Rivka had trouble playing the A scale in her lesson. A bit embarrassed, she offered:

“I feel so *decomplished*!”

## Vamos a Bailar

Upon noticing the heading: “Tempo di Valse,” Raffi carefully pronounces aloud: “Tempo dee Valsay.” I explain that this means the song should feel like a waltz. “Oh,” says Raffi, “I thought it was a Spanish explorer!”

## Erudite

“So that section went very well, Scott. Was it luck or skill?” Scott astutely informs, “*Luck favors the prepared mind*.”

## But Me First

I informed cute little Susie that she will get some new music books.

“Do I have to buy them?” She asked.

“Your mom can simply pay me back after I get them.”

“Guess what,” Susie continued, “I have one thousand and seventy dollars!”

Curious response, so I asked, “Are you suggesting that you can buy the books yourself?”

Susie proudly answered, “Yes!”

“Why don’t you let your mom pay for them, then you can save your money for.....?”

She quickly filled in the pause with “*Retirement*!”

We both then laugh.

(Thinking to myself: ‘*but me first!*’)



## STUDENT PROGRAMS



## CSMTA Achievement Day

Achievement Day is a non-competitive student event run by CSMTA local associations in Colorado, following guidelines created at the state level. Customarily, well over 1000 students are involved with Achievement Day. Each student performs privately for an evaluator who listens and adjudicates the level of certificate to be earned. Guidelines for certificate levels and music-related options, including written and aural tests, are found in the CSMTA Student Achievement Day Comprehensive Guidelines. These guidelines also explain how students

can receive the status of “Super Achiever” by completing additional requirements. Local Associations may offer additional unique programs during these events including: master classes, project displays, games, T-shirt design, recitals, scavenger hunts, music technology labs, and more!

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/achievementday](http://www.comusicteachers.net/achievementday)  
 Application deadline: determined by each Local Association  
 Event date: determined by each Local Association  
 Event location: determined by each Local Association  
 Event chair: [Amy Watt](#)



## Student Theory Activity (STA)

The purpose of the CSMTA Student Theory Activity (STA) is to stimulate theory competency among Colorado music students. The curriculum and testing use the nationwide Keynote Independent Theory Service (KITS). Complete information about this can be found at [www.keynotetheory.com](http://www.keynotetheory.com) where an order form is available for manuals and student study materials. The KITS curriculum is divided into seven levels or “Steps,” Primary-Step 6, and will cover reading, theory, vocabulary, listening, and skills (scales, chords and arpeggios). Group testing will be offered at the Rising Stars Festival location or through a Local Association testing center

approved by the STA Chair. CSMTA offers certificates to all participating students and bronze medals to those scoring 80-89%, silver for 90-94%, and gold for 95% and higher. All teachers of participating students are required to assist in the administration and grading of the tests. Please order teacher manual and students study guides well in advance! Please order teacher manual and students study guides well in advance!

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/sta](http://www.comusicteachers.net/sta)  
 Registration/Test order deadline: March 16, 2024  
 Event date: April 20, 2024  
 Event location: University of Denver, Lamont School of Music  
 Event chair: [Grace Christus](#)



## CSMTA Rising Stars Festival

The CSMTA Rising Stars Festival occurs annually in the spring and offers both competitive and noncompetitive categories in solo piano, solo voice, solo instrumental, and ensemble divisions. Students are separated by age into five divisions within each category. Two contrasting pieces from any time period or combination of time periods as long as the pieces demonstrate contrasting styles and are by different composers. New award: Judges may recognize outstanding performances with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award (for pieces by composers who are female and/or who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color) for both competitive and non-competitive students. All students performing works by DEI composers will receive

a gold seal on their certificate. Additionally, judges may award the new DEI medal to any outstanding performances of DEI works. Teachers must renew their membership prior to December 1, 2023 to receive the member registration rate for Rising Stars. We ask that all participants carefully read through the Student Activity Handbook, available on the CSMTA website for all rules and regulations as there have been numerous updates for this year’s event. Please contact the chair with any questions.

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/risingstars](http://www.comusicteachers.net/risingstars)  
 Ages: 6-19 (pre-college)  
 Registration deadline: March 16, 2024  
 Event date: April 20, 2024  
 Event locations: University of Denver, Lamont School of Music  
 Event chair: [Amy Lee](#)

## STUDENT PROGRAMS



## 2024 CSMTA Concerto Competition

The 2024 CSMTA Concerto Competition will include categories for flute/oboe/clarinet/bassoon/horn/trumpet/saxophone/percussion (one category) and 3 age levels for piano. Online entries will be accepted until March 4, 2024. Please check the CSMTA website for a listing of concerto requirements. CSMTA is excited to announce the 2024 Winners of each category will be featured in a public performance with the Boulder Chamber Orchestra on May 11, 2024, in Boulder, CO.

