

MMTA Board Meeting
Friday, February 3rd, 2023
10:00am-12:00pm
Zoom Link:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5660781535>

Meeting ID: 566 078 1535

AGENDA

1) Call to Order - 10:01 am

Roll Call by Secretary Aleksandra Lvin - 10:01 am

- a) Jonathan Roberts, Yulia Potvin-Zhuravleva, Ranko Konishi-Houston, Dorothy Travis, Ellyses Kuan, Nilly Shilo, Alison Barr, Rebecca Helm, Vinh Pham, Vera Rubin, Esther Ning Yau, David Ibbett, Aleksandra Lvin, Valerie Stark (entered 10:26am)
- b) Not Present: Leslie Hitelman, Jia Shi

Adopt Agenda - 10:03 am

- c) Motion by Alison Barr, Dorothy Travis seconds

2) President's Report - Jonathan Roberts - 10:03 am (Report Attached)

a) Proposal to trial Slack for communicating about proposals, votes, etc.

- i) Jonathan proposes using Slack, a free, alternative communications platform. Slack will allow the Board to create different categories of discussion for an orderly approach to communicating and voting in between scheduled meetings. After weighing the options of using Whatsapp and regular email, the Board agrees to try the new platform for a few months.

b) Membership survey and membership “promotion.”

- i) Jonathan to be in touch with Rebecca about sending a survey to MMTA members to evaluate members’ satisfaction with the offered programs, and to use the data for future marketing.

3) Reports of Officers

a) Membership Report - Yulia Zhuravleva - 10:20 am (Report Attached)

- i) Yulia reports that we are in a good place with 218 members as of January 2023, compared to 211 members in January 2022.

b) Treasurer’s Report – David Ibbett - 10:22 am (Report Attached)

- i) David informs the board that accounting has moved to Quickbooks making everything more efficient.
- ii) Yulia reports that we have not yet moved \$20,000 to the Jumbo Certificate account as had been voted during the September 2022 meeting. Board agrees that another vote is unnecessary, and the funds will be transferred by David and Yulia at their convenience.

c) Communications Chair – Rebecca Helm - 10:26 am (Report Attached)

- i) Rebecca asks program Chairs to send her their events well ahead of time so that she can promote them with email blasts and in the newsletter. She asks for the language to be worded exactly as it is to appear in the promotions to avoid any possible confusion, and for a clear timeline for the promotion of said events.
- ii) Rebecca reports that there were no submissions for the December newsletter resulting in a cancellation in its publication. To avoid more

cancellations, Rebecca seeks people to contribute articles for the next newsletter with a due date by March 10th.

- iii) Jonathan suggests pre-planning a group of contributors for each newsletter. The suggestion is well received.

d) Applications Chair – Valerie Stark - 10:37 am (Report Attached)

- i) Valerie reports that there have not been any applications for awards to date.
- ii) Jonathan suggests moving the deadline for the “Teacher of the Year” Award to the end of March. Dorothy suggests notifying members of the change in the March newsletter. Ellyses to update the date on the website. For the future, Ellyses suggests notifying members of the upcoming deadlines in the newsletter.

e) MTNA State Composition Competition – Jonathan Roberts on behalf of Leslie Hittelman - 10:41 am

- i) Jonathan is pleased to report that Massachusetts has a winner in the MTNA State Composition Competition Junior Division- Sabina Sandrasagra – a student of David Ibbett!!

f) MMTA Music Connect Program – Alison Barr - 10:45 am (Report Attached)

- i) Alison reports that one new Music Connect application has been approved since the last meeting. It is still a small program, but has a large impact on those whom it serves.
- ii) The Board discusses ways in which to promote the program and give it more visibility. Rebecca will promote it in the upcoming newsletter.

