



Tennessee Music Teachers Association

www.tnmta.org

An affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association

December 2022

Vol. 47, No. 4

Letter from the President

Greetings fellow Music Teachers,

As I sit to write to you, I am amazed to think that we are now past Thanksgiving and heading full tilt into the Holiday season. Where did the fall go? It seems like only yesterday I was making decisions about fall repertoire for my students and this morning I listened to piano juries. I love teaching people to play the piano. The effort students put into practicing pays off in such tangible ways as they develop new technical abilities and become more sensitive musicians. Watching as students progress year after year is a true joy in my life that I try not to take for granted. And, the lessons students learn from doing consistent work over many months build life skills they will carry with them into whatever eventual career path they follow. I think it is worth mentioning that while many adults tell me how much they regret quitting music lessons when they were kids, adults who can play a musical instrument or sing always tell me that they are grateful for the musical abilities that they brought with them into adulthood. Thank you for the important work you do by investing in the lives of your students.

TMTA has returned to a more normal functioning during the last six months. We had a wonderful conference in Memphis in June, and an in-person board meeting combined with MTNA state-level auditions at Lipscomb University in early November. Many, many thanks to Jerry Reed for all his organizational work and to Lipscomb University for the free use of their wonderful facilities. Thanks also to Elaine Harris, the Audition Coordinators, and the many volunteers whose hard work provided our students with these amazing opportunities.

And speaking of amazing opportunities, our colleagues in Chattanooga are diligently working on what promises to be a wonderful conference for us in early June. Please take a minute right now to write the dates on your calendar and then see if you can work out the logistics to join us. Performance Competitions will be June 3-4, Executive Board meeting will occur over the evening meal on June 4, and the Conference will be June 5-6. TMTA is only as strong as we make it by our involvement and support. We would love to see you in Chattanooga this summer.

Mark Hussung
2021-2023 TMTA President

Early Registration for the 2023 MTNA National Conference Ends Soon:

Register early and save! MTNA is pleased to host you and the rest of the music teaching profession at the upcoming MTNA National Conference in Reno, Nevada, March 25-29, 2023.

Look forward to four spectacular days to reconnect with your colleagues, along with a wealth of inspiring professional development and networking opportunities!

Register on or before Monday, December 5, 2022, to receive your discounted registration rate.

Register: [Pricing \(mtna.org\)](https://www.mtna.org/pricing)



Results of the Fall 2022 TMTA/MTNA Competition

MTNA Tennessee Competition Results, Fall 2022

Junior Performance - Piano

Winner: Abigail Goddard
Runner-up: Colin Xie
Hon. Men.: Yuyan Hu
Hon. Men.: William Tran

Teacher: Amy Dorfman, NAMTA
Teacher: Heather Conner, NAMTA
Teacher: Michaela Kovacova, AMTA
Teacher: Benjamin Caton, AMTA

Junior Performance - Strings

Winner: Sofia Jenson, violin
 Runner-up: Isabel Kao, violin

Teacher: Christina McGann, NAMTA
 Teacher: I-Pei Lin, KMTA

Junior Performance - Woodwind

Winner: Christina Moon, flute
 Runner-up: Ella Liu, flute

Teacher: Myung Kim, GMMTA
 Teacher: Myung Kim, GMMTA

Senior Performance - Piano

Winner: Haruki Takeuchi
 Runner-up: Marissa Liu
 Hon. Men.: Yuka Yang
 Hon. Men.: Katie Wang

Teacher: David Northington, KMTA
 Teacher: Jonathan Tsay, GMMTA
 Teacher: Artina McCain, GMMTA
 Teacher: Heather Connor, NAMTA

Senior Performance - Strings

Winner: Jasper Sewell, violin
 Runner-up: Ewan Manalo, cello
 Hon. Men.: Madison Chung, violin

Teacher: Carolyn Huebl, NAMTA
 Teacher: Felix Wang, NAMTA
 Teacher: Maria Romero Ramos, NAMTA

Senior Performance - Voice

Winner: Kelly Patrick, soprano
 Runner-up: Jennifer Ribble, mezzo-sop.

Teacher: Yvonne Blair, AMTA
 Teacher: Rachel Acuff, KMTA

Senior Performance - Woodwind

Winner: Marissa Liu, flute
 Runner-up: Hannah Chen, flute
 Hon. Men.: Cindy Liu, flute

Teacher: Myung Kim, GMMTA
 Teacher: Jessica Dunnavant, NAMTA
 Teacher: Myung Kim, GMMTA

Young Artist Performance - Piano

Winner: Jeremi Lukanus
 Runner-up: Ruoyun Zhu
 Hon. Men.: Steve Silverberg

Teacher: Marianna Prjevalskaya, AMTA
 Teacher: Chih-Long Hu, KMTA
 Teacher: Amy Dorfman, NAMTA

Young Artist Performance - Strings

Winner: Melanie Chen, cello
 Runner-up: Maxwell Van Hoeij, violin
 Hon. Men.: Iris Lin, violin

