



NEBRASKA musicteacher

NMTA Newsletter

Winter 2020

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from the President

The University of Nebraska-Omaha graciously hosted the 2019 NMTA State Conference on October 17-18. Those members who attended enjoyed the new pianos, facilities and a wonderful conference. Thank you, UNO, for your support of NMTA, it's teachers and students!

This two-day event was packed with sessions by our conference clinician, Diane Hidy, NMTA members Angela Miller-Niles, Kristin Taylor and Bryan Stanley, our commissioned composer. There were poster sessions by UNO students and a special session on improvisation with Charlie Albright who appeared that weekend with the Omaha Symphony. We also enjoyed a spectacular concert by our conference artist, Alexander Kobrin. An awards luncheon and annual membership meeting was held on the final day.

If you missed our State conference, you have another opportunity to go to a conference on the National level! The MTNA Conference will be held March 21-25, 2020 in Chicago. Internationally-acclaimed pianist Anton Nel and the first-prize winner of the National Chopin Piano Competition will highlight the evening recitals. Noa Kageyama, performance psychologist and Juilliard faculty member, will provide the keynote address. Pedagogy Saturday boasts four tracks: Teaching Artistry, Musician Wellness, Recreational Music Making and Young Professionals. In my experience, it is well worth paying the extra fee to attend pedagogy Saturday.

Why spend all the money and time to go to a conference? In this age of social media, we often think that it's all on the internet and it's easy to forget the value of face-to-face encounters. As busy teachers we feel that we just can't take time away from teaching our students but we forget that these events can help us grow and inspire us as teachers.

There are so many benefits of attending a conference!

EDUCATION: No matter how many years of teaching experience you have, you will learn something! I always come back from a conference with new ideas, fresh approaches and more enthusiasm.

NETWORKING: You will get to know the leaders of MTNA and develop relationships with colleagues from around the country. Meeting people can help advance your career. As a private teacher, you will be developing

a reputation among your peers—a valuable asset to your teaching studio as students and parents of students like to associate with teachers who are respected in their field.

EXHIBIT HALL: Staying relevant in this fast-paced world of change is a challenge. You will discover new products and music in the exhibit hall that will help keep you “current” with all the new innovations in technology that help grab a student’s attention. The generous discount that publishers and vendors give is also huge benefit.

MEET COMPOSERS: Your students will be impressed when you tell them that you have met and chatted with the composer of their recital and competition pieces! Even better, get an autograph for your students on their copy of music!

INVEST IN YOURSELF: Conferences can be expensive, but this is an investment in yourself and your studio. You are worth it! You will grow, get energized by the sessions and events and return with more enthusiasm for your profession.

HAVE FUN: Conferences are fun! Live events with other people are fun! You may even reconnect with old college friends!

Plan on attending the MTNA Conference this year. It's not too late to register!

Gail Dunning
NMTA President



2020 Conference – Call for Proposals

The 2020 NMTA State Conference will be at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 22-23, 2020. The State Conference Committee welcomes proposals on all aspects of music teaching, performance, literature, advocacy and other areas of interest to independent and college music teachers.

General Guidelines:

- Conference sessions are generally 55-minutes in length
- Participants must be willing to present on either day of the conference
- Conference presenters are not compensated or reimbursed for expenses, and must pay the published Conference fees
- Electronic submissions are required with attached bio and jpeg photo of presenter

Complete proposals include the following:

1. Name, institutional affiliation, if applicable, e-mail, mailing address and telephone
2. Session title
3. One-page abstract describing your session
4. A brief biography of all involved persons
5. A list of Equipment/Technology needs.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Proposals must be submitted by March 1, 2020.

SUBMIT TO: Angela Miller-Niles, President-Elect, via e-mail as a Word or pdf attachment at anmille1@wsc.edu.

Angela Miller-Niles
NMTA President-elect

OMTA News, Winter 2020

Omaha Music Teachers kicked off our 2019-2020 year with our second annual “August Social”. This was an opportunity to catch up with colleagues and share ideas for the upcoming year. We had fun with a “music swap” and a raffle that included prizes from local music stores, The Tea Smith, and Starbucks.

We enjoyed an inspiring presentation by Candace Sutter in September. She shared many of her personal compositions and the story behind the music. She encouraged us to learn the stories behind the music that we play and teach as it adds more depth to the performance when we understand the “why” behind the piece.