There is updated information for this year's concerto competition:

The Piano Elementary piece has been changed to Joseph Haydn's *Keyboard Concerto No. 1 in D, I. Vivace*.

The Percussion selection is Emmanuel Séjourné's *Concerto for Marimba and Strings, I. Tempo Souple*.

The Saxophone selection is Alexander Glazunov's *Concerto for alto saxophone and string orchestra, Op. 109, in E-flat major*

For a complete list of instruments and concerti, please visit the CSMTA Concerto Competition webpage:

<https://comusicteachers.net/concertocompetition>

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/concertocompetition](http://www.comusicteachers.net/concertocompetition)

Online application deadline: March 4, 2024

Winners' announcement: March 22, 2024

Winners' concert date: May 11, 2024 (Boulder Chamber Orchestra)

Ages: Elementary piano: 8-10, Junior piano: 11-14

Senior piano: 15-19, Winds & Percussion: 13-19

Event chair: [Dr. Stephanie Cheng](#)



## 2023 Colorado State MTNA Competitions

The 2023 Colorado State MTNA Competitions will take place at the University of Colorado Boulder on October 21. The registration deadline was September 13, 2023 at 3:00pm EST. For information on guidelines, repertoire, and application process for future competitions, visit the MTNA Competitions page.

**We also need volunteers for this event! If you are interested, please fill out this form ASAP! Thank you!**

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/mtnacompetition](http://www.comusicteachers.net/mtnacompetition)

Ages: 11-26 (performance), 5-26 (composition)

Application deadline: September 13. 3:00pm EST (passed)

Event date: October 21, 2023

Event location: University of Colorado Boulder

Event chair: [Elizabeth Leger](#)

Young Artist & Junior Coordinator:

[Ryan Hale](#)

Senior Coordinator:

[Peter Friesen](#)

Composition Coordinator

[Jodie Jensen](#)



## 2024 CSMTA Master Class Activity

The 2024 Master Class Activity will take place at the next state conference, October 18-19, 2024 at the Colorado State University Pueblo.

Info & forms: [www.comusicteachers.net/masterclass](http://www.comusicteachers.net/masterclass)

Application deadline: September 8, 2024

Event date: October 18-19, 2024

Event location: Colorado State University Pueblo

Event chair: [Jill Ice](#), NCTM

## COLORADO STATE MTNA COMPETITION

Interested in volunteering? We need help during the Colorado State MTNA Competition on October 21, at CU Boulder.

Contact [Elizabeth Leger](#) if you are interested!

## CSMTA 2022-2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

PREPARED BY LIANE ROCKLEY CSMTA TREASURER 2022-2024  
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL LIANE@COMUSICTEACHERS.NET

September 1, 2023  
Colorado State Music Teachers Association  
Profit & Loss End of Year  
July 2022 through June 2023

	Jul '22 - Jun 23
Income	
Memorial Fund/Disaster Relief	2,100
MEMORIAL FUND IN (Part Drive)	1,175
STUDENT EVENT INCOME	
STA Theory Event	90
Rising Stars Festival	7,308
MTNA Competitions	1,710
Concerto Competition	1,513
Total STUDENT EVENT INCOME	10,620
RECEIVED GRANTS/DONATIONS	
Other Grants/Donations Rec'd	750
Total RECEIVED GRANTS/DONATIONS	750
CONFERENCE INCOME	
Attendee Registration & Fees	6,740
Exhibitor Table Fees	730
CONFERENCE INCOME - Other	435
Total CONFERENCE INCOME	7,905
ADS & MAILING LIST SALES	1,360
MEMBERSHIP DUES	19,443
INTEREST EARNED	133
Total Income	43,485
Gross Profit	43,485
Expense	
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0
PROGRAM SERVICES	
Disaster Relief Fund	1,490
Memorial Fund Out (Trav. Grant)	800
Student Rising Stars Fest	6,191
Student MTNA Comp	1,825
Student Concerto Comp	1,766
Conference Expenses	6,305
Advisory Council Expenses	65
Publications (print/post)	
Directory	1,463
NN	1,294
Total Publications (print/post)	2,758
Membership Development	525
CSMTA Commissioned Composer	2,440
Total PROGRAM SERVICES	24,164
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	
Office Supplies and Postage	405
Payroll Expense	411
Officer Conference Travel	3,735
Administrative Services	15,085
Website, Phone & PO Box	39
Professional Fees & Supplies	2,974
Banking Fees	465
Payroll Taxes	576
Total MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	23,691
Total Expense	47,854
Net Income	-4,369



