

MMTA Board Meeting Minutes 2.8.19

Call to order at 10:07am

Members Present: Ellyses, Heather, Alison, Melissa, Janet, Vera, Penny, Jonathan, Dorothy (FaceTime), Esther (phone)

Treasurer Report

- Yulia is not present
- Some growth compared to last year
- Balance as of Dec. 31, 2018: \$97,516.59 (\$6,000 increase compared to previous years)
- MTNA State Competition balance was negative (possibly because some teacher fees have not come in yet)
- There's a request for reports for State Competitions (composition and performance)
 - Yulia should create these reports – Alison will contact Valerie to see if she can with Yulia and teach her how to create the reports

Membership Report

- Yulia is not present
- 11 additional MMTA members (some new, some reinstating)
 - Including 1 collegiate member
- Some new members may join in order to take advantage of the member rate for the national conference
- A few of Esther's students signed up for MMTA and registered for the conference
- All new members are pianists – it would be nice to get more variety of members

Certification Report

- Nilly is not present
- No change – no new certifications

Judged Festival Report

- Gordon College increased their fees (not unreasonable, budget worked out)
 - The fee had actually increased several years ago, but we were still getting the lower fee for some reason, so we had to catch up with a larger increase
- Registration is a little lower this year compared to previous years
 - 166 registered
 - 58 teachers (including 8 non-member teachers)
- \$6,890 total registration income (this is higher than last year even though registration was lower, because registration fees went up)
- Paying monitors was a huge improvement in terms of logistics

- Monitors, judges, and student workers are all hired
 - Student workers (college students): \$11.25/hour
 - Monitors (doctorate students and teachers): \$15/hour
 - All workers must commit to half a day
- Ranko Konishi-Houston, candidate for Judged Festival Chair, will help out this year to learn about the event from a coordination perspective
 - The board must eventually vote to nominate her for the position
 - There is no nominating committee in place currently
 - Heather becomes President in 2020, but she wants to have a year of transition for the Judged Festival Chair
 - Heather will keep her title (Judged Festival Chair) for the next year and in the meantime Ranko will act as the Co-Chair
- Ellyses officially appoints Ranko as the Judged Festival Co-Chair

MAE Report

- We have secured two locations for MAE:
 - April 7, 2019 - Eastern Nazareth College
 - Evaluations will be in the afternoon only
 - We will not use the auditorium
 - Four rooms that have grand pianos
 - Practice rooms are available
 - College is very generous – not asking for rental fee (they shut down their music department recently) – they want to connect to the community and are interested in collaborating with MMTA
 - They are renovating a classroom into a small theater that we may be able to use in the future
 - April 14, 2019 - Indian Hill School
- Registration is now open
- MAE is only open to piano students (2019)
 - May be able to expand to other instruments in the future

Bay State Piano Contest Report

- Boston Conservatory is secured (May 12, 2019)
- Esther is creating a new banner, but it will have the old logo (the banner will cost around \$160 + shipping)

Bay State Strings Contest Report

- The online registration system is bad
 - Can the new website person clean it up?
- Strings in Massachusetts are flourishing unbelievably – new orchestras, etc.

- Playing level is increasing and number of students are increasing
- Boston University is secured (May 25, 2019)
 - 3-4 warm up rooms and one performance room
- It's important that the contest is scheduled at the end of May when all the orchestras are done rehearsing
- Would like to have a second judge this year (viola or cello)
 - Paul Katz? (cellist, NEC)
 - Tim Taranella? (cellist, Indian Hill)
- Judges are very creative people, so the competition goes much longer than scheduled (they don't care about the time)
- Would like to make it more prominent on the website that the judges' decisions are final
- Vera will hire two assistants for the competition (first half and second half)
 - Will try to find people who don't have students involved
 - Will pay them for the work