- iii) The program is available to MMTA members and their students. Alison wonders if there is a way to promote it in schools to incentivise students and parents to see out participating MMTA teachers, and/or incentivise teachers to become MMTA members.

g) Commissioned Composer – Dorothy Travis - 10:52 am (Report Attached)

- i) Yoko Nakatani to be the Commissioned Composer. Yoko will compose a piece for Piano with extended techniques. Yoko hopes to collaborate with a pianist from Paris to perform her work at the upcoming Quad State Conference in Vermont.
- ii) Dorothy proposes a higher than previous budget for the pianist.
- iii) Alison makes the motion to pay the pianist \$500. Valerie seconds. Board approves with a vote.

h) Judged Festival – Ranko Konishi-Houston - 11:00 am (Report Attached)

- i) Ranko reports that the Judged Festival is in the middle of its registration period (January 11th-February 11th). The Festival will take place at Salem State University. Teachers may register up to 5 students (down from 12 last year) due to the Festival moving back to in-person. Only a couple of teachers were displeased with the change.
- ii) Ranko voices a concern about the lag between registration for the Judged Festival opening on January 11th, and the registration deadline for MTNA/MMTA membership on January 31st. Yulia suggests moving the deadline for MTNA/MMTA membership to December 31st to be able to participate in the Judged Festival. This is to be announced to teachers registering their students for the event in the future.

- iii) Ranko asks for guidance on how to properly thank Salem State University for providing MMTA with their facilities. Valerie recommends a \$500 contribution to their music department - the amount gifted to Brandeis University in the past.
- iv) Ranko performs a great deal of work all year to prepare for the single day of the Festival. She will need more help preparing future Festivals.

i) Bay State Contest Strings – Vera Rubin - 11:13 am

- i) Vera reports that Bay State Strings Contest will be held on May 28th, 2023. Vera has successfully secured a judge for the date.
- ii) Vera voices concerns about finding a venue to host the event. Universities are not able to give a firm commitment due to the variable nature of the pandemic. Some ideas for locations are Boston University, New England Conservatory, and Rivers School Conservatory.
- iii) Vera also reports some difficulty in securing an outdoor space due to liability and MTNA's insurance policy. Jonathan offered to help Vera resolve any problems with insurance.
- iv) The Board agrees that Vera may hire a third judge if she has money left over in her budget.

j) Bay State Contest Piano – Esther Ning Yau - 11:23 (Report Attached)

- i) Esther echoes Vera's concerns about securing a facility to host the Bay State Contest. Local schools and universities are hesitant to allow outside organizations to host their events, and there has been much turnover amongst people in administration of these schools with whom MMTA members have made connections in the past.

- ii) If Esther is unable to secure a facility, Bay State Piano Contest may be held online again this year.

k) Independent Music Teachers Report – Vinh Pham - 11:35 am (Report Attached)

- i) Vinh reports the completion of the welcome video for independent teachers which he and Alison worked on creating. Discussion follows about the next steps to promote the video. The video is to be mailed to the Board, put in the newsletter, and as a pop-up on the MMTA website under the “Teachers” tab.

4) General Business - 11:38 am

a) Artwork for National Office from MMTA – Valerie Stark

- i) Valerie secured a beautiful watercolor print of the Boston Commons by local artist, Davis Carroll, to hang in the National Office.

b) IMT initiative – Alison and Vinh

5) New Business

a) Annual Social Event – 11:40

- i) Alison reminds the board that the Annual Social Event typically coincides with the Teacher of the Year Award. She generously offered to host the event, keeping both June 3rd and 4th open for the time being.

b) David Ibbett's proposal for MMTA Composers Workshop - 11:44 am

- i) David proposes a new Composers Workshop for students submitting their compositions to the MTNA State Composition Competition. The pieces will be played through by professional musicians.
- ii) Alison makes a motion to create the program under David's guidance with a budget of \$2,000-\$3,000. Valerie seconds. Board approved with a vote.

6) Unfinished Business - 11:54 am

a) Nancy Oliva Scholarship Requirement, Proposed Amendment.

- i) Valerie submitted an official proposal for the MMTA Graduating Senior Music Scholarship Award. The proposed amount is \$1,000/ student, but no more than \$2,000/ year. The award is similar to the Nancy Olivia Award, but without the requirement to participate in the Bay State Contests. This is intended to expand eligibility to students studying instruments other than Piano and Violin.
- ii) Alison makes a motion to create the proposed award. David Seconds. Board approves with a vote.

b) To Do: fill vacancy for MAE chair.