We were thrilled to help host the 2019 NMTA State Conference. It was wonderful to visit with colleagues from across the state and learn from the clinicians, presenters, and artists. The conference held milestones for OMTA members as we celebrated Paulette Smith receiving the MTNA Fellow Award and Anne Madison receiving the NMTA Teacher of the Year Award.

Throughout the month of December fourteen studios participated in OMTA’s annual “A Christmas Music Celebration” which was hosted at the Gingerbread Festival at the Ramada Inn in Omaha.

As we look toward the spring semester, we are anticipating our annual “Fundamentals Fair,” Young Artist/Victor Borge Competition, Trophy Festival, and NMTA District Festival.

I invite you to join us for our Spring Workshop presented by Donna Gunn: “Discoveries from the Forte Piano”. The workshop will take place Friday, March 13, 2020, 9:30am-12:00pm at Schmitt Music. Part I will explain the importance and usefulness of historically informed performance while covering the basic tenants of 18th Century performance practice as applied to modern playing on today’s piano.

Part II will provide application of these principles to standard repertoire.

Wishing you a 2020 filled with music,

Lindsay Kolster
OMTA President



LMTA MUSIC OUTREACH PROGRAM (LMTA-MOP)

by Jo Riecker-Karl, MOP Chair

The LMTA Music Outreach Program (LMTA-MOP) offers low-cost lessons, sheet music, instruments and their repairs, and performance opportunities for up to 50 resource-challenged K-12 students who could not otherwise afford them. In 2019 ten students graduated, moved or quit, and their slots were filled from the waiting list. Four new teachers have signed on in 2019. We now have 16 teachers and can offer lessons in piano, organ, percussion, violin, viola, guitar, voice and woodwinds (clarinet, flute and saxophone). We have two new church venues that host MOP teachers and their students on their site. See www.LMTA.info (Music Outreach) for more information.

The Heritage Women's Club of Lincoln named LMTA-MOP as the recipient of the ticket sales from the 2019 Holiday of Trees held December 5 and 6 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Local musicians, LMTA Teachers, and MOP Teachers along with their students provided nonstop background music while the public viewed twenty trees beautifully decorated by various nonprofits, including LMTA-MOP, and enjoyed a café, bake sale, boutique, raffles and a book and media sale.

Many MOP students have shown success over the years. This year two students entered the state level of MTNA (National) Competitions and one received an honorable mention. One performed a benefit for LMTA and raised over \$300 for LMTA-MOP. Many MOP students have performed in the NMTA District and State Festivals over the years receiving medals and trophies. MOP Students are required to perform in the community when they are ready.

LMTA-MOP is funded by grants, LMTA Fundraisers and private donations. The Music for Underserved Interested Children (M.U.S.I.C.) Endowment is held at the Lincoln Community Foundation. As of September 30, 2019, the balance was \$61,114.41 with spendable funds of \$1729.86, enough to educate two MOP students. Tax-deductible donations can be made to the endowment through www.LMTA.info (MUSIC Endowment) or contact MOP@LMTA.info.



Zander Ferguson, MOP Student of Nancy Schoen, plays background music at the 2019 Holiday of Trees sponsored by the Heritage Women's Club of Lincoln. Zander has previously received an honorable mention in the state level of the MTNA Composition Contest.



2020 Conference Call for Poster Sessions

The 2020 NMTA State Conference will take place at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 22-23, 2020. The State Conference Committee welcomes proposals for poster presentations featuring research projects, outreach or collegiate chapter activities.

Presenters must furnish their own poster board. Posters should contain all pertinent information in a manner that can be read from 3-4 feet away.

Required materials:

- Maximum 250 word abstract/description telling what the poster will represent
- Poster title
- Preliminary graphic of the poster
- Presenter contact information: name, institution (if appropriate), email, phone
- Presenter Bio

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1, 2020

SUBMIT TO: Angela Miller-Niles, President-Elect,
via email at anmille1@wsc.edu

From the Vice President

The 2019 State Festival was held October 19th and 20th at University of Nebraska at Omaha. We had beautiful weather and a great weekend of music-making!

There were 273 solo entries and 2 ensemble entries this year. Ninety-six percent of students received a Superior performance rating and seventy-two percent received an honors theory certificate for scoring 90% or higher on the theory/ear training test.

Thank you to the teachers who devoted many hours helping at the festival. Many graciously pitched in to do double and triple duty for which I am truly grateful.