## CSMTA 2022-2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

PREPARED BY LIANE ROCKLEY CSMTA TREASURER 2022-2024  
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL LIANE@COMUSICTEACHERS.NET

Colorado State Music Teachers Association

September 1, 2023

Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2023

	Jun 30, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Aspida Synergy Choice 5 Year	65,000
New FirstBank Checking	38,392
Total Checking/Savings	103,392
Total Current Assets	103,392
TOTAL ASSETS	103,392
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	2,946
Total Net Assets	104,814
Net Income	-4,369
Total Equity	103,392
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	103,392

**S**ave the date! The 2024 MTNA National Conference will take place March 16-20 in Atlanta, Georgia.

As always, you will be treated to an outstanding array of informative sessions, inspiring master classes, thrilling concerts, and wide-ranging exhibits. Details later. Don't miss it!

For more information on registration, poster sessions, and call for proposals, visit the MTNA website at:



[https://www.mtna.org/Conference/Conference\\_Home/Conference/Home.aspx?hkey=cecd079e-f62b-4ed5-8575-57e2283ba248](https://www.mtna.org/Conference/Conference_Home/Conference/Home.aspx?hkey=cecd079e-f62b-4ed5-8575-57e2283ba248)

## LOCAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS

## Aurora Music Teachers Association (AMTA)

### JEROME GILMER, PRESIDENT

Meeting day: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, September - May  
 General meeting time: 9:30 – 10:30am  
 Program time: 10:30am  
 Program location: Aurora Central Library  
 14949 E. Alameda Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80012  
<https://auroramusicteachers.org/>

#### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 8: Improvising and Composing by Jerome Gilmer

October 13: CMI: the Tour and the Story by Wendy

## Boulder Area Music Teachers Association (BAMTA)

### CAROL WICKHAM-REVIER, PRESIDENT

Meeting day: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month  
 General meeting time: 9:00am  
 Program time: 10:00  
 Program location: Various teachers' studios  
<https://bamta.org/>

#### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 15: Fall potluck brunch and roundtable discussion on practice incentives for students. Teachers are invited to bring props and ideas to share.

Location: studio of Carol Wickham Revier, Lafayette

October 20: Presentation by CU chapter students. Topic, TBD  
 Location: studio of Carol Wickham Revier, Lafayette

November 18: MPF (Multiple Piano Festival Concert)  
 No meeting; preparation, rehearsals and concert

Cottingham (hopefully we will meet that day at CMI.)

November 10: Achievement Day set-up at Thayne's Church

December 8: HolidAMTA

January 12: Running a Music Teaching Business

February 9: Piano Music of George Walker by Dr. Andrew Cooperstock

March 8: Mariachi, Folk Music of Mexico by Philip Ficson

April 12: The Dances We Play AND Dance by Larisa Lewis

May 10: Installation of the new President

December 15: Holiday potluck brunch - ornament exchange and/or holiday game

Location: studio of Amy Watt, Superior

January 19: Book discussion selected and facilitated by Anne Laird - topic TBD

Location: studio of Anne Laird, Longmont.

February 16: Hip Hop dance and piano technique by Dr. Joeeun Pak

Location: studio of Carol Wickham Revier, Lafayette

March 15: J. S. Bach and his life by Carol Wickham Revier

Location: studio of Amy Watt, Superior

April 19: MTNA certification - how to become certified? by Mitzi Babb and Jill Ice

Location: studio of Mitzi Babb, Boulder

May 17: MPF Repertoire Revealing

Location: studio of Carol Wickham Revier, Lafayette

## Broomfield Music Teachers Association (BMTA)

### CHRISTINA LYNN-CRAIG, PRESIDENT

Meeting day: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
 General meeting time: 10:30-11:15am  
 Program time: 9:30-10:30am  
 Meeting location: Brunner Farmhouse  
 640 Main Street, Broomfield, 80020  
*Some programs will be held in other locations; see website for details.* <https://broomfieldmta.org>

#### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 14: Round table discussion (Teacher Resources)

October 12: Works for Flute and Piano by French and contemporary composers, by John Heins, pianist and Teri Forscher-Milter, flutist

November 9: The Lister Sink method through teaching and experiences by Jamie Grigsby

No meeting in December

January 11: A Multimedia Presentation of Vincent Van Gogh's Art by John Heins, composer

February 8: Using Principals of Dialectical Behavior Therapy in the Studio, by Christina Lynn-Craig

## LOCAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS

## Broomfield Music Teachers Association (BMTA)

March 14: Brazilian Music for Four Hands, by Alejandro Cremaschi

April 11: Making Music Together: An informal recital by BMTA members.

May 9: Final business meeting and recap of Broomfield Piano Festival

## Columbine Music Teachers Association (CMTA)

### MARK PAULSON, PRESIDENT

Meeting Day: 2nd Friday of the month

General Meeting Time: 9:21am

Program Time: 10:30am

Location: listed after each event

[columbinemta.org](http://columbinemta.org)

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

August 11: Potluck Social, 10:30am start time, at the home of Arlyce Black

September 8: The Shaak Method by Jamie Shaak, at Schmitt Music

October 13: Alexander Technique Master Class by Anna Sobotka, instructor. All instruments, at Schmitt Music

November 10: Composition Techniques by Jerome Gilmer, at Schmitt Music

December 8: Musicales, Holiday Theme, at the home of Arlyce Black

January, 12: Roundtable Discussion – Studio Policies at the home of Kristen Celusniak

February 9: Accompaniment/Collaboration by Mario Barbosa, at St. Philip Lutheran Church

March 8: Playing By Ear by Mark Paulson, location TBD

April 12: Technology in the Studio by Shana Kirk, location TBD

May 9: Musicales (Favorite Teaching Pieces), at the home of Roxane Geisler

## Denver Area Music Teachers Association (DAMTA)

### BEN RAZNICK, PRESIDENT

Meeting day: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

General meeting time: 9:30-10:30am

Program time: 10:30am

Program location: Classic Pianos of Denver & Through Zoom

1332 S Broadway, Suite 200, Denver, CO

<https://denvermusicteacher.com/>

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

#### World Music and Its Influence on Social Justice Movements

DAMTA's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Course

Link: [denvermusicteacher.com/damta-fall-course-2023/](https://denvermusicteacher.com/damta-fall-course-2023/)

September 13: The Fight for Identity: Ukrainian Music by Anastasiia Pavlenko

September 27: Finding Freedom in the Classical Music Studio: Non-Western Approaches to Musical Performance by Margaret Ozaki Graves

October 11: Social Justice Through Music: The Worldwide El Sistema Movement by Dr. Gisela Flanigan

October 25: Russian Music and Social Justice: An Uneasy Alliance by Dr. Gilbert Rappaport

November 8: The Science of the Spiritual: How Sound Vibrations Facilitate Stress Reduction from Slavery to Civil Rights by Stephanie Ann Ball

November 29: A Time for Courage and Bravery, a Time for Sound: Advocating for Women's Rights in Iran Through Music by Fernanda Nieto & Nazila Nekooraad

December 13: Inspired Native: Redefining Identity through Reclamation, Decolonization, and Artistic Sovereignty by Jacqueline Wilson

Once per month throughout Spring, 2024, the Denver Area Music Teachers Association will present innovative and informative programming to empower music teachers in the area. Presenters confirmed for the Spring include Dr. Minna Chung, co-author of *CelloMind*, presenting a Deep Dive into Innovative Techniques for string players, and Joshua Zabatta presenting Audience Engagement and Communication Skills for musicians. Check <https://denvermusicteacher.com/> for specific dates and information.



## LOCAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS

## Douglas–Elbert Music Teachers Association (DEMTA)

**EDDA PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT**

Meeting day: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in-person with virtual option

General meeting time: 9:00-10:00am

Program time: 10:15-11:15am

Program location: Grace Baptist Church in Parker, CO

<https://demta.org/>

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 7: DEMTA Composers Program Introduction by Jodie Jensen

October 5: Using Cognitive Science to Facilitate More Efficient Practice by Dr. Lucy Tan

November 2: Ensembles: Fun For Everyone! by Deborah Turnbull

January 27: Emotion to Motion: Exploring Emotion, Story, and Sound by Chee-Hwa Tan, Guest Composer Workshop  
Location and time: Grace Baptist Church, 8:00am - 3:00pm

February 1: You Can Teach Yourself Jazz Piano by Uri Ayn Rovner

March 7: How to Teach Four Centuries of Music in 2024 and Why Classical Music Still Matters (From Bach to Taylor Swift) by David Reid, Pianist

April 4: DEMTA Music Festival Preparation with the Festival Committee

## Foothills Music Teachers Association (FMTA)

**THOMAS HOOPS, PRESIDENT**

Meeting day: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

General meeting time: 9:30am

Program time: 10:45am

Location: Our Savior's Church

1975 S Garrison St., Lakewood, CO. 80227

<https://www.fmtamusic.org/>

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 20: Technology in the Music Studio by Ben Raznick

October 18: Adjudication by Carrie Christensen

November 15: Teaching Late Elementary and Intermediate Technique by Laura Benson

January 17: Black American Composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by Phyllis Pieffer

February 21: Master Class by Peter Friesen

April 17: Certification by Davina Parret

## Ft. Collins Music Teachers Association (FCMTA)

**KARA WEIHRAUCH, PRESIDENT**

Meeting day: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month except March (first Monday). In-person meetings will be recorded and posted on website.