- i) Board decides to make MAE inactive until a new Chair is found. Students will continue to have access to MTNA's Evaluations. Search for a new Chair will continue.

7) Announcements - 12:03 pm

a) Next Board Meeting:

- i) Friday, June 2nd, 10am-12pm – Annual Membership Meeting – in person.
- ii) Alison reminds the board that the MTNA conference will be held March 25th-29th in Reno, and asks attending members to register for the MMTA party.

8) Adjournment - 12:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Aleksandra Lvin, MMTA Secretary

President's Report
Board Meeting, February 5th, 2023

Now that we are into the second board meeting of the year, I have a sense of some projects that may be helpful to the board and the state membership.

First, I would love to explore a more efficient means of communication outside of board meetings, starting with exploring Slack as a possibility. With our business happening year-round, it is unrealistic to handle everything in three board meetings a year. But at the same time, keeping track of email threads for discussions and votes can be cumbersome and inefficient.

My hope with a communication mechanism like Slack is that we can organize our conversations in an easy-to-read manner, and have separate channels for different discussions to keep everything organized.

Second, I plan to send out a survey to our membership to get a sense of what our members want, need, and maybe are not seeing from the organization yet. This will give us some ideas for new programs or initiatives, or reassurance that our membership is happy with the resources and services we are providing.

Third, I would love to get some marketing initiatives out there to gain new MMTA members. When you look at the benefits offered, in many ways it does not make financial sense to pass on being an MMTA member. So, there may be many potential members out there who would be interested, but do not know the benefits associated with membership. Before attending the leadership summit, even I was not aware of some of the benefits offered with membership.

This is where I think utilizing our YouTube channel could be especially effective. Or, perhaps this could be a joint task with Vinh as the Independent Music Teachers chair and Nilly as membership chair. I would love to discuss this further, in our meeting, and outside.

Looking forward to a strong finish to our school year!

Jonathan Roberts

MMTA Membership Report

As of January 31st, 2023 MMTA serves 218 active members.

For the comparison:

In January 2021 there were 206; January 2022 – 211 members

This is a positive trend and I hope there will be more people joining in the next few months.

Respectfully submitted on 2/02/2023

Yulia Potvin

MMTA Membership Chair

MMTA Financial Report

January 31st 2023

Current Bank Account Balances (as of January 31st)

Checking Account: \$57,618.26

Savings Account: \$20,656.07

Jumbo Certificate: \$28,941.03

Tasks Completed:

- Fiscal Year Tax Filing (before November 1st 2021)
- 2022-2023 Membership rates confirmed and sent to MTNA (membership fees slight increase)
- Bank transactions reconciliations done through the end of January, 2022
- 1099's issued to the eligible vendors
- MTNA Competitions Financial Report sent to MTNA
- Judged Festival Registration fees are \$1,321.66 USD and continuing through February

The following reports are submitted along as the separate documents:

- 2022 MTNA Performance Competition Report
- 2022 MTNA Composition Competition Report

Respectfully submitted by David Ibbett

MMTA Treasurer

Communication Chair Report
February 3, 2023 Board Meeting
Submitted by Rebecca Helm

Email/Social Media Communication with MMTA Members

Reminders for communication with members:

- Send doc (not pdf) with precise information and links you'd like to announce
- Include dates if follow-up announcement needed
- Note if social media post is needed as well

*Please remember to allow at least 48 hours turnaround time for any requests for email/social media announcements to members.

Newsletters

Winter 2022 Newsletter - no submissions, newsletter was not sent out

- Consider events approaching to boost information in newsletter
- Variety of submissions needed for articles

Important Upcoming Newsletter Dates & Deadlines

Spring 2023

Deadline for submissions Friday, March 10

To be published Monday, March 20

Summer 2023

Deadline for submissions Friday, June 2

To be published Monday, June 12

MMTA Board meeting February 3, 2023

Applications Chair Report

Applications for the various travel grants to assist members or collegiate members in attending the convention were due February 1. Thanks to Ellyses for reminding me about it. Since the deadline was very imminent at the time (mid-January), it was decided to announce a two week extension for the deadline, which Rebecca has shared with the membership. This Feb. 15 deadline is the same as the next registration deadline for the Convention.