If you have any suggestions or concerns with any part of the District or State festivals please contact me at ecblake@hotmail.com and I will take your thoughts and ideas to the Executive committee.

Thank you for another successful year!

Erin Blake
NMTA Vice President

NMTA 2019 Performance Competition

The NMTA 2019 Performance Competitions took place on Saturday, October 19, at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. There were 18 total entries. Susan Gray from the University of South Dakota was the Piano Adjudicator, and Jason Johnson from UNO was the Brass Adjudicator.

Seven students entered, and six students participated in the Junior Piano Competition (ages 11-14). First place was a tie between Austin Lewis, student of Stella Saperstein, and Jordan Zhang, student of Mai Butler. Second place was awarded to Daniel Crow, student of Chern Voon Fung, and Third Place winner was Katie Ramos, student of Candace Sutter.

The Senior Piano Competition (ages 15-18) had 6 entries and 5 students participated. First Place went to Justin Lewis, student of Stella Saperstein. Second Place Winner was Edith Hickman, student of Tammy Miller. Third Place was awarded to Isabella Zink, student of Jennifer Novak Haar. Honorable Mentions were given to Meghan Walter, student of Angela Miller-Niles, and Mark Anderson, student of Jennifer Novak Haar.

The Collegiate Piano Competition (Freshman/Sophomore) had three entries, two participated. First Place was awarded to Lillian Kraft, Second Place to Bryn Groenjes. Both are students of Kristin Taylor.

The Collegiate Piano Competition (Junior/Senior) had one entry. Since there was no competition, a winner could not be declared, however, an Honorable Mention certificate was awarded to Pranita Devaraju, student of Kristin Taylor.

There was only one participant in the Collegiate Brass Competition, so no winner was declared.

Candace Sutter
NMTA Competition Chair

From the Foundation Chair

This fall we raised \$200 (on the nose!) at the silent auction. This fund gives grants to teachers as well as providing student and teacher awards.

We were also delighted to name Paulette Smith as the 2020 Foundation Fellow. Paulette will be recognized at the MTNA National Conference in Chicago this spring. Fellows receive a complimentary ticket to the Gala, along with an MTNA Fellow certificate and pin, and they are prominently recognized on the Foundation Fund website.

The Fellow program offers a meaningful way to honor deserving individuals while supporting the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund. Donations must reach at least \$1500 for the fellowship to be awarded. Thank you to Paulette's friends and family and the NMTA membership for their generosity in giving to this year's Fellow Award.

Stacey Barelos
Foundation Chair



2020 MTNA Foundation Fellow Paulette Smith
with NMTA Foundation Chair Stacey Barelos

Madison Receives Teacher of the Year Award

Anne Madison was named the 2019 NMTA Teacher of the Year at the NMTA State Conference in October. She is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, and an active clinician, speaker, editor and adjudicator. Anne has performed as a piano soloist and collaborative pianist throughout Europe and the United States, and holds degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Baylor University, as well as an Artist Diploma from the Vienna Conservatory in Austria.

Anne Madison serves as Chair of the Piano Department at Omaha Conservatory of Music where she has been a member of the artist faculty since 2001. She regularly teaches at the Tyrolean International Piano Academy in Innsbruck, Austria, and has taught at the University of Nebraska-Omaha as Visiting Faculty Artist of Piano. Ann's students often receive top awards in state and international competitions. During this year's Nebraska level MTNA Competitions, the Winner in the Junior Piano Competition and the Winner and Alternate in the Senior Piano Competition were all students of Anne Madison.

Congratulations to Anne Madison on this well-deserved honor!



Anne Madison receives the Teacher of the Year Award
from NMTA Past President Larry Jones.

2019 NMTA State Conference Review

As I sat down to write this review, I realized that this has been my 15th year of attending an NMTA State Conference. While all the conferences seem to meld together, I believe that I am a better teacher now than I was 15 years ago due to years of exposure to the creative ideas of master pedagogues as well as other conference goers, and hearing beautiful music from skilled conference artists and MTNA Winners.

The 2019 Conference at the University of Nebraska at Omaha did not disappoint. It was a little more jam-packed than most that I remember. Guest Clinician Diane Hidy presented four workshops about teaching with props, role playing, techniques on how to break down music for easier focusing, and tips for sight reading. I have followed Hidy on Facebook for several years and was excited to meet her in person. I've wanted the spongy lady bug the size of a computer mouse that she recommends for teaching correct hand position, and was thrilled to pick one up at the Conference. I named it "Evan" after one of my curious students, and was humored to see how all my students related to this simple yet effective prop. Although I told myself that I would NOT purchase more sheet music – ever, I found myself buying everything Hidy had available.