MTNA National Conference

- Heather, Ellyses, and Esther are going
- Ellyses will contact National to ask who has registered from Massachusetts
- The student scholarship application was already approved by email
 - A subcommittee will allocate scholarship funds
 - Deadline for applications is Feb. 28
 - We received two applicants so far – we would like to give the applicants more money if there aren't many applicants
 - We will finalize funds via email vote after the application deadline
- Teacher scholarships:
 - Applicants are Alexander Morollo and Maral Annaovezova
 - We have a total of \$2,000 to allocate among the applicants
 - The applicants did some volunteer work, but not a lot
 - Alison moves to allocate \$600/applicant
 - Heather seconds
 - All in favor (none opposed, none abstaining)
- President and President-Elect reimbursements
 - We talked about it in the fall over email, but did not have an official vote
 - As of last year, reimbursements could not happen until after the conference
 - We should revisit the travel guidelines (add reimbursement policy and vote)

Quad State Convention

- Merrimack College fell through, nothing looked great since then
- Got an email this morning from Endicott (Alexandra Simpkins) saying that the space is available, and they are able to accommodate the group with adequate parking nearby

- On the water in Beverly (North Shore)
- Alison will check out the space and get a contract
- Must be able to get the fee for the deposit (usually around \$500)
 - Deposit fee is part of the convention budget

Commissioned Composers Report

- Process and history are now listed on the website
- We received two nominations from the board and one from a general member
- Committee: Dorothy, Ellyses, Nilly
- Winner: Vartan Agahbabian (he's having a concert on April 7, 2019 at BU at 3pm)
- We will have social media coverage for Vartan, and decided not to provide social media coverage for the other nominees
 - All nominees received a message thanking them for their work
- Vartan's piece will be premiered at the Quad State Conference in the morning

MTNA State Performance Competition Report

- The competition was in November and went very smoothly
- One senior pianist (Kyle) is going to the national competition!
 - We should promote Kyle on social media
- Division round was via video this year
- Jonathan has a list of ideas to make things go more smoothly next year
 - Would like to get at least one group for the two-piano competition
- Teacher fee: many people didn't know there was a fee (only got one fee unprompted)
 - Still chasing people down at this point
 - Some resistance from people saying that they never heard about a fee
 - Fee must be paid by check (cannot be paid online)
 - Send an email right after the registration deadline: "Your registration is not complete until we receive your teacher fee"
 - The fee is a little hidden on the website, but we will make it more obvious on the new website

MTNA State Composition Competition Report

- Leslie is not present

MMTA's Music Connect Program Report

- Going great! Four grants were awarded
- We have not utilized full allotted scholarship amount from MMTA
- We can revisit funds in the spring
- Looking into giving free piano tuning from tuners guild

Newsletter and Social Media Report

- New MMTA blog is live (it will eventually be incorporated into the new website)
- MailChimp newsletters are working well
- Advertisements in newsletter:
 - We used to do ads in the print newsletter
 - National does “MTNA sponsored ad – we make no claim to legitimacy...”
 - We would have to set up a process, etc. if we wanted to accept ads
 - Board agrees that we shouldn’t put time and energy into ads
- Board members like to have the email reminders about social media content

Social Event/TOY

- Social event: June 15, 2019 (Saturday) at noon at Vera’s house
- Alison submitted at TOY recommendation
 - We will send it out for an email vote

Website Subcommittee Report

- Testing and launching are scheduled for July
- New logo and website will be launched together
- The new site will be more user friendly so that we can make edits on our own
- We may keep the infrastructure (with some adjustments) for the online registrations and merge it into the new website
 - We would like to have online registrations more specific to each program
 - The online registration infrastructure is outdated

Other Business

- Next board meeting is June 7, 2019 at Nilly’s house (Newton)
- Dorothy accepted the nomination for Division President-Elect 2020

Submitted Chair Reports

Bay State Piano Contest

Esther Yau

- Venue for 51th Bay State Piano Contest is secured and here is the link:
http://www.mmta.net/event_details.aspx?event_id=1228
- Registration will open March 1st, 2019

- Almost finishing with hiring judges and just waiting to hear from a couple more judges.
- The banner for last year seems like a good idea for publicity and also for students and parents taking picture. There is plan to order one that we can reuse years after year since the last one is specifically made for 50th Anniversary with special logo. Due to the fact that the new image logo is not set yet for MMTA. As of now, we will wait till the new logo for the banner hopefully for 2020. But if the new logo can be set in time before contest in April or May, it is still possible to order the banner for 2019
- Starting to spread words to college students for possible student helper/guides for contest day.