So far, no applications have been received.

A proposal has been submitted for discussion for a new scholarship for graduating high school seniors, to parallel (not replace) the Nancy Oliva scholarship, but with no requirements for entering the Bay State competition as a senior. This limits the Oliva scholarship to only piano or string students, and only those who enter the competition in May of their graduating year.

Please see the proposal in this Applications Report folder.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Stark, applications chair

1:59 PM

01/09/23

Accrual Basis

Massachusetts Music Teachers Association

Class QuickReport

July 1, 2022 through January 9, 2023

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
MTNA Composition Program					
Check	10/20/2022	1095	Renee Baker	Judge	-400.00
Deposit	12/01/2022		Paypal	MTNA Comp Teachers Fees	173.81
Deposit	12/01/2022	6817	MTNA	MTNA Competitionas Rebate	605.00
Total MTNA Composition Program					378.81
TOTAL					378.81

February 3, 2023
MMTA Board Meeting
MMTA's Music Connect Program

There has been ONE new Music Connect Application approved since September 16, 2022.:

32 30-minute lessons for the Academic Year 2022-2023 for a total of \$800.00

The volume of applications is not huge, but the program is mighty for those it helps. I would very much like to have help in identifying more students who could benefit, including those in any under-served populations. Most of our applicants are in the lower income bracket, though we were advised Not to require a tax return. I trust that all applicants are totally honest and supplying their true income range when asked.

Many thanks to Valerie Stark and Dorothy Travis who continue to serve as our MMTA's Music Connect Committee, and to outgoing Treasurer Yulia who has been ever-helpful and prompt in all things financial. We welcome new Treasurer David Ibbett, who is doing a brilliant job in his new role. Also, thanks to Rebecca Helm for keeping our posts up to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Barr

MMTA's Music Connect Chair

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

MMTA believes that any child who has musical ability and interest in playing an instrument or singing deserves the opportunity to explore this talent. The MMTA Music Connect Program (MCP) offers music lessons tuition-free to students who have a demonstrated financial need and will study with an MMTA member in good standing. MMTA is thrilled to offer this program to our member teachers and their students! To apply as a Music Connect Program student or to recommend a student for study in your studio, please read thoroughly the Description for MMTA Teachers and the Description for Student's Parent or Guardian below and download the appropriate form to complete your application. Applications may be filed and processed at any time during the academic year.

Board Report for Commissioned Composer February 2023 Board Meeting

submitted by Dorothy Travis, Commissioned Composer Chair

The Commissioned Chair Committee, comprised of the President (Jonathan), Commissioned Composer Chair (Dorothy) and member Nilly Shilo reviewed the works of two candidates.

Yoko Nakatani was chosen as our Commissioned Composer. Yoko Nakatani received a B.A. from the Osaka College of Music in Japan, M.M. from the University of Oregon, and Ph.D. from Brandeis University in Music Composition and Theory. She is the recipient of the Ira Gershwin Prize in Music Composition in 2005 at Brandeis University.

Yoko will be composing a piece for piano, most likely with extended techniques for which she has much experience as a composer. She will likely have a colleague from Europe perform the piece at the Quad State conference in Vermont. I have reached out to the president of Vermont but have not received any information as yet of the date for Quad State.

National will provide \$750 as their portion of the commission and MA will provide \$1250 for a total of \$2000 for this composition. MMTA provides a stipend of \$150 per performer to engage musicians for the Quad State Conference premiere performance. The maximum stipend is \$1,050 for up to 7 performers. I would like to request a stipend for the pianist of \$350 since there will only be one.

