

HORIZONS

newsletter of the Wyoming Music Teachers Association

MARCH . 2024



DATES

to keep in mind

- **APRIL 22, 2024**
 - State Conference + WyAD registration opens (early registration ends May 20)
- **JUNE 13–15, 2024**
 - Biennial State Conference + WyAD, University of Wyoming, Laramie
- **NOVEMBER TBA, 2024**
 - Wyoming MTNA Competition, Laramie
- If your chapter would like any dates featured in Horizons– July 2024, please email me at ruth@brightpianostudio.com

WMTA 2023 Officers

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Paula Flynn, Glenrock
President-Elect: Vacant
Past-President: Lisa Rickard, Laramie
Treasurer: Alaina Niemann, Cheyenne
Secretary: Beverly Reese, Casper

LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS


Allegro Chapter: Karen Bree
Casper Music Teachers Association: Cindy Rogers
Cheyenne Music Teachers Association: Alaina Neimann
Cody Chapter: Cynthia Kaelberer
Laramie Music Teachers Association: Barbara Basinger
Sheridan Music Teachers Association: Janet Ruleaux
Southwest Chapter: Emily Durrant

STANDING STATE COMMITTEES

Independent Music Teachers Forum: Vacant
Local Associations: Karen Bree, Cody
Membership: Alaiyna Niemann, Cheyenne
MTNA Certification: Cindy Rogers, Casper
MTNA Foundation: Vacant
Student Activities: Emily Durrant, Rock Springs
Technology: Susan McCloud, Casper

AD HOC STATE COMMITTEES

College Faculty Forum: Vacant
Collegiate Chapters: Vacant
Commissioning: Vacant
Historian: Lorene Sims, Laramie
Publicity/Horizons Editor: Ruth Bright, Cheyenne



NEWS

President's Report

IN GENERAL

Even numbered years are Election years for WMTA! As I see the tenure of my time coming to a close, I reflect on the many changes and adjustments that have occurred during my time at the helm. Our membership has grown from the mid-30's to 55! The "Everyone Bring One" campaign was successful in recruiting 20+ new members to the state organization. While growth is a wonderful thing to see, are we making the best use of our new members? Are we encouraging them to participate in local and state events? Are we encouraging their growth mindset by encouraging them to actively volunteer in local and state events? Chair a position within the local and state organizations?

Karen Thickestun, our esteemed National Past-President, wrote an article recently about volunteering, shared below. In the article she references the many benefits of participating and volunteering within an organization to our individual health, as well as a boon for our businesses. Consider how you might become more involved in the coming year with your local and state affiliates.

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Business_Resources/Career_Development/Development/2023_AS.aspx

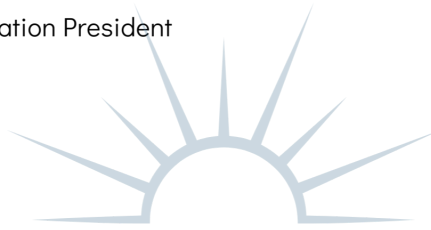
Lisa Rickard, our Past-President, has been contacting many of you to participate in the nominating committee for the State Elections. This is a simple task and one you will not regret. If she calls you, say "YES!" to the opportunity to help shape the future of WMTA.

In addition to seeing our membership numbers grow, I reflect on the streamlining of documents for the organization. Lisa Rickard has taken on this monumental task and will be passing the torch to me in June as I step into the Past-President position. The documents being revised and created will help our future volunteers ease into their new positions, whether that is a chair position or an Executive Board position. I encourage all chair personnel to consider their day to day, week to week, year to year tasks and write them down. Send those to Lisa and help her know exactly what it is that your position does for the good of the order. When you decide to step aside, someone else can then take your document and easily step into your old and comfy shoes.