Commissioned Composer

Dorothy Travis

There were three nominations for Commissioned Composer for 2019.

- Seth Hamlin
- David Ibbett
- Vartan Agahbadian

The nominations were received by the deadline of November 1, 2018 and the three enthusiastically accepted the nomination. As the next step in the process, they submitted a letter, resume, list of works, and at least two written and aural samples of their works. Two samples had to be without identification.

Between Dec 1 and 23rd, the selection committee, which consisted of Ellyses Kuan, Nilly Shilo, and Dorothy Travis, listened to the samples and discussed the merits of each composer in a teleconference. The composers were then identified and the committee read the letters and resumes and listened to other materials from each composer. These were three very strong candidates.

Vartan Agahbadian has been selected to be the Commissioned Composer for our 2019 Quad State Conference. He will receive \$750 form MTNA and \$1250 from MMTA for a total of \$2000 at the premiere of his piece at the Conference. The committee enjoyed every one of his compositions and felt that our teachers would appreciate whatever medium he chooses to write for. There is a concert of his compositions coming up in April if some of the Board would like to attend and meet him in person.

April 7, 2019

Sunday 3:00 PM

Boston University

Building 735 Commonwealth Avenue

Room Marsh Chapel

At our conference, Vartan may receive \$150 per performer up to \$1050 (seven performers). The composition will be approximately 10-15 minutes.

Vartan and I have signed the contract which is sent by MTNA and I am awaiting his return from a trip to discuss the details.

David Ibbett is doing a Music of Reality series and they are producing a ballet on a theme of cell division at UMass Boston on the 23rd of April in case anyone is interested in going.

Seth Hamlin wrote a piece for Duo Amie for cello and piano which will be premiered in 2019.

Quad State Conference

Alison S. Barr

I am thrilled to report that the Quad State Conference has been confirmed for Saturday, October 5, 2019. It will be held at Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts.

My most generous colleague, Hugh Hinton, is our conduit and contact there. Ellyses and I spent a wonderful morning and lunch touring the facility with Hugh. Though Rogers Center for Performing Arts does not allow outside use, Hugh has arranged for this event to be sponsored by the Merrimack College Performing Arts Department. We will work out a contribution to Merrimack's Development Office in lieu of rent.

I have submitted a draft of Quad State Registration that will be available online.....when should we put it up?

We will be able to use student assistants from Merrimack (probably paid an hourly rate) and their sound people for the Commissioned Composers Concert and for any AV we might need. We have agreed to have the Admissions Office set up a table with their recruitment info. This college is perfectly positioned for all of our northern teachers, very close to the highway, near hotels and simple to get to. Hugh will arrange that the large parking lot next the Center is reserved for all of us.

We are most honored to welcome William Westney, Presenter. Please note that I am working with Bill to promote presentation of ensembles, not only solo piano in the Un-Master Class. He is extremely supportive of this. I hope we can draw from the various states. Bill's bio is attached at the end of this report.

Proposed budget (rough) is attached below. Commissioned Composer stipend is not paid from this budget, nor are the performers from our state – those are a line item in the regular MMTA budget. I feel very strongly that, if we have extra funds after all expenses are paid, we equally split and distribute those funds among the four states.

Income:

50 Early Bird registrants @ \$75 each = \$3750.00

50 Later Registrants (including at door) @ \$85.00 each

Spouses: 5 @ \$25.00 = \$125.00 Non-Members 5 @ \$95.00 = \$475.00 Students with ID - Free Program Ads: \$500.00
Total projected Income: \$9475.00

Expenses:

Speaker: \$2500 (have already paid \$500 of this) Program printing \$250
Contribution to Merrimack College: \$1500. ???? TBD Hospitality: \$300
\$4250.00
Lunch (self-pay)
Guest lunches: \$150 (10 lunches)
Hotel one night for Pres and Pres-Elect, Chair and Committee \$500 (conference rate)
Other Recording fees, composer...\$300 (?)
Students Assistants: \$100.
Other \$500
Tuning(s) \$200
Other ????
Total Projected Expenses: \$6300.00

Please note that the afternoon concert at 1:15 – 2 will be a Chamber Music Concert with four groups, one from each state. That is my goal.