General meeting time: 9:00am

Program time: 10:00am

Meeting location: Trinity Lutheran Church

301 E. Stuart Road, Fort Collins, CO

[www.fcmta.org](http://www.fcmta.org)

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 11: Tapping Techniques by Mary Ann Ranney

October 9: Compositions and Teaching by Jennifer Linn

November 13: Teacher Panel Discussion by FCMTA members

January 8: Reading Specialist by Mary Carter

February 12: Elementary/Intermediate Repertoire by Contemporary Asian Composers by Joe Harkins

March 4: Games and Activities for Group and Individual Lessons by Karen Ziegler

April 8: Interpretation using Painting and Schumann's Dichterliebe by Joeun Pak

May 13: Musical with Local Association Teachers Performing by FCMTA Members

## LOCAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS

## 4 Corners Music Teachers Association (4CMTA)

MIKA INOUE & KRISTEN CHEN, CO-PRESIDENTS

Meeting day: Listed for each event

Program time: Listed after each event

Meeting location: Listed after each event

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 15, 11:30am: General Fall Meeting, All teachers welcome! Location: TBA

September 21, 1:00-2:30pm: Workshop by Eva Stern in collaboration with Fort Lewis College Music Department. Chair: Dr. Katherine Jetter. Location: Jones Hall, Fort Lewis College

September 22, 7:00pm: Lecture Recital by Eva Stern, Roshong Hall, Fort Lewis College (FREE for all 4CMTA members)

October 2, 4:30-6:00pm: Masterclass by Kara Huber in collaboration with San Juan Symphony, Roshong Hall, Fort Lewis College

November 11, 4:00pm: Living Composers Recital. Chair: Amy Barrett. Location: Roshong Hall, Fort Lewis College.

February 17, 2:00pm & 4:00pm: Duet and Ensemble Festival. Chair: Dr. Brandon Christensen. Location: Roshong Hall, Fort Lewis College

March 3, 2:00pm & 4:00pm: Bach Festival, in collaboration with the San Juan Symphony. Chair: Mika Inouye  
Location: TBA

April 27, 8:00am-3:00pm: Young Artist Festival and ASTACAP Adjudications, Jones Hall, Fort Lewis College, Chairs: Kristen Folden and Dr. Katherine Jetter

May 3: General Meeting, 11:30am: All teachers are invited to help plan the 2024-25 calendar year! Location: TBA

## Grand Junction Music Teachers Association (GJMTA)

HOPE CHYNOWETH, PRESIDENT

Meeting day: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month (unless otherwise listed)

General meeting time: 12:00pm (unless otherwise listed)

Program time: 12:45pm (unless otherwise listed)

Meeting locations in

New Life Church, 1350 N. 7th St, Grand Junction

First United Methodist Church 522 White Ave, Grand Junction

Hope Chynoweth's home

[www.gjmta.org](http://www.gjmta.org)

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

August 11: Information meeting

Time/Location: Hope Chynoweth's home, 5:00pm

September 8: MTNA Webinar, New Life Church

October 13: The Magic of Games: GJTMA teachers share games for private and group lessons, New Life Church

November 10: Piano Music of Ned Rorem and George Walker by Dr. Andrew Cooperstock

Program at 11:00am; business meeting at 11:45am at First United Methodist Church

December 8: Performance Potluck Luncheon at Hope Chynoweth's home

January 12: MTNA Webinar, New Life Church

February 9: Book Discussion - The Perfect Wrong Note: Learning to Trust Your Musical Self by William Westney, New Life Church

March 1: Ribbon Festival Set-up, Location TBD

April 27: Performance Potluck Luncheon at 12:30pm  
Location: TBD

## Greeley Area Music Teachers Association (GAMTA)

ROBYN FALL, PRESIDENT

Meeting day: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month

General meeting time: 9:30am

Program time: No programs

Meeting location: Skype

[www.greeleymusicteachers.org](http://www.greeleymusicteachers.org)

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

No programs are currently scheduled.

## LOCAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS

## Montrose Music Teachers Association (MMTA)

**SUE DECKER, PRESIDENT**

Meeting day: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month\*  
 General meeting time: 7:00pm-8:30pm\*  
 Program location: Robin Freed's home\*

(\*unless otherwise noted)

[www.montrosemusicteachers.com](http://www.montrosemusicteachers.com)

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

August 9, 6:00pm: Teaching Foundations for Good Sight-Reading Skills by Dr. Martha Violett

Location: Sue Decker's Home, Potluck dinner first)

October 11: Podcast - Tidying Up! Sparking Joy in the Music Studio

December 13, 6:00pm: Potluck & gift exchange. Program: TBA

Programs for 2024 will be determined at December meeting.

## Pikes Peak Music Teachers Association (PPMTA)

**JOAN SAWYER, PRESIDENT**

Meeting day: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
 General meeting time: 9:30am  
 Program time: 10:00-11:0am  
 Meeting location: Graner Music, In person only  
 4460 Barnes Rd., Colorado Springs (unless noted otherwise)  
[www.ppmta.org](http://www.ppmta.org)

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 12: General Meeting & Welcome Back Brunch

October 10: Nelita True's legendary approach to memorizing music and the technic routine by Jamie Shaak

November 14: From emotion to motion: Exploring emotion to create story and sound by Chee-Hwa Tan

December 12: General Meeting, Holiday Potluck Brunch and Used Music Sale at the home of Joan Sawyer

January 9: Teaching Debussy by Lynn Maloy, NCTM

February 13: Intermediate master class by Sara McDaniel, NCTM

March 12: Town Hall Meeting – Round Table Discussion

April 9: From Habaneras to Huapangos: Developing a sense of rhythm and timing with Latin American repertoire by Dr. Alejandro Cremaschi, NCTM

May 14: General Meeting and Spring Potluck Brunch/Officer Installation at The Peel House, 1515 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs 80907

## South Suburban Music Teachers Association (SSMTA)

**ERIC JONES, PRESIDENT**

Meeting day: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
 General meeting time: 9:30-10:30am  
 Program time: 10:45am  
 Location: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church  
 8545 E Dry Creek Rd, Centennial CO 80112  
[www.ssmtamusicteachers.org](http://www.ssmtamusicteachers.org)

### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 12: Creative Conditioning for Rookie Composers by Leila Viss

October 10: Women Pianists by Dr. Jennifer Hayghe

November 14: A Time for Courage and Bravery, A Time for Music—A Brief History of Iranian Music by Dr. Fernanda Nietto and Nazila Nekooraad

December 12: SSMTA Musicale

January 9: Pursuing Artistry in the Studio—lessons from legendary pianist Robert Hamilton by Dr. Jennifer Waleczek

February 13: Hip Hop and Piano Technique by Dr. Joeeun Pak

March 12: Developing Dissonant Awareness in the Young Pianist by Annette Karges

April 9: SSMTA rep for MTNA Conference: What I learned at MTNA Conference

May 14. Performance by the Excellence in Music winners;  
 Round table discussion: "Studio Challenges and Solutions"

## LOCAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS

## Southern Colorado Music Teachers Association (SCMTA)

### DR. WILLIAM LIPKE, PRESIDENT

Meeting day: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (unless noted otherwise)  
 General meeting time: 12:30pm  
 Program time: 1:00pm  
 Location: Google Meets or Zoom

#### PROGRAMS FOR 2023-2024

September 19: Exciting Program “Closer” Pieces, discussion led by Dr. William Lipke

October 17: Appealing Intermediate Repertoire by Dr. William Lipke

November 14 (second Tuesday): Bringing the Fun Into Music Teaching by Lindsey Noble

January 16: Discussion of Lessons Learned from Mila, Irina Gorin, Magical Moments YouTube videos, discussion led by Elizabeth Zawadowski

February 20: Program TBD by Aaron Garner

March 12 (second Tuesday): Teaching the Violin: A Solid Foundation, based on teachings of Mimi Zweig presentation and discussion by Tess Padilla

April 16: How to Care for Your Piano by Nancy Lloyd

May 21: Planning for Next Year, discussion led by Dr. William Lipke

## TEACHER ENRICHMENT CORNER

BEN RAZNICK, VP FOR TEACHER ENRICHMENT, EDITOR  
 THE TEACHER ENRICHMENT CORNER LISTS NON-PROFIT EVENTS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN COLORADO.  
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR EVENT ADDED, PLEASE EMAIL BENRAZNICKMUSIC@GMAIL.COM

## Festivals & Events

### Colorado Taubman Approach Workshop October 13-15, 2023

Want to acquire fantastic new tools for playing, teaching, and overcoming challenges at the keyboard? With presentations, master classes, pedagogy classes, technique clinics, artist concerts, and optional private lessons, this workshop will be full of amazing insights and tools. Multiple tracks of presentations will cover Taubman experience levels from newcomer to advanced. Presenters include Golandsky Institute Faculty members and teachers Brenna Berman, Barbara Banacos, and Beth Grace, EAM Artists and EAM teachers.