STATE CONFERENCE NEWS: REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 22

- State Conference will be held in Laramie in the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Wyoming campus June 13-15. Thursday and Friday will feature guest presentations by MTNA Past-President Karen Thickstun, Boston based composer John McDonald, and WMTA's very own Dr. Theresa Bogard. Presentations will cover entrepreneurship, business management, pedagogic topics, composing for your studio, and much much more! Please make plans to attend today! Mark the dates in your calendar and look for more information coming to our wyomingmta.org website soon. Registration opens April 22 with early registration ending May 20,

Wyoming Music Teachers Association President
Paula Flynn



Officer Reports

PAST-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello, fellow WMTA Members! Our Wyoming Music Teachers Association Handbook is ready for proof reading. I plan to send it to chapter presidents and they may share it with all members to peruse. I would value your feedback on the content— please let me know if the content needs more clarification or additional information needs to be included in the document. Do keep in mind this will be a fluid document that will be changed with each new Past President's oversight. The Handbook will make it much easier for future officers, chairs, and members to understand the function of each role; and all members may have a better understanding of how our organization operates and what it has to offer. It will be ready for use by the State Conference in Laramie in June.

The nominating committee will soon be reaching out to members to consider the roles of President, President-elect, Treasurer, and Secretary for the WMTA Executive board. Please consider serving on the board as it will widen your appreciation of our organization and create lifelong connections with wonderful people in our profession, at the state, district, and national level. If you are interested in volunteering, you need not wait for an invitation and may reach out to me at: lisa88keys@gmail.com or call 307-761-1591.

This is my final year to serve you on the executive board and I want to express how it has been an honor to do so. I truly have found a deep appreciation of what our organization offers and have built lifelong relationships with people I have come to deeply admire and turn to for advice and encouragement. Thank you!

Lisa Rickard
Wyoming Music Teachers Association Past-President

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Wyoming Achievement Day (WyAD): we are looking ahead for student events to be coordinated with the state conference this year. Plan on a master class for sure and more to be discussed soon.

Emily Durrant
Student Activities Chair

CASPER MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Casper Music Teachers Association's 2023-24 year has so far been "The Year of the Pivot".

We welcomed several new members into our chapter this past semester, and are grateful for their enthusiasm for our group!

Our 3rd annual ART321 Countdown to Christmas pivoted into our 2nd annual Christmas at the NIC event on December 9th. We had five hours of Christmas music provided by our students and teachers as our annual gift to Casper. We also use it as an opportunity to invite "future CMTA members" to have their students participate as well. We had a record breaking 107 participants in this event! It was a great day for everyone involved: The NIC was so excited to have so many people (500+) in their space for the day. Parents, students, and teachers were all thrilled with the venue and the great attendance throughout the day. We are already on the books for next year, complete with a sixth hour of music to schedule!

Another "pivot" for this year is the rescheduling of bringing Barry Green, author of the Inner Game of Music to Casper. Because of an unplanned surgery he needed in January, we had to move his coming to Casper College from January 27th, to April 6th, 2024 for a day of interactive workshops and masterclass. A huge thank you to Paula Flynn and Casper College for their quick and gracious response to this necessary adjustment. The BOCES program at Casper College has also been instrumental in helping Casper MTA bring Mr. Green to Casper. The Inner Game lecture-demonstration is about overcoming mental obstacles to performance, practicing and teaching through the master techniques of Awareness, Commitment and Trust. Additionally, he will share his lecture on "Bringing Music to Life", an innovative imaginative methodology to bring spirit and life to music. The workshop parallels the Inner Game of music in that it teaches three master skills: Breath, Pulse and Movement that allow the performer to channel inspiration and life in music, through the body of the performer. Green's workshops engage the audience in lively group exercises in addition to spontaneous coaching of individuals that instantly transform a performer's concentration from a place of doubt to a place of relaxed concentration. The workshop includes live musical coaching demonstrations with groups and individuals. We are using this event as an opportunity for the teachers/professional musicians in our community to come together for the greater good of our students and each other. We have opened this event to all WMTA members as well. Please rsvp asap! Admission is free, but seats are limited.

As a caveat, we are able to add a livestream link to the above event now, so all WMTA members and their students can join us from the comfort of their own homes on April 6th

Cindy Rogers
Casper Music Teachers Association President

CHEYENNE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

This past fall, the CMTA resurrected an event from our past called "Play It Forward." We partnered with the Unaccompanied Student's Initiative for a series of fundraising concerts designed to promote the good work USI does for students without family resources and to provide an opportunity for our students to use their talents to benefit others. We had a fantastic turn-out of both students wishing to perform and audience members eager to attend. With 4 concerts spread throughout the day, we had about 50 performers plus a bonus by local teachers performing a two piano, 8 hand duet of "Stars and Stripes Forever." Considering the performance date of November 11, not only did we rouse the crowd for our country but for all our veterans on that special day. Our venue was the beautiful First Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne, and each concert was followed by a feast of a reception. Students can be very proud of their participation in this event that raised about \$1500 for USI.