Please also note that, by request of Dorothy Travis, the Commissioned Composition Chair, the concert will take place in the morning and composers may be available to have lunch and talk with registrants. Perhaps we can offer complimentary lunches to composers (not sure about performers.)

Ellyses is arranging for a National Representative from MTNA to attend. The National Rep will likely give a short speech during lunch.

Lunch will be catered by SYSCO, which provides Merrimack College food. It will be held in the beautiful, large windowed atrium of the Rogers Performing Arts Center. There will be no walk outside to a different building!

Dr. Westney is also arranging with Dr. Hinton, separate and apart from the Quad State arrangements, to give a FREE recital on Sunday, October 6, 2019. The place is TBD, but perhaps it will be in Rogers Center for Performing Arts. Quad State registrants are invited to stay over an additional night and make a weekend of it. That's what I plan to do!

This is very exciting and promises to be a HUGE success. I am respectfully asking that ALL MMTA Board Members mark this date on their calendars now. This amount of energy, time and effort warrants 100% support from the Board. I understand there is teaching etc., but you have had enough advance notice to put aside this day for your colleagues and the success of this program!!

Judged Festival

Heather Riley

- Gordon College: They updated their venue fee: \$2000. It's a \$500 increase from 2018 and previous years (\$1500).
- Registration totals:
 - 166 contestants registered (as of 1/27/19)
 - 58 teachers (50 members + 8 non-members)
- Submit for vote: Candidate for Judged Festival Chair
 - RANKO KONISHI-HOUSTON holds a B.M. and M.M. from New England Conservatory of Music, and is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, Iota Chapter. She began her undergraduate studies at Indiana University in Bloomington, where she studied with Michel Block. She then transferred to New England Conservatory where she studied with Gabriel Chodos, Randall Hodgkinson, and Victor Rosenbaum. She also studied Piano Pedagogy with Jean Stackhouse, who was her mentor along with Sylvia Chambless.
 - Ranko has been a dedicated and active member of New England Piano Teachers' Association for over twenty years, and is currently their President. In the past, she has served on the NEPTA Board of Directors as Vice President and also as the Competition Chair for three years.
 - Ranko has taught private piano lessons at her home in Cambridge for over 25 years. She enjoys performing piano compositions by her friends.
 - Ranko has been an MMTA/MTNA member for about 3 years, and served as a judge for Judged Festival last year (2018). She also has previous experience running a competition, in NEPTA. Ranko has specifically expressed great interest in becoming more involved with MMTA, and wants to get to know the community more, and contribute something meaningful.
- As I mentioned at the last board meeting, it's important that someone is ready to take over the Judged Festival position when I begin my role as President, because I do not want to do both.
 - Happily, Ranko is not only well qualified for the position, she is also ready to start with the new term in July 2019. That gives us time for me to train her now, as she can shadow me during this year's event and begin learning, which is crucial. Of course, I would give her lots of support and guidance during her first year next year, to make sure everything goes smoothly - just as Vivian did for me! I have an updated timeline/job description for her, plus comprehensive documentation, instructions, and templates for every step of the event process.
 - I have full confidence that Ranko will be excellent in this role, and we would be lucky to have her enthusiasm and dedication on the board!
 - I hope the board will vote yes, and join me in supporting her for the position!

Musical Achievement Evaluations

Penny Oullette

Day 1:

Date: Sunday, April 7th @ 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy

Day 2:

Date: Sunday, April 14th @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Indian Hill Music School, Littleton

1. Eastern Nazarene College does not ask for the rental fee. In exchange, MAE offers free evaluations for ENC students and possible free workshops/concerts/presentations in the future.
2. Hybrid online and on-site evaluations will continue to be discussed with possible implementation by 2020.