MMTA 2023 Judged Festival Report for 2/3/2023 Board meeting
Submitted by Ranko Konishi-Houston

- Required Repertoire List announcement sent via email on 10/5/2022.
- Official Rules announcement sent via email on 12/15/2022.
- Registration period: 1/11/2023 - 2/11/2023.
- The in-person event is on Saturday, 3/11/2023, at Salem State University, Salem, MA.
- Six judges are secured. Offering \$500 for a full day (approximately from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm) - travel and meal costs are included in this honorarium. We raised the judge's stipend from \$360 for a full day to \$500, so we no longer have to offer a meal allowance (\$15) and calculate the mileage in traveling costs by car.
- Student Registration Fee: Group A, B, C = \$45 Group D, E, F = \$55 (Raised \$10 for all groups.)
- Flat teacher fee: \$30 (New fee - teachers no longer need to volunteer at the event.)
- The Music Release Form and Agreement to the MMTA Judged Festival 2023 Official Rules were implemented by Alejandro during the registration. So now the teachers must agree to three items when registering each student.
 1. Agreement to the MMTA Judged Festival 2023 Official Rules
 2. Lesson acknowledgment
 3. Music Release Form
- Event check-in: Students no longer need to bring the Music Release Form along with their music at the time of the event because the teachers agreed to abide by the rules and all terms explained in the Music Release Form at the time of registration. One less item to check during the check-ins.
- Media Permission Form is unnecessary for this event this year since we don't need to create the Winners' Video on YouTube.
- Assistants needed: I am waiting to hear back from Salem State University to help me find 5 student assistants on the event day. If Salem State University can't find 5 student assistants, how can I find paid student assistants or MMTA volunteers? MMTA will pay the students \$15/hour.
- Complaints from the teachers: Only two teachers have complained about the number of students the teacher can register this year. One teacher was persistent. She kept pushing me to change the maximum number, so Jonathan, the President, helped me solve this matter. It was 12 maximum this past two years online, but now we are back to 5 max for

the in-person event. We will need to see how many teachers and students will participate this year and explore.

- How does MMTA thank Salem State University for hosting the Judged Festival event? Please advise.
- Membership deadline: The Judged Festival Official Rules require that “Non-members must pay a \$70 non-member fee by January 31, 2023. To participate in this event, your membership status must be active by January 31, 2023.” The 2023 Judged Festival registration started on January 11, 2023, so checking the membership status made it inconvenient since we have two different platforms for the MTNA/MMTA website to join/renew the membership and the tenutoweb for event registrations. Who decided on the date, **January 31**? Is there a reason? Can we change the membership deadline to an earlier date so that before the Judged Festival registration starts, the membership status will be updated in the tenutoweb?
- In the future, I may need help/assistance to prepare for the event. It is a whole year preparing for a one-day event. Especially creating a required repertoire list demands work and time. I am still trying to figure out what, how, and who can help me.

Thank you.
2/1/23

Bay State Piano Contest Report for Feb 3rd 2023 Board Meeting
Submitted by Esther Ning Yau

1. Venue :

- It has been a challenge to get an answer from Boston Conservatory due to change of personnel who have no info about the history of the collaboration and there is also a change of director at Boston Conservatory. The interim director is not opening up any outside rental yet and it is unknown when they might consider outsider renter. John Stapp is the person of contact for Boston Conservatory as he is alumni there. I reached out to John but seems like he is not able to offer help.

- I have looked into Longy School of Music of Bard College for possibly hosting the event with info with rooms and halls involved. Unfortunately, the halls are quite fully booked through early summer and therefore will not be available.

- I have reached out to Groton Center to see if it would be possible as they have new facility. I am still waiting to hear back.

- Any suggestion will be welcome.

2. Possibility of hosting it online if no venue is available.

3. Possible dates : Sunday between late May to mid June

February 3rd, 2023

Submitted by Vinh Pham

Alison and I have put together an awesome and inspiring Independent Music Teachers welcome video a few months ago! It should serve as a great visual aid to recruit and welcome prospective new members.

Beside Ellyses, I'm not sure if anybody on the board have seen it yet? If there are no issues, the next step would be to figure out how to bring the video to our main audience.

Artwork for National Office from MMTA

Print by Boston artist Davis Carroll

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/metrowestdailynews/name/davis-carroll-obituary?id=22412617>

Print is a watercolor of the Boston Public Garden, painted circa 1980-90. For photo, request Valerie Stark. Requirements were that it not be any larger than 42" wide and 30" in height. It was well within the limits.

Generously donated by the family of Davis Carroll to MMTA.

Expenses:

Framing: \$269.07

Shipping: \$134.53

Total cost: \$403.60

Jonathan, our president, wrote them a note of thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Stark