One of the highlights of the conference each year is hearing new music by Nebraska composers. This year NMTA Commissioned Composer Bryan Stanley presented "Three Concert Etudes for Solo Piano" which brilliantly depicted several waterfalls in Iceland. An extra session, co-sponsored by OMTA, LMTA and NMTA, featured an improvisational workshop by American pianist/composer/improviser Charlie Albright who created compositions from 4 random notes shouted out by the audience in three different styles: Romantic, the style of Scott Joplin, and a lyrical version that an intermediate player could tackle. Both Stanley and Albright agreed that a good composer/improviser should possess advanced theory knowledge, superior technical skills and a historical knowledge of music.

The Thursday evening recital featured award-winning Guest Artist Alexander Kobrin who played with smoothness and fluidity a new program of Beethoven works for his first time ever. Kobrin also gave a master class for the winning soloists of the state level of the MTNA Junior, Senior and Young Artists Piano Competitions on Friday.



On Friday Kristin Taylor of UNO gave a fascinating presentation about the life of Edvard Grieg, his Lyric Pieces, and how his love for the Norwegian folk culture and traditional melodies influenced his music. Angela Miller-Niles from Wayne State College then told us how we could introduce various repertoire to incorporate world music into lessons.

The following UNO students prepared posters for viewing and discussion between sessions: Hannah Fisher - posters on LGBTQ students; Lillian Kraft - the link between music and stories, and the psychology of both; and Simon Olivares - connections and correlations between different styles, instruments, schools/composers, how that has shaped later music and composers in Western music history, and why this is important for keyboardists to appreciate and acknowledge in their music growth.

It was refreshing to see that Anne Madison who was the 2019 Teacher of the Year, said that she felt honored to be recognized by the teachers that she had valued as role models while she was growing up. Paulette Smith was announced as the 2020 MTNA Fellow at the Awards Luncheon, another well-deserved honor.

I believe that the NMTA Conference is a bargain and every NMTA member should make an attempt to attend. Use this opportunity to develop relationships with teachers in other parts of the state and attend two days of workshops, many that you would see at a national conference, at a reasonable cost.

Jo Riecker-Karl, Publicity Chair

2019 NMTA State Conference



Guest Clinician Diane Hidy presents a conference session.



Diane Hidy explains her use of sticky pages to focus student attention.



Guest Artist Alexander Kobrin visits with conference attendee Marcia Wiebers.



Guest Presenter Charlie Albright



Conference Presenter Kristin Taylor



UNO students Hannah Fisher, Simon Olivares, and Lillian Kraft present their poster session.



Composer Bryan Stanley presents his NMTA-commissioned work, "Three Concert Etudes for Solo Piano."



Conference Presenter Angela Miller-Niles

2019 & 2020 State Conferences

We had a great conference at UNO in October! Conference clinician Diane Hidy gave sessions on using props in lessons, real solutions to teaching issues, sight-reading, and a great showcase of her publications and other materials. Her sessions were full of humor and practical advice. We had a fun session on improvisation by Charlie Albright, who was in town to play with the Omaha Symphony. He discussed how improvisation featured in his education and career path, and he gave some ideas on how to encourage students to improvise. Our conference artist, Alexander Kobrin, gave a beautiful all-Beethoven recital Thursday evening and a masterclass to MTNA piano competition winners on Friday afternoon. Commissioned composer Bryan Stanley premiered his Three Concert Etudes for Solo Piano, a unique virtuosic set inspired by the image of waterfalls.

We also had great presentations by local members. Dr. Kristin Taylor spoke about interpreting and teaching Grieg's Lyric Pieces, I gave a short presentation about using world music in private lessons, and several UNO students had posters about their research.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the conference! We couldn't do it without you!

Our 2020 conference will be at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on October 22-23. Details are still being finalized, but we will feature Dennis Alexander as clinician, Arnaldo Cohen as conference artist, and David von Kampen as our commissioned composer. All competitions, both MTNA and NMTA, as well as the State Festival will take place October 24-25. NMTA members wanting to present can respond to the calls for proposals, poster sessions and intermediate masterclass participