

Annual Mailing

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



OHIO MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Inspiring Teachers. Empowering Students. Strengthening Community.

IT'S RENEWAL
SEASON!

RENEW YOUR MTNA
MEMBERSHIP

2026-2027

[Click here to
renew](#)

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Welcome to a New Year with OhioMTA!

Dear OhioMTA Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2026-27 Annual Newsletter of the Ohio Music Teachers Association. This publication represents the collective achievement and enduring commitment of our statewide community of professional music educators.

This year has been marked by exceptional student accomplishments, vibrant conference programming, and expanded scholarship opportunities. Our programs – from the prestigious Buckeye Auditions to our scholarship initiatives – reflect our unwavering dedication to musical excellence across Ohio.

We invite you to explore the milestones, opportunities, and recognitions detailed throughout this newsletter. Together, we advance the art and profession of music teaching.

Warm regards,

OhioMTA Executive Board

400+ Members Statewide

Annual Fall Conference

Multiple Scholarship Programs

Buckeye Auditions

Membership Renewal

Your membership in OhioMTA connects you to a statewide network of dedicated music educators, provides access to exclusive professional development opportunities, and amplifies your voice in shaping music education policy across Ohio. Renewing your membership ensures you remain at the forefront of our vibrant community.

Professional Network

Connect with 400+ music educators statewide

Resources & Publications

Access exclusive teaching resources and our annual and monthly newsletters

Awards & Recognition

Nominate and be recognized for excellence in music education

Scholarship Support

Take advantage of student and teacher scholarship programs

Conference Access

Members automatically receive a discounted registration rate for the MTNA Conference

Advocacy

Opportunities to volunteer, amplify music education's importance in Ohio



RENEWAL DEADLINE

Renew your MTNA membership now to maintain uninterrupted benefits and stay connected to the programs, people, and opportunities that enrich our teaching and our students' musical lives.

[RENEW NOW →](#)

Follow us on Facebook for updates on events! <https://www.facebook.com/ohiomta>

For more information, please visit our website www.ohiomta.org

Message from the President-Elect

Dear Fellow Music Educators,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your President-Elect of the Ohio Music Teachers Association. As I look across our great state and witness the remarkable work our members do each day – in studios, classrooms, and concert halls – I am filled with profound gratitude and optimism for the future of music education in Ohio.

This past year has demonstrated, once again, the extraordinary resilience and creativity of our membership. Despite the ongoing challenges facing arts education, OhioMTA members have championed music in their communities with unparalleled dedication. From a publication honoring MTNA's 150th anniversary – with ten newly composed pieces – to a truly inspiring Fall Conference, our collective achievements have never been more evident.

As we look ahead, my priorities for OhioMTA include strengthening our scholarship endowments, recognizing our stellar members, and deepening our partnership within the eight districts.

I am grateful for the leadership of our outgoing President and the tireless work of our Executive Board, District Presidents, Local Associations, and committee volunteers. None of what we accomplish would be possible without your passion and generosity of time.

I look forward to serving you and advancing the mission of OhioMTA together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Olga Rua

President-Elect, Ohio Music Teachers Association

Quick Links:

- [Buckeye Auditions](#)
- [Fall Conference](#)
- [Student Scholarships](#)
- [Teacher Scholarships](#)
- [OhioMTA-RCM Gold Medal Program](#)
- [eNotes – monthly newsletter](#)

Buckeye Auditions

The Buckeye Auditions represent the pinnacle of student achievement within the Ohio Music Teachers Association. This prestigious adjudicated event provides students of all ages and instruments the opportunity to perform before distinguished panels of evaluators, receive constructive professional feedback, and earn recognition for their hard work and musical development.

