

**MMTA Annual Membership Meeting and Board Meeting**

**Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**10:00-12:00 p.m.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5660781535>**

**Meeting ID: 566 078 1535**

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order 10:03 a.m.**

**Roll Call by secretary, Aleksandra**

Board: Jonathan Roberts, Ranko Konishi-Houston, Dorothy Travis, Nilly Shilo,

Alison Barr, Rebecca Helm, Vinh Pham, Vera Rubin, David Ibbett, Aleksandra Lvin,

Valerie Stark, Jia Shi

a. MMTA non-Board members: Cindi Lin, Caroline Li, Sylvia Furash

b. Not Present: Leslie Hitelman, Yulia Potvin-Zhuravleva, Ellyses Kuan, Esther Ning Yau

**2. Adopt Agenda**

**3. President's Report - Jonathan Roberts - (Report Attached)**

a. Jonathan expresses his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as MMTA President.

His focus for the following year remains on growing the membership. Jonathan

informs the Board that our group was the only one that had a bump in membership at

the Leadership summit. Membership increased by 14 people. He plans to send a

survey to the members in the summer. He reminds the board that the Quad State

Conference will be held on Saturday, October 21st at the Brattleboro Music Center in Vermont.

**4. MMTA Members Discussion**

**5. Reports of Officers**

**a. Treasurer Report - David Ibbitt - 10:35 a.m. (Report Attached)**

David reports that the transfer of funds from the savings account to the Jumbo account has been processed and recommends moving more money from the savings account. The current account does not have a good interest rate. David suggests looking for another bank with a better rate. The best time to switch banks is the beginning of the tax year.

**b. Nominating Committee - Rebecca Helm reports for Ellyses Kuan - 10:38a.m. (Report Attached)**

Rebecca reports that there are currently two open positions - MTNA Composition Competition and the MAE. No members have stepped forward to chair the events. Dorothy thanks Leslie Hittleman for her work as chair of the MAE. Dorothy reminds the Board that although MMTA is not currently running MAE, evaluations are still available through MTNA.

**c. Communications Chair – Rebecca Helm - 10:42 a.m. (Report Attached)**

Rebecca thanks members for contributing to the spring newsletter. The summer newsletter will be published on June 12th. Rebecca will publish a list of deadlines on the website so that all MMTA members know when to contribute to the newsletters.

**d. Applications Chair - Valerie Stak - 10:48 a.m. (Report Attached)**

Valerie reports that 10 applications have been received for the Herbert Bowker award and 3 for the Nancy Olivia. Two awards will not be granted because the teachers of the applicants are not MMTA members. In the future, there will be a requirement to write the teacher's member ID on the application. Dorothy recommends that the Olivia award be granted to seniors who are serious about pursuing music in some form after graduation. Valerie asks the board to expand the Olivia awards from \$500-\$1000, and to grow the Bowker award from \$300-\$500. Board approves the revised amounts.

**e. MMTA Music Connect Program - Alison Barr - 11:06 a.m. (Report Attached)**

Alison reports there were a couple of new applications this year to the Music Connect Program. The teacher reimbursement rate is \$60/hour. Rebecca keeps the Music Connect Program on the platforms for visibility. Valerie makes a motion to renew the previous amount of \$5120 from the 2022-2023 fiscal year to refund the Music Connect grant fund for 2023-2024. Dorothy seconds. Board votes unanimously.

**f. MTNA State Competition - Jia Shi - 11:09 a.m.**

Jia reports that finding a venue has been difficult for the MTNA State Competition. Jia has been in contact with Regis college, Tufts, and Rivers School. Although Regis seems expensive (\$4,000), Rivers may have a conflict of interest with MMTA. Jia will choose the location that she believes will be easiest to work with, and to build a good relationship with in the long run.

**g. Commissioned Composer - Dorothy Travis - 11:19 a.m. (Report Attached)**

Dorothy reports that the commissioned composer's piece will be featured at the Quad State Conference and hopes that everyone can attend.

**h. Judged Festival - Ranko Konishi-Houston - 11:20 a.m. (Report Attached)**

Ranko reports that the Judged Festival took place at Salem State University. The university provided 3 performance spaces. Ranko was disappointed that the pianos were not well tuned, although she was assured that they would be. After all expenses, including a donation to Salem State, MMTA made a profit of about \$2000. Ranko will begin working with the Repertoire Committee to come up with a new theme for the coming year.