In early October, the CMTA partnered with St. Mary's Cathedral and Dr. Joel Bacon, organ professor at CSU in Ft. Collins, to do an orgelkids workshop for 11 local piano students aged 5-13. Dr. Bacon procured a kit to build a small hand-pumped organ and set the kids to work on various parts of the kit. Once all assembled, students had the opportunity to play the organ with one student on the keys and another on the hand pumps. Afterwards, students were treated to an up-close look and feel of the St. Mary's pipe organ inside the sanctuary. Students were quite surprised at how much fun they had building and playing organs that day!

Spring

Our annual Area Achievement Day will be held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Cheyenne on April 27. Students will complete a music theory test and perform up to 2 memorized pieces for an esteemed local musician and judge. We are searching for judges and preparing our students for the event.

Looking forward to our state conference in June!

Cheyenne Music Teachers Association President
Alaina Niemann

LARAMIE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Our membership has grown to 16! We are benefiting from the fact that we have MTNA collect our local dues, so when an individual joins MTNA they agree to also join the local chapter. A number of our new members also have a current or past affiliation with the university, with some receiving a personal invitation from Lisa Rickard.

November was a busy month for LMTA as students and teachers participated in two events. Early in the month we had 38 students participating in our annual Fall Recital at the UW Concert Hall. Later in the month we had 21 students plus several teachers playing at the Ivinson Hospital Holiday Open House.

December was relatively quiet with our monthly meeting held at a local restaurant.

January had teachers preparing students for our biennial Keyboard Duet Recital, to be held this month. Several teachers are drafting a handbook that will include pertinent information for our membership.

Laramie Music Teachers Association President
Barbara Basinger

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Our chapter now has 6 members, which is triple last year! We are working on reorganizing and setting up great events. We have scheduled our AAD to be held May 11. We held our ensemble festival in October of last year, with over 30 students participating. Looking for great growth here in the southwest.

Southwest Chapter President
Emily Durrant



MTNA Featurette

“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”

-Winston Churchill

Karen Thickstun, our esteemed National Past-President, tells us more about the benefits of volunteering, sharing her own journey in the process. This inspiring and short article may help you clarify your decision, as you consider volunteering in your own chapter and for the WMTA.

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Business_Resources/Career_Development/Development/2023_AS.aspx

CALL FOR END OF YEAR AWARDS

It is time, once again, to gather nominations for two awards given annually at the State Conference. Those awards are the Teacher of the Year Award and the Local Chapter of the Year Award.

Have you witnessed a teacher's commitment to their students that seems unparalleled? Do their students consistently perform at high levels during Achievement Days, Festivals, Recitals? Nominate them TODAY with a quick email to wymusicteachersassociation@gmail.com. List the name of the individual and cite your reasons for nominating them.

Have you seen a local chapter go above and beyond in recruiting/growth? Does the organization continually break the mold in their philanthropic efforts? Have you witnessed something not done before in their creative reimagining of festivals? Are you seeing more students involved than ever before? Then nominate that Local Chapter TODAY with a quick email to wymusicteachersassociation@gmail.com. List the name of the local chapter and cite your reasons for nominating them.



ABOUT **WMTA**

The Wyoming Music Teachers Association (WMTA) is an affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). WMTA's purpose is to further the art of music, and to promote the growth and professional development of its members by providing programs that encourage and support teaching, performance, composition, and research. It's a non-profit organization whose funds are used solely to accomplish these objectives.

Anyone can join WMTA who is engaged in any field of music activity and who is also a member of MTNA. Because of the affiliation, members joining a local chapter must also join WMTA, and WMTA members must be members of the parent organization MTNA.



ABOUT **MTNA**

MTNA has existed to support music teaching and the art of music since 1876 when Theodore Presser and 62 colleagues founded it, making it American's oldest professional organization. It is the preeminent source for music teacher support, where members embody like-minded values and commitment to their students, colleagues, and society as a whole, while reaping the rewards of collaboration, continuity, and connection throughout the lifetime of their careers. The mission of MTNA is to advance the value of music study and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers.





Wyoming Music Teachers Association



an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association

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