Teacher: Felix Wang, NAMTA
 Teacher: Cornelia Heard, NAMTA
 Teacher: Carolyn Huebl, NAMTA

Young Artist Performance - Woodwinds

Winner: John Di Fatta, saxophone
 Runner-up: Patrick Greer, clarinet

Teacher: Brian Utley, NAMTA
 Teacher: Robyn Jones, GMMTA

TMTA Competition Results, Fall 2022**Collegiate/Adult - Piano**

Winner: Easton Ball
 Runner-up: Matthew Martin
 Hon. Men.: Bradley Bee
 Hon. Men.: Xinyu Lui

Teacher: Jerome Reed, NAMTA
 Teacher: Jerome Reed, NAMTA
 Teacher: Lynn Worcester Jones, CMTA
 Teacher: Marianna Prjevalskaya, AMTA

Donate to our 2023 MTNA Foundation Fellow

In honor of our recent nominee, Dr. Chih-Long Hu, please consider donating to the 2023 MTNA Foundation Fund. Dr. Hu, Professor of Piano at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville has been named our 2023 nominee for the MTNA Foundation Fellow Award. If we are able to raise at least \$1,500 in contributions to the MTNA Foundation Fund in Dr. Hu's name by January 16, 2023, he will be named MTNA Fellow and will be recognized at the MTNA Conference in Reno, NV next March.

Dr. Hu has generously donated his time to both AMTA and KMTA chapters in countless ways over the years as a conference co-chair, presenter, program chair, collaborative artist, coordinator of benefit student recitals, and master class clinician. He is a past recipient of the TMTA Teacher of the Year award and his students have consistently represented KMTA, AMTA, and TMTA exceedingly well in state and national MTNA-affiliated competitions and recitals. Hu consistently exhibits the highest character and graciousness towards his TMTA colleagues and their students and is always willing to help others in any way possible.

Please see the instructions below for how to donate to the MTNA Foundation in Chih-long's honor. We hope you will contribute to this great fund in honor of a treasured TMTA member!



Submit Online

1. Go to [mtnafoundation.org](https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/) <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/>
2. Enter your name, address, etc.
3. After entering your phone and email information, check the second box labeled: "Foundation Fellow (enter name below)"
4. Scroll down to "Donation in honor of" and/or "Endowment fund in progress for" and add Chih-long's name here.

5. Scroll down and add your payment/donation information. 6. Hit submit and wait for a thank you. It's that easy. :)

Submit By Mail

Music Teachers National Association
600 Vine St., Ste. 1710
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Submit By Phone

(513) 421-1420 or (888) 512-5278

Ouch! Easy Fixes for Five Common Teacher Pains

As much as music educators love their jobs, teaching can be brutal on their bodies. According to the **Society for Music Teacher Education**, “Music teachers are known to be at high risk for many occupational health issues.” It cites common musculoskeletal disorders linked to music educators’ roles, such as a choral conductor with shoulder pain or a band director experiencing back problems from lugging equipment around. Kathryn Drury Wagner/ Yamaha Music USA

<https://hub.yamaha.com/music-educators/prof-dev/self-care/teacher-pains/>

The book Musicians Way: by Gerald Klickstein provides links to cushions and footrests on Amazon that could help ease back pain.

Lumbar Support cushion: <https://amzn.to/1dEy5PZ>

Seat Cushion: <https://amzn.to/1aTTldD>

Foot Rest: <https://amzn.to/1mgbMjl>

Submitted by Sandy Triplett, Wellness Chair

Announcing the 2023 Nashville International Piano Competition

The Steinway Society of Nashville is pleased to announce the fifth Nashville International Piano Competition and will be hosted by **VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY** on **March 31 - April 2, 2023**.

[CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION](#)

This competition will award winners with cash prizes (not a scholarship).

The Nashville International Piano Competition will be open to all classically trained high school pianists in grades 9 through 12 (or within the four years before university entrance), regardless of their present state or country of residence. Those interested in applying for one of these prizes should complete the Online Application indicated by the link on this page. Complete competition information is available under [“The Rules”](#) link. Due date for registration is February 20, 2023.

Cash Prizes for the Competition are:

1st Prize: \$5000

2nd Prize: \$3000

3rd Prize: \$2000

The Steinway Society of Nashville – a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization and sponsor for the event – is hosting its fifth competition in Spring 2023, continuing thereafter on a biennial basis. A panel of noted judges will determine the winners. Competition repertoire requirements for 2023 are listed on the [“Application Rules”](#) page.

For More Info Contact: Dr. Jerome Reed at jerry.reed@lipscomb.edu



NASHVILLE INTERNATIONAL
PIANO COMPETITION

Of the Steinway Society of Nashville

Inaugural Avivo Prize Awarded to Erin Pearson

\$5,000 award with no strings attached



Avivo, a national non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating creativity through music, is proud to announce the creation of the Avivo Prize, a \$5,000 award given annually to a music educator who demonstrates noteworthy creativity in teaching and the ability to provide students with a strong foundation in musicianship skills. The inaugural prize has been awarded to Erin Pearson, a 2016 masters graduate of Belmont University and Nashville-based musician/educator. The Avivo Prize is awarded without any application process and without stipulations or requirements for how the prize money may be used.