**i. Bay State Contest Strings – Vera Rubin - 11:23a.m. (Report Attached)**

Vera reports that there is a record number of students participating in the contest. There is a separate room for the cellists and violists. There are 4 judges. Vera was disappointed that there were some glitches in advertising, however, she reports that there are many non-member teachers participating, so the contest is generating good revenue.

**j. Bay State Contest Piano - Esther Ning-Yau - 11:41a.m. (Report Attached)**

**k. Independent Music Teachers Report - Vinh Pham - 11:48 a.m. (Report Attached)**

Vinh reports that he drafted an article for the March newsletter, and will write another for the September newsletter. He is to serve on the Judged Festival Repertoire Committee.

**I. Welcome back social event**

The Welcome Back social event will take place September 17th, 2023 from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Alison graciously volunteered to host it at her house. Rebecca will place the information into the next newsletter.

**6. Adjournment -12:01 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Aleksandra Lvin, MMTA Secretary*

Jonathan Roberts, President's Report  
June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 Board Meeting

It has been quite the year for all of us, and I could not be prouder of us as a board. Thank you all for the tremendous work you have put in to make our state organization the shining star that it is.

With July coming up, along with membership renewals, it seems that now would be a key time to try and push our membership numbers so new people can begin their memberships fresh. My sense is that it is harder to get people come November/December, because their "membership dollars" do not go as far. We also have the 50%-off membership that kicks in in January that could be a key time for recruitment.

I have looked at some survey examples, and am thinking that for our membership, I would like to keep the survey open-ended (rather than having multiple-choice questions) in order to gain the greatest variety of feedback. I would also like the board's approval to offer an incentive for people to complete the survey. Something like a \$100 gift certificate to [sheetmusicplus.com](https://www.sheetmusicplus.com) could increase the engagement significantly, giving us a lot to work with.

Here is a simple five-question survey that I would like to share for feedback:

1. What aspects of our current MMTA offerings do you find most valuable? Please provide specific examples.
2. Are there any areas in which you feel our association can improve? Please share your thoughts on what we could do differently or add to enhance your experience as a member.
3. What specific events, programs, or resources would you like to see added to our association's offerings?
4. How would you describe your overall satisfaction with our association? Please elaborate on the aspects that contribute to your satisfaction, or any areas where you feel we fall short?
5. In your opinion, what can we do to attract more members and increase participation?
6. (optional) Which of the following best describes your teaching experience?
  - a. 0-2 years
  - b. 3-5 years
  - c. 6-10 years
  - d. 10+ years
7. (optional) How frequently do you attend association-sponsored events or participate in our programs?
  - a. Very frequently
  - b. Occasionally
  - c. Rarely
  - d. Never

I am looking forward to any feedback you might be willing to share. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president, and looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Dear MMTA Board,

I am happy to report that we are ending the year with **232** MMTA members.

Yulia Potvin

PS The trending statistics with year to year comparison are not available yet. I will add this information when I have it.



# **MMTA Financial Report**

**June 1st 2023**

Current Bank Account Balances (as of January 31st)

Checking Account: \$61,462.97

Savings Account: \$20,693.10

Jumbo Certificate: \$49,276.58

Profit from Judged Festival: \$2,217.66

Awaiting expenses reports from Vera Rubin in order to calculate Bay State Strings Profit/Loss

Respectfully submitted by David Ibbett

MMTA Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report  
June 2, 2023 Board Meeting  
Submitted by Rebecca Helm, on behalf of Ellyses Kuan

Nominating Committee: Ellyses Kuan (Chair), Rebecca Helm, and Ranko Konishi-Houston

There are currently 2 open board positions: Musical Achievements Evaluations Chair and MTNA Composition Competitions Chair. The nominating committee has reached out to current and former board members and all have declined. We need willing volunteers!

Communication Chair Report  
June 2, 2023 Board Meeting  
Submitted by Rebecca Helm

Successful Spring 2023 newsletter, thanks to a number of board member contributions

Important Upcoming Dates & Deadlines:

Summer 2023

Deadline for submissions Friday, June 2

To be published Monday, June 12

Looking ahead:

Fall 2023

Deadline for submissions Friday, September 15

To be published Monday, September 25

Winter 2023

Deadline for submissions Friday, December 1

To be published Monday, December 11

Spring 2024

Deadline for submissions Friday, March 8

To be published Monday, March 18

Summer 2024

Deadline for submissions Friday, June 7

To be published Monday, June 17

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

Applications Chair Report Valerie Stark June 2, 2023 Board Meeting

At two days before the deadline, 10 applications have been received for the Herbert Bowker Scholarship, for assistance paying for summer music programs, and 3 applications have been received for the Nancy Oliva scholarship. These are great numbers. The applications are in the google drive.

As of last September, the board voted to be allowed to grant more than the previous \$300 per student for the Bowker summer music study scholarships. Most of these programs are in the range of \$2000.00 or more per student. Note: there are in the applications two sets of two family members applying.

Following the February 2023 board meeting, Ellyses assisted me in contacting the family of Nancy Oliva, namely her daughter, Rosalie Young, and her grandson Ben Young, regarding the qualifications for the scholarship in her name. With the family's blessing, the requirements have been changed to include all possible instruments, and with no stipulation that the senior participate in the Bay State competition in their senior year. The family has requested that we keep them informed when the awards are made.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Stark



**MMTA's Music Connect Report**  
**Annual Meeting June 2, 2023**

Back in 2018, MMTA gave the go-ahead to this amazing program that identifies and aids students in need of financial assistance due to difficult circumstances.

In fiscal year 2022-2023, we've awarded TWO scholarship grants, paid to the teacher as tuition reimbursements:

30 45-minute lessons @ \$50.00 per hour = \$1125.00

32 30-minute lessons @\$50.00 per hour = \$800.00

Though we have had more grants per year in past fiscal years, we should consider these two grants to be a HUGE contribution to the students who have received, both of whom otherwise would not have been able to continue lessons.

**New initiatives approved by the Board:**

*1. We've raised the Teacher Reimbursement rate to \$60.00 an hour, effective immediately on all newly-accepted applications! This is in effect NOW.*

*2. We are promoting MMTA's Music Connect Program and MMTA/MTNA Membership by reimbursing a NEWLY joining teacher's annual dues, both MMTA/MTNA for a full dues year, starting with applications filed from July 1, 2023 forward, until further notice.*

*Please spread the word to MMTA members, likewise to colleagues who are not currently members. This program is like none other! For more information and applications: <https://www.mmta.net/music-connect-program>*

*Respectfully submitted-*

*Alison Barr, MMTA's Music Connect Chair*  
*[musicconnectprogram@mmta.net](mailto:musicconnectprogram@mmta.net)*

**Board Report for Commissioned Composer June 2023 Board Meeting**  
submitted by Dorothy Travis, Commissioned Composer Chair

**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 have a colleague from Europe perform the piece at the Quad State conference in Vermont on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

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. At the last Board meeting, my request of a stipend for the pianist of \$350 was approved.

## **MMTA 2023 Judged Festival Report** - for June 2, 2023, Board Meeting

Ranko Konishi-Houston, MMTA Judged Festival chair

### **Facts**

Date: Saturday, March 11, 2023

Time: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Salem State University

- Salem State University hosted 2023 Judged Festival.
- They provided 3 performance spaces (Recital Hall, Rehearsal space, and Classroom with Steinway grand pianos), plus many warmup rooms (one classroom with grand piano and others in small practice rooms with upright pianos) were available.

Repertoire Theme for 2023: "Eastern European Composers"

- The required Repertoire List was created by the 2023 Judged Festival Repertoire Committee - Isabella Li, Vinh Pham, Lydia Reed-Guertin, and Ranko Konishi-Houston during the summer of 2022.

### **Income from Registration: \$6,975.00**

- 117 students participated
  - Student registration fee: Group A, B, C = \$45, Group D, E, F = \$55
  - Group A: 23 x \$45 = \$1,035
  - Group B: 25 x \$45 = \$1,125
  - Group C: 36 x \$45 = \$1,620
  - Group D: 22 x \$55 = \$1,210
  - Group E: 11 x \$55 = \$605
  - Group F: Ages 15 - 18 was canceled because only two students were registered.

Total: **\$5,595.00**

- 39 teachers participated (36 members + 3 non-members)
  - Teacher's flat fee: \$30 x 39 = **\$1,170.00** (Teachers no longer need to assist.)
  - Non-member fee \$70 x 3 = **\$210.00**
- \* Each teacher was able to register up to 5 students.



### **Expenses: \$4,757.34**

- Payment to TenutoWeb LLC (Registration) - Alejandro Cremaschi fee: **\$312.50**
- Payment to 6 judges (Mary Beck, Sivan Etedgee, Mathilde Handelsman, Vinh Pham, Ana Popa, and Jenny Tang) for a full day: \$500 x 6 = **\$3,000.00**
- Payment for assistants - one University staff + 4 students: **\$680.00** (University student = \$15/hour, University staff = \$25/hour.)
- Donation to Salem State University Music Department: **\$500.00**
- Other expenses (snacks for judges, office supplies, music scores, masks, and hand sanitizer): **\$264.84**

### **Profit from the event: \$2,217.66**

### **Considerations for next season**

- Make sure only teachers register the students, not the parents.
- Change the deadline date for joining MTNA/MMTA to December 31st.
- Not enough interest in Group F - only two applicants. This was the second year that Group F was canceled.
- Should we continue charging the teacher flat fees? Instead, increase student fees as Bay State Piano Contest?
- If teachers want to register more than 5 students, shall we charge a fee for more students?
- Make sure the adjustable piano bench is available on the event day.
- Get the piano tuned/ask the last date when the pianos were tuned. This year, the Salem State University pianos were all not in tune. One was tuned in January and the other in February.
- How can I get more help to prepare for the event?
- Should we have the event at Salem State University again? If not, where?

Bay state strings 2023, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at College for Fine Arts at Boston University. Vera Rubin, chair.

This year we had a record number of submissions: 38 students. We have 8 cellos, three violas. It is the first time I could do the separation of the base and the treble instruments. That was my hope from the very start: to see the day when completely different instruments won't compete with each other.

It was all obvious at the very late stages of the registration, as everyone was waiting for the deadline to register.

I communicated to the teachers numerous times, advertised the judges and the location. It brought the results, obviously. When I have seen the final amount of the registrations, I had to hire two more judges for a half day, and to organize the second competition auditorium, not to mention more practice rooms to warm up.

It was a difficult task, as three judges of cello and viola, who have been on the "stand by" decided to register their students, and therefore could not be involved in judging.

I had quite a jolt looking for two more judges at 3 weeks advance. But all is good, and ready to go.

I had to hire a high school student to help me on the floor, and I hope it will all work as usual, perfectly.

This year we had great revenue, as no teacher could help on the day, everyone paid a non participation fee, and there were lots of nonmembers as well. The college facilities provided to us for no fee. So far, everything looks great. Vera Rubin

## **MMTA Bay State Piano Contest 2023 Report**

For June 2nd Board Meeting

Bay State Piano Contest is happening on June 4th Sunday in person at Granoff Music Center at Tufts University.

After a long search of venues for over 10 music schools and universities/conservatories, Tufts eventually worked out. The process is a long one due to the size of the contest, there are not many venues that could work. I am grateful to be able to use the nice facility at Tufts and make it happen in person which I know many students and teachers are really excited.

An increase of application fee is inevitable to cover the high rental fee. However, the fee now actually on par with Boston Steinway piano competition and NEPTA's competitions. There has been zero complaints about the hike in the registration fee. Teachers as volunteer monitors are no longer required and no fee will be charged. That is also another reason why we need to increase application fee to cover cost of hiring monitors. This is with the goal of trying to streamline the process of managing teachers monitors and to eliminate various issues in the past with teachers monitors.

There are 178 contestants from 47 students registered this year. 10 judges are hired from 8:30am to 5:30pm with a packed schedule in 5 rooms. 12 Longy student are hired as monitors and helpers to help run the contest. Some will be paid \$15 per hour and some will be volunteers. I believe hiring music college students not only benefit the students's music learning, it also give them a glimpse of skilled needed to run a contest. This work qualifies for CPT curriculum practical training for college music students. I think this is also beneficial to MMTA as recruitment as they become more involved and have more understanding about MMTA and could be future potential members as they graduate and become independent teachers.

I was able to consolidate the schedule to fit into 5 rooms/halls. If the number of contestants are higher, it will present some problems as there are no more good size rooms available at Tufts. Something to consider for next year as I anticipated a higher number of contestants. This year, quite a few teachers had missed the deadline for various reasons.

There will be more financial data available for next report after contest finishes.

Sincerely,  
Esther Ning Yau  
Chair of MMTA Bay State Piano Contest

June 1st, 2023

There is not much to report, actually! I wrote a short introductory article in the March Newsletter, and was planning to write more for the June one, but then came the recital season and I never really have time to do it. It is on my to-do list for summer for sure.

Speaking of the summer, Ranko has been very kind to invite me to be on the Festival Repertoire Committee this year again. So I will be happily doing research and a lot of listening to help come up with the most suitable theme and repertoire for the next Judged Festival!

On a related note, it was an amazing experience being a judge in the Judged Festival this year. I'm still impressed by how Ranko manages to organize an event of such caliber with such limited manpower. The level of playing is also very high, and at times it was very hard to be the person to compare and rank different performances, but that is always a good thing!

Kind regards,  
Vinh Pham