About the Auditions

- ✓ Open to all students (OhioMTA members or nonmembers)
- ✓ Multiple divisions: Elementary, Junior, Senior
- ✓ Instruments: Piano, Voice, Strings and Winds
- ✓ Adjudicators selected from leading conservatories and universities
- ✓ Top performers invited to perform at the Fall Conference
- ✓ Comment sheets for each participant
- ✓ Certificates awarded to each participant in the State Finals
- ✓ Registration streamlined: register and pay a single-entry fee directly through OhioMTA system



AUDITION DEADLINES

Registration Window:



Opens January 1, 2027



Closes March 1, 2027

All district auditions must be completed by **May 1, 2027**

[Click here for more information→](#)

Teacher Eligibility

- Teachers may enter only students who have studied with them for at least **6 of the previous 9 months**.
- MTNA/OhioMTA/district dues must be paid before the deadline.
- Student members may not enter students.

Student Eligibility

- Must have studied with the same teacher for 6 of the previous 9 months.
- May enter in the district where they live or study.
- Past state winners may not re-enter the same category/level.

Categories & Levels

Piano, Strings, Voice, Winds

- Elementary (9–11)
- Junior (12–14)
- Senior (15–18)

Fees

Members: \$70–\$110

Nonmembers: \$105–\$165

Repertoire Requirements

- Two contrasting works from different periods (all levels).
- Senior Piano: one Classical-period work required.
- Senior Voice: three songs in three languages.
- Memorization required for piano/voice; optional for others.
- No cuts or repertoire changes after district deadline.

Time Limits

- Elementary: 5–10 min
- Junior: 6–12 min
- Senior: 9–18 min

Awards

- Elementary: \$400
- Junior: \$550
- Senior: \$700

SAVE THE DATE**OhioMTA Annual Fall Conference****November 5-7, 2026**

Cleveland, Ohio

[REGISTER NOW HERE→](#)

Hosted at Case Western Reserve University's [Matz Performing Arts Center](#) by the NE District (NEOMTA). The address is: 1855 Ansel Road, Cleveland, OH 44106



Conference Hotel: [Tudor Arms](#), conference price if you reserve before October 4

Conference Highlights**Keynote Address & Guest Artist**

Antonio Pompa-Baldi

Inspiring PresentationsBach interpretation, Dalcroze Eurhythmics,
Student Motivation, Performance Anxiety**Networking Opportunities**Independent Teacher Forum, College Teacher
Forum, Collegiate Student Session**Student Performances**

Masterclass with Guest Artist, Honors Recital

Awards LuncheonCelebrating excellence in Ohio music
education**Premiere of New Pieces**A Legacy: Ten New Pieces by Ohio
Composers, Commissioned Composer
Presentation**REGISTRATION DEADLINES**

Early Bird Registration end September 30, 2026

Standard Registration begins October 1, 2026 through the conference

2026 Conference Schedule

Thursday, November 5, 2026	
10:00-5:00	Registration/Exhibits Open
10:00-11:00	Executive Board Meeting
11:00-12:00	OhioMTA Board Meeting/Lunch
12:00-1:00	MTNA Certification Talk - Laura Wynia
1:00-1:50	Keynote Address - Antonio Pompa-Baldi
2:00-2:50	Walk It, Feel It, Play It: Dalcroze Eurhythmics in the Piano Studio - Clinton Pratt
3:00-3:50	Practical Bach Pedagogy On The Modern Piano - Irwin Shung
4:00-4:50	The Science of Student Motivation: Transforming Lessons Through Habit and Motivation Psychology - Davis Dorrough
5:00-7:00	District Presidents Meeting/Social Event@Tacologist Restaurant (suggestion) or on your own
7:30-9:00	A Living Legacy: New Works by Ohio Composers—Published In Celebration of MTNA's 150 th Anniversary
Friday, November 6, 2026	
9:30-6:00	Exhibits Open
9:30-10:00	Coffee and Snacks
10:00-10:50	Baroque Dance Workshop - QinYing Tan
11:00-12:30	Masterclass with Antonio Pompa-Baldi
12:30-2:00	Awards Luncheon and Membership Meeting
2:00-2:30	Commissioned Composer Presentation: Adam Roberts
2:40-3:30	And the Winner Is...A Brief History of Stringed Keyboard Instruments - William Schoeffler
3:35-4:00	From the New York Times Creativity Challenge to the Piano Studio - Siok Lian Tan
4:05-4:55	Playing Through the Fear: Practical and Psychological Tools for Performance Anxiety - Konrad Binienda
5:00-6:00	IMTF/CCF/Collegiate Student Session
6:00-7:30	Dinner (on your own)
7:30-9:00	Concert by Guest Artist, Antonio Pompa-Baldi Post Concert Reception
Saturday, November 7, 2026	
8:00-8:50	The Royal Conservatory Certificate Program: A How-To Guide on Tailor-Fitting for You & Your Students at Every Level - Sonya Szabo-Reynolds
9:00-9:25	York Bowen's Pedagogical Works as Living Applications of Matthay's Technique - Tiantian Liang
9:30-9:55	Concerts that Connect: Growing Your Audience and Studio - Chris Neiner
10:00-11:00	Honors Recital

*Keynote speaker and guest artist:**Antonio Pompa-Baldi*

Born and raised in Foggia, Italy, Antonio Pompa-Baldi won the Cleveland International Piano Competition in 1999 and embarked on a multifaceted career that continues to extend across five continents. A top prize winner at the 1998 Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Competition of Paris, France, Antonio Pompa-Baldi also won a silver medal at the 2001 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

With a concerto repertoire including more than 60 works, Pompa-Baldi performed cycles of all the Rachmaninoff Piano Concertos, the five Beethoven Piano Concertos, and both Brahms Concertos with various orchestras. He has played recitals in most major venues over the world.

Pompa-Baldi appears at the world's major concert venues including New York's Carnegie Hall, Cleveland's Severance Hall, Milan's Sala Verdi, Boston's Symphony Hall, Shanghai's Grand Theatre, and Paris' Salle Pleyel, to name a few.

He has collaborated with leading conductors including Hans Graf, Krzysztof Urbanski, James Conlon, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Theodore Kuchar, Benjamin Zander, Louis Lane, and Keith Lockhart. He has performed with ensembles and colleagues such as Takacs String Quartet, trumpeter Alison Balsom, cellist Sharon Robinson, violinists Ivan Zenaty and Ilya Kaler, and principals of the Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Juilliard Quartet, among others.

Pompa-Baldi is a regular guest at the Lang Lang Festivals in Shenzhen and Hangzhou, China. Recent appearances also include Vienna (Austria), London (UK), Paris (France), New York (USA), Auckland (New Zealand), Jerusalem (Israel), Cape Town (South Africa), China (Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Guangzhou), as well as Poland, Germany, Mexico, Canada, Spain, and many other places around the globe.

Pompa-Baldi has recorded 35 CDs to date, for various labels including Centaur Records, Harmonia Mundi, Steinway, TwoPianists, Azica, and Brilliant Classics. Among them, the complete piano and chamber music works of Grieg, the Josef Rheinberger Piano Sonatas,

the complete Hummel Piano Sonatas, and CDs dedicated to Brahms, Schumann, Liszt, Respighi, and Rachmaninoff. For the Steinway label, Pompa-Baldi recorded songs by Francis Poulenc and Edith Piaf, arranged for solo piano, as well as a CD titled “Napoli”, which features new piano versions of famous Neapolitan songs, elaborated by Roberto Piana. Among his latest releases are his transcription for solo piano of the Respighi B minor Violin Sonata, and Suites by Debussy, Luca Moscardi and Barber for piano duo. Recorded with his wife, pianist Emanuela Friscioni, this latest album was published with the title “Suite Nothings” by the Steinway label.

Pompa-Baldi is a Steinway Artist. He is also a Steinway Recording Artist, as well as one of the most prominently featured artists in the Spirio recording catalogue. He is often invited to judge international piano competitions such as the Cleveland, Hilton Head, E-Competition (Minneapolis), BNDES Rio de Janeiro, Chopin USA (Miami) and Edward Grieg (Bergen), among many others. He serves as president of the jury and artistic advisor for the San Jose International Piano Competition since 2005.

Pompa-Baldi is Distinguished Professor of Piano and Artist-in-Residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he also serves as head of the Keyboard and Guitar Performance Department. His students have been prizewinners in important competitions such as Marguerite Long, Hilton Head, Isang Yun, and Gina Bachauer. In addition to honorary professorships at the Beijing China Conservatory, Shenyang Conservatory, and various other institutions, he was appointed to the “International Chair in Piano” at the “F.A. Bonporti” Conservatory of Music in Riva del Garda, Italy in 2025.

Pompa-Baldi is Vice Director for Education at the Lang Lang Art World institution in Hangzhou, China, and is on the advisory board of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation of New York. He is also the founder and Artistic Director of Todi International Music Masters, a summer festival with concerts and masterclasses. TIMM takes place every August in the beautiful Italian town of Todi. It features 15 concerts in 15 evenings, with internationally renowned guest artists as faculty members, and students from all over the world.

Student Scholarship Program

OhioMTA is proud to offer a student scholarship opportunity designed to support talented young musicians as they pursue their musical education and careers. These awards reflect our commitment to investing in the next generation of Ohio's musical leaders. Student scholarships can be used for:

- Summer camps
- Workshops
- Conferences
- Music assessments
- Additional summer lessons

Awards: Up to \$200



REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Registration deadline: February 1, 2027

Notification: March 15, 2027

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY→](#)

2026 recipients include:

Lucas Bright, Chrysanthi Constantinou, James Thomas Daly V, Jonathan Hu, Ian Luo
From the studios of Laura Melton, Richard Van Dyke, Patricia Evans, Sonya Szabo-Reynolds

Applications Requirements

- Application Form
- One-page bio including any awards and scholarships
- Description of proposed project and cost
- Recommendation letter from teacher



Application Tips

Start early, request recommendation letters at least 4 weeks in advance, and tailor your personal essay to reflect your unique musical journey and future goals

**2027 OhioMTA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ Instrument: _____

Years Studied: _____ Amount Requested (up to \$200): _____

Proposed Use: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone : (____) _____

Has student participated in the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program (MDP, RACE, NMCP, TAP)?
(Not required) Yes _____ No _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Checklist of materials submitted:

☐ Application Form ☐ Bio ☐ Student Proposal ☐ Letter of Recommendation from Teacher

Teacher Scholarship Program

OhioMTA recognizes that the growth of our students begins with the growth of their teachers. The Teacher Scholarship Program supports active OhioMTA members in pursuing advanced training, attending professional conferences, completing certifications, and engaging in continuing education that enhances their effectiveness as music educators.

Awards: \$500



REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Registration deadline: **September 1, 2026**

Notification: October 1, 2026

Project completion: September 1, 2027

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY→](#)

2026 recipient:

Dr. Christina Tan, who attended the MTNA conference with the help of this award.

Applications Requirements

- Application Form
- One-page resume including any awards and scholarships
- Description of proposed project and budget

Rules

- Applicants must be a current, active member of OhioMTA
- A \$500 Scholarship will be awarded to one teacher per year
- Scholarship will not be awarded for purchase of equipment or materials
- Award will be presented at the State Conference Membership Luncheon, if winner is present

Thank you to Solich Piano for making this award possible through their generous support.



2026 OhioMTA Teacher Scholarship Application

The Ohio Music Teachers Association Teacher Scholarship enables teachers to attend conferences and workshops, receive advantage training, and further their musical studies. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the project that best furthers the mission of OhioMTA "to advance the value of music study and music making in society."

Rules:

1. Applicant must be a current, active member of OhioMTA.
2. A \$500 Scholarship will be awarded to one teacher per year.
3. Scholarship will not be awarded for purchase of equipment or materials.
4. Award will be presented at the State Conference Membership Luncheon, if winner is present.
5. Proposed project must be completed by September 1.

Application Requirements:

1. Application Form.
2. One-page Resume including any awards and scholarships.
3. Description of proposed project and budget.

Deadlines: September 1, 2026. Postmarked Date
 Elesha Wey 1305 W. Elm St. Lima, OH 45805
 eleshawey@gmail.com

The recipient will be notified before October 1, 2026.

Scholarship Generously Made Possible By:



SOLICH PIANO

OhioMTA TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (____) _____

PROPOSAL and RESUME: (Attach Separate Pages)

OhioMTA-RCM Gold Medal Program

Program Overview

The OhioMTA-Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Gold Medal of Achievement Program celebrates a high level of achievement in the RCM Certificate Program. The Gold Medal is awarded to the top-scoring students. Students scoring **90+** on their RCM Practical Exam receive the Gold Medal of Achievement.



What is the RCM Certificate Program?

The RCM Certificate Program is a comprehensive, internationally recognized music education curriculum that provides clear, sequential milestones from beginner to advanced levels. Students earn certificates at each level, building toward the prestigious ARCT diploma — a credential recognized by music institutions worldwide.

What Gold Medalist Receive:

1. A Gold Medal of Achievement
2. Winners and their teachers are listed on the OhioMTA website



REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Registration deadline: **September 15, 2026. February 15, 2027. June 15, 2027.**

Medals Mailed in: October 2026. March 2027. July 2027.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION→](#)

How to Participate

- Your teacher must be an active OhioMTA member participating in the RCM Program
- Register for RCM examinations through your teacher by established RCM deadlines
- Complete your examination at the appropriate level
- If you score 90+, your teacher will email the mark sheets to: Sheila Vail  sheila.vail@rcmusic.ca
- Your Gold Medal of Achievement arrives in the mail, or to your teacher



State Gold Medal of Excellence Winners
the Royal Conservatory of Music Certificate Program



Assessment Session: Winter 2026

LEVEL	INSTRUMENT	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	TEACHER
Preparatory A	Piano	Vaishnavi	Ganti	Ayvazian
Preparatory A	Piano	Ashwin	Ramesh	Pence
Preparatory B	Piano	Nithik	Maran	Ayvazian
Level 1	Piano	Hana	Sobieski	Kim
Level 2	Piano	Chris	Yan	Kim
Level 3	Piano	Zoe	Wu	Kim
Level 3	Piano	Chris	Yan	Kim
Level 4	Piano	Divya	Dilip	Ayvazian
Level 4	Piano	Chris	Yan	Kim
Level 6	Piano	Anvitha	Kakarlapudi	Kim
Level 7	Piano	Anvitha	Kakarlapudi	Kim
Level 10	Piano	Allison	You	He

To commend and recognize their accomplishment, the Ohio Music Teachers Association awards the State Gold Medal of Excellence to students who have earned mark of 90 or higher on their Performance Examination.
Medals are awarded per instrument, per level.

Advertise with OhioMTA

Reach Ohio's most dedicated community of music educators, studio owners, and music professionals. OhioMTA offers targeted advertising opportunities in our annual newsletter, website, and conference materials – placing your brand directly in front of decision-makers who invest in quality music resources, instruments, software, and educational tools.

400+ Members Statewide

12 monthly newsletters

Annual newsletter

Fall Annual Conference

Opportunities include:

- Full Conference Sponsor
- Coffee & Snacks Sponsor
- Concert Reception Sponsor
- Exhibitor Tables
- Digital emailed newsletters (Annual Mailing & Monthly eNotes)
- Print Advertising (Conference program booklet)



ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

Newsletter Ad Submission: **September 1, 2026**

Conference Program Ad: **September 1, 2026**

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION →](#)

Ready to Advertise? Contact our Advertising Coordinator:

Nanyi (Neil) Qiang 📞 606-356-3886 ✉️ pianonanyi@gmail.com