MMTA Membership

Yulia Zhuravleva

- According to MTNA report from December 2018, Massachusetts MTA members count by 11/30/2018 is 212 Active Members
- Since last MMTA board meeting on 9/21/2018 quite a few new members joined MMTA

Student Member Travel Grant

Alison S. Barr

MMTA Student Member Travel Grant Guidelines

- A maximum of \$2000.00 total travel funds will be made available for use of MMTA/MTNA Student Members for the express use of travel/lodging/registration for the MTNA National Conference.
- Release of any and all funds will be "reimbursement-based," because of MMTA's accounting and IRS requirements.
- Any Student Member of MMTA/MTNA is eligible to apply. Use of such funds will be governed by these criteria:
 - Applicant agrees to the following when he/she signs the application:
"By signing this application, I verify that I will use awarded funds for their intended purpose and by the proposed date. If I do not use the awarded funds, I will return them to MMTA."
 - Applicants must attach to application a scan or copy of the official MTNA Conference Registration application filled out by the applicant.
 - Grant recipient must provide a brief written report of his/her Conference experience to be published in an MMTA newsletter. Please send to:
Ekuan@eksmusicschool.com

EKS Music School
(Attn: Ellyses Kuan, President, MMTA)
121B Standish Avenue
Quincy MA 02170

- This report is due when he/she submits his receipts for reimbursement, and no later than April 30 of the particular conference year. If this report does not accompany the receipts, reimbursement may not be paid out.
- We encourage grant recipients to agree to two hours of volunteer service within a year after returning from the Conference.
- Applicants must provide a copy of current student ID
- Applicants may NOT apply in any two consecutive years.
- The TOTAL amount of NO MORE THAN \$2000.00, with a maximum cap of \$250.00 per applicant will be divided evenly among all qualified candidates applying, as verified and awarded by a subcommittee of the MMTA Board.

MMTA's Music Connect Program

Alison S. Barr

I am thrilled to report that we now have FOUR recipients of the Music Connect award:

#1 32-45's \$960.00 total

#2 32-60's \$1280.00 total

#3 20-60's \$800.00

#4 12-60's \$720.00

Total Grant \$ awarded in 2018-2019 - \$3760.

Total Grant money allocated by MMTA for 2018 – 2019: \$5120.00

Grant money remaining: \$1360.

I consider this a huge success for the first year the program has been in existence. The remainder of this money may still be used for lessons in the academic year 2018-2019.

I would like to thank my committee - Valerie Stark and Dorothy Travis for their most dedicated and thoughtful work and also Treasurer Yulia Zhuravleva for her prompt processing of tuition reimbursements.

I would also like to thank Ellyses Kuan for her support and Melissa Vining for her superb postings and Newsletter contributions about the program.

Please note that we have agreed to keep teacher and student names and communities private. Each student/family awarded is experiencing difficulty continuing/paying for lessons due to serious hardship of some kind. Please note that this money is paid directly to the teacher as a reimbursement for lessons completed.

Recent exciting development: MMTA member and registered PTG member Debbie Cyr is

working with the Mass Chapter of the PTG to coordinate free tuning services to be offered to those grant recipients who may need them. More details coming on this!

Description:

“MMTA’s Music Connect Program,” affords qualified students of MMTA members in good standing the opportunity to receive tuition-free instruction. This program joins all of our other student competitions, festivals and grants to insure that our students are served at the highest level.

http://www.mmta.net/web_content.aspx?page_name=musicconnect

MTNA State Composition Competition

Leslie Hitelman

Here is the link to the website page for the composition competition.

[MTNA State Composition Competition](#)

Please let the board know our good news.

Please let the board know that the pictures and the links to the recordings of the music are on the website too.

That was a great idea. Thank you for suggesting it.

Last I heard we had only collected four of the five teacher's fees. I have emails out to Caroline and Jonathan to check in about the fifth teacher. If the check has not been received, I will contact the teacher again.

MTNA Performance Competition

Jonathan Roberts

Thank you to all who helped out with this year’s state competition on November 4th at Brandeis University, especially volunteers Alison Barr, Dorothy Travis, Melissa Vining, Alexander Morollo, Robin Cho, and Nilly Shilo. Everything went very smoothly thanks to this help and assistance. For those who may not have seen the winners lists, they are included at the bottom of this document.

I am excited to share that the winner of our senior piano competition, Kyle Chen (student of Niva Fried) is the winner of the Eastern division round and will continue on to the national competition in March. I think it would be a great discussion for the board how we might want to feature this student (social media, quad state conference, etc.?).

Regarding next steps for the 2019 competition, I have compiled my personal checklist of ways to make everything smoother from a logistics point of view. One area that was, and still is, particularly challenging is the collecting of the teacher fees. Only one teacher sent this in on her own, and the rest required some follow-up, and there are still some I am chasing after. A

number of teachers said they did not realize there was a fee; I must admit, looking at the current state website, it is an easy detail to miss. I would like to discuss potential ways, especially with the new website coming, to make the teacher fee clearer, and perhaps even easier to pay (online vs. mail?). I'm happy to come up with my own reminder mechanisms for teachers as well.

As I mentioned in our last meeting, I would like to find ways that we might be able encourage participation in the two-piano competition next year. Once the national competition has concluded, my strategy is to reach out to Linda Stump to find out which states had the best participation this year, reach out to the board members of those states' associations, and ask what they did, if anything, to boost participation. I would love to hear any other ideas the board may have on this.

Newsletter and Social Media

Melissa Vining

Newsletter

- MMTA Blog: The new blog is live!
 - You can find it at <https://massmta.wixsite.com/blog>
 - It contains the full articles from each newsletter
 - It will be eventually be integrated into the new website
- MailChimp: MailChimp newsletter format is working well.
 - We have about a 40% open rate, which is much higher than the 12% industry average for education/training newsletters
- Newsletter Schedule: Next year, I'd like to move to a quarterly newsletter to help ensure that all event details get published (for example, I was unable to publish information about the Bay State Strings Contest or the second MAE location in the winter newsletter, as it was not yet available at the time of publication).
 - Potential 2019-2020 newsletter schedule: September, December, March, June
- Advertising in the Newsletter: I received an article submission advertising a CD release from an MMTA member, which was not published. Ellyses suggested potentially charging for advertisements.
 - Are we interested in opening the newsletter to advertisements for a fee, or would we rather keep it ad-free?

Social Media

- I have only received social media content from 4 board members
 - I've also been using information/content from the national emails
- Do you have suggestions for a better way to get social media content?
 - I have been sending email reminders at the end of each month for additional social media content – is this helpful?

Treasurer's Report

Yulia Zhuravleva

Cash in bank accounts:

Account	As of December 31, 2018	As of December 31, 2017 (for comparison)
Savings	20,037.44	19,947.66
Checking	50,972.96	45,734.02
Jumbo Certificate	26,506.19	26,088.09
Total:	97,516.59	91,769.77

Judged Festival registrations in PayPal

5,857.68 (January 1, 2019 through January 26, 2019) 857.34 (December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 Total: 6,715.02

Website Update

Ellyses Kuan

Web designer: Wing Ngan

Web Developer: Dan Liu

- Spoke with both Wing and Dan about the website a few times regarding moving forward with the project.
- If we decide to move forward, Wing will design the website template for the web developer. He suggested to use a user-friendly website design tool such as Wordpress. This will allow us to update the text easily on by ourselves. This will address a concern from the subcommittee.
- Spoke with Dan a couple times and he stated that our MMTA website was written in ASP.net 2.0.
- Dan explained that Wordpress is only a web design tool but not a content management tool. Given we already have existing programs running the databases, registration and other functions (which took upwards of 100 hours of work before), Wordpress will not be able to handle the content management part since it is not integrated with ASP.net 2.0. He suggested the easiest way to have a new makeover would be having the designer provides a document in zeplin format where he can get colors and sizes to integrate the current site architecture. He also mentioned that the upgraded asp.net to the latest version. This will be easier to use than the current one we use, which is over 10 + years old.