Erin has been teaching music on some level since she was 19, and is also a visual artist (painting and guitar string jewelry) and songwriter. In 2011, she opened a private music studio, where she offers instruction in voice, piano, music theory, songwriting, guitar, and violin. Her experiences as an educator fed into her first published book, “10 Reasons Your Kids Don’t Practice Their Music: And What Parents Can Do About It,” released in 2016. Part of the Avivo Prize money helped fund its 5th edition, available Oct 25th on Amazon, which will reflect on our experiences of the pandemic, technology changes, and major social issues currently being brought to light. Of her current teaching interests, Erin notes that “most recently, I have been into understanding ‘pain’ and how to help with injury prevention and physical compensation patterns that inhibit musical ability (particularly common in voice, but with instruments too), as musicians are just like athletes. To do that, I became a certified personal trainer and neurokinetic

therapist. I use it all. I like to think I grew into teaching, and continue to grow into it as I pursue things that interest me.”

She will also use the Avivo Prize money to help produce a new music album called “Real Things,” which she describes as “Carol King meets Adele and Lake Street Dive, with a touch of Kate Bush.”

“I like to know about a lot of different things—art, the body, psychology, the natural world, and instruments because I use it all when I am teaching, writing music and creating art. All of this sort of infuses what I do with kids and students. They have lots of interests in need of exploration, and they also need fun ways to do something hard, but with appropriate structure and grounding. I like a mixture of methods, unconventional with deeply traditional, grounding elements. Learning, creating, and teaching are a cyclical experience for me. They all inform one another, and I need all three to feel alive, fully functioning and whole. For me, it’s about pursuing expression—while staying healthy—body, soul, and spirit. I do my best to help students find extraordinary growth with a focus on this same way of expression and health- whatever that means for them, musically or otherwise.”

Avivo (avivo.org) is a community of musicians devoted to the art of teaching drawn together by the legacy of educator Grace Newsom Cushman, who taught at the prestigious Peabody Preparatory School and developed a comprehensive music pedagogy for children. In 2013, Avivo was born to conserve, promote, develop, and spread Cushman’s concepts of creative integrated learning as originally presented in her innovative program, which was simply called “Musicianship.” Teaching Artists Patricia Plude and Pamela Quist serve as Director and Assistant Director, and are joined by Marshall Bessières, Shawn Crouch, Brooke Joyce, Tom Lopez, and Leo Wanenchak, who bring their unique and considerable talents to Avivo. Steve Kusmer is the group’s business advisor. Avivo believes in teaching music as a language that is available to all as a means for personal creative expression.

Submitted by Brooke Joyce, Publicity and Communications for Avivo

2023 TMTA Conference Update

The Chattanooga Music Teachers Association is happy to invite you to save the dates of June 5-6, 2023, Monday & Tuesday, to make your plans now to attend the exciting TMTA conference being planned. With renovations completed at last in the Fine Arts Center, all events will be held on the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga campus once more. Plans are well underway for excellent concert performances, master classes, interesting presentations and social events you won't want to miss! The conference hotel with a special rate will be the Doubletree Hilton at 407 Chestnut Street in downtown Chattanooga. Information will be sent soon on rates with directions for making

reservations. We're anticipating a great conference in 2023 and hope to see you in Chattanooga next summer! Enjoy the Holiday Season!

Lynn Worcester, Deanne Irvine, & ChoEun Lee
2023 TMTA Conference Co-Chairs

Local Association News

The Chattanooga Music Teachers Association has planned a great year of meetings and activities. There will be a combination of Zoom meetings and live events.

January: Roundtable Discussion, with Dr. Olivia Ellis (piano ensemble program ideas), Wanda Everett (summer camp ideas), Katheron Latham, CMTA Professional Development Grant recipient.

February: Master Class

March: Cooperative Recital

May: Scholarship Winners Recital, Teacher of the Year, Reception

SAVE THE DATE!
TMTA Conference and Competitions
June 3-6, 2023, Chattanooga

Participation in Piano Pedagogy Dissertation Research

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Stephanie Archer, and I am a PhD candidate at Florida State University studying piano pedagogy. Please consider participating in my dissertation research regarding how we teach beginning students technique and the impact our teaching practices have on injury prevention. It will only take 10 minutes to complete this questionnaire. If you are a teacher in the United States who works with the beginner population (within the first 3 years of study), I would be delighted for you to participate!

Survey Link: https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7Og8Z89UAlcqCl8

Results will be shared at a later date. Thank you!

Stephanie Archer, NCTM
sarcher2@fsu.edu

Planning Ahead

Upcoming TMTA Conferences

- 2023 Chattanooga: June 3-6
- 2024 Nashville
- 2025 Martin
- 2026 Johnson City

Upcoming MTNA Conferences

- 2023 National Conference, Reno, Nevada: March 25–29