For more information, visit [EffortlessArtistryMusic.com](http://EffortlessArtistryMusic.com) or email [EffortlessArtistryMusic@gmail.com](mailto:EffortlessArtistryMusic@gmail.com). Brought to you by Colorado's own Effortless Artistry Music - Taubman Approach nonprofit.

### Jefferson Symphony 2024 Young Artists Competition: Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion

Applications closed on September 29 for JSO's annual Young Artists Competition (JSO\*YAC). Finalists will be notified by October 11. The live finals are open to the public, free, all day on January 6 at Colorado Christian University. Twelve finalists will compete for cash prizes of \$5,000 First Place, \$2,000 Second, \$1,000 Third. The top three perform a guest recital that evening (tickets \$15, free for JSO season subscribers and Jeffco K-12 students.) The First-place winner also performs a solo recital on April 5, and their concerto with the JSO on April 7. Next year's JSO\*YAC will be for strings, harp, and classical guitar. Application: [app.getacceptd.com/jeffersonsymphony](http://app.getacceptd.com/jeffersonsymphony). Eligibility: Applicants born on or after January 14, 2000, and enrolled in an accredited educational program.

For more information: [jeffsymphony.org/youngartists](http://jeffsymphony.org/youngartists) or email: [JSO.YAC@gmail.com](mailto:JSO.YAC@gmail.com).

### Pueblo Keyboard Arts Festival

#### November 3-5, 2023

Application Deadline: October 20, 2023

**November 4**, 1:00pm: Masterclass for CSU Pueblo Students with guest artist Dr. Jooeun Pak.

**November 3**, 6:00-8:00pm: Masterclass for Collegiate, High and Middle School students with festival guest artist Dr. Jooeun Pak and festival director Dr. Zahari Metchkov.

**November 4**, 9:00am-2:00pm: Young Artist Competition, Junior Solo, Senior Solo, Piano Ensemble Division (1 piano-4, 6, 8 hands, 2 pianos-4, 8, 12 hands) More than \$1000 in Cash Awards in all divisions.

**November 4**, 7:00pm: Piano Monster Concert If you want to know more about what six grand pianos can do together.....we hope to see you there!

<https://www.csupueblo.edu/music/festivals/pueblo-keyboard-arts-festival.html>

### Festival for Creative Pianists

Enroll in the Virtual Festival Today! Access to our online festival community site is free. The Festival for Creative Pianists is a virtual learning opportunity that helps pianists of all ages build creative skills and discover creative approaches to playing and composing. The festival experience includes engaging learning activities, creative thinking modules, creativity challenges, live events, and individualized feedback from professional teaching artists on participants' performance videos and written compositions. Participants have many opportunities to share their creative work and engage with others.

Complete details for the 2024 in-person festival in Vermont will be available soon. For more information, visit [www.festivalforcreativepianists.org](http://www.festivalforcreativepianists.org) or contact Arthur Houle.



# Local Association Presidents 2023–2024

<a href="#"><u>Aurora (AMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Jerome Gilmer</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Boulder Area (BAMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Carol Wickham Revier</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Broomfield (BMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Tina Lynn-Craig</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Columbine (CMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mark Paulson</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Denver Area (DAMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ben Raznick</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Douglas-Elbert (DEMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Edda Phillips</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Foothills (FMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Thomas Hoops</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Four Corners (4CMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mika Inouye</u></a> , co-president <a href="#"><u>Kristen Folden</u></a> , co-president
<a href="#"><u>Ft. Collins (FCMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Kara Weihrauch</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Grand Junction (GJMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Hope Chynoweth</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Greeley Area (GAMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Robyn Fall</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Montrose (MMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sue Decker</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Pikes Peak (PPMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dr. Joan Sawyer</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>South Suburban (SSMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Eric Jones</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Southern Colorado (SCMTA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dr. William Lipke</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>CSU–Pueblo Chapter (CSUPCC)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Josh Janitell</u></a>
Faculty Advisor	<a href="#"><u>Dr. Zahari Metchkov</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>University of Colorado Boulder Chapter (CUBCC)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lizzie French</u></a>
Faculty Advisor	<a href="#"><u>Dr. Jennifer Hayghe</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>University of Denver Chapter (DU-MTNA)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Jen Bowlds</u></a>
Faculty Advisor	<a href="#"><u>Dr. Stephanie Cheng</u></a>

# Who's Who in CSMTA 2023–2024

**President:** [Dr. Andrew Cooperstock](#), NCTM

**President-Elect:** [Dr. Emily Book McGree](#), NCTM

**Immediate Past President:** [Uri Ayn Rovner](#)

**Vice President for Membership:** [Carrie Hansen](#)

**Community Outreach, Education and Public Relations:**  
[Dr. Fernanda Nieto-Pulido](#)

**Social Media:** [Sonya Clark](#)

**Historian:** [Dr. Grace Asquith](#), NCTM

**MTNA Foundation:** [Elinore Quander](#), NCTM

**Collegiate Chapters:** [Dr. Jennifer Hayghe](#)

**Mentorship Chair:** [Helen C. Gleason](#)

**Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:**  
[Chee-Hwa Tan](#), NCTM

**Vice President for Student Activities:** [Jill Ice](#), NCTM

**Achievement Day:** [Amy Watt](#)

**Concerto Competition:** [Dr. Stephanie Cheng](#)

**Master Class Activity:** [Jill Ice](#), NCTM

**Rising Stars Festival:** [Amy Lee](#), NCTM

**Student Theory Activity:** [Grace Christus](#)

**CO State MTNA Competitions:** [Elizabeth Leger](#)

**Junior and Young Artist Coordinator:** [Ryan Hale](#)

**Senior Coordinator:** [Peter Friesen](#)

**Composition Coordinator:** [Jodie Jensen](#), NCTM

**Vice President for Local Associations:** [Nazila Nekooraad](#)

**Independent Music Teachers Forum:** [Leila Viss](#)

**College Faculty Forum:** [Dr. Joeeun Pak](#)

**Vice President for Teacher Enrichment:** [Ben Raznick](#)

**Certification:** [Karen Greenhalgh](#), NCTM

**Parliamentarian:** [Kathy Hammer](#), NCTM

**Notes & News Editor:** [Dr. Janice Saffir](#)

**Website Technical Support:** [Dr. Alejandro Cremaschi](#), NCTM

**Website Content Management:** [Dr. Eneida Larti](#), NCTM

**Vice President for Conferences:** [Christine Ortega](#)

**Program Chair:** [Dr. Zahari Metchkov](#)

**Exhibits and Showcases:** [Elizabeth Leger](#)

**Commissioned Composer Chair:** [Jennifer Linn](#)

**Secretary:** [Dr. Jessica Pacheco Hjelmstad](#), NCTM

**Treasurer:** [Liane Rockley](#)

**Advertisement Chair:** [Dr. Lucy Tan](#)

**Grants Chair:** [Dr. Fernanda Nieto-Pulido](#)

**Parliamentarian:** [Kathy Hammer](#), NCTM

**Representative At Large:**

[Thayne S. Larsen](#)

[Bryan Wallick](#)

**CSMTA Executive Assistants:**

Drs. [Sam Welsh](#), NCTM and [Eneida Larti](#), NCTM

## MTNA POSITIONS

**West Central Division Director:** [Mary Beth Shaffer](#), NCTM

**West Central Division Competition Chair:**  
[Dr. Alejandro Cremaschi](#), NCTM



# NOTES & NEWS

COLORADO STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AFFILIATED WITH MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



## CSMTA Events through October 2024

October 21, 2023	MTNA Colorado State Competition, CU Boulder
January 13, 2024	CSMTA Board Meeting, 1:00pm via Zoom
March 1, 2024	Online application deadline for the CSMTA Concerto Competition
March 4, 2024	Deadline for online entries for CSMTA Concerto Competition
March 16, 2024	Registration deadline for Rising Stars Festival
March 16, 2024	Registration/Test order deadline for Student Theory Activity
March 16-20, 2024	MTNA National Conference, Atlanta, GA
April 20, 2024	Rising Stars Festival, University of Denver, Lamont School of Music
April 20, 2024	Student Theory Activity (STA) University of Denver, Lamont School of Music
May 11, 2024	Performance of CSMTA Concerto Competition with Boulder Chamber Orchestra
September 8, 2024	Application deadline for CSMTA Master Class Activity
October 18-19, 2024	2024 CSMTA State Conference, CSU-Pueblo
TBA	Commissioned Composer submission deadline
TBA	Formal sessions proposal and poster presentation application deadline

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[www.comusicteachers.net](http://www.comusicteachers.net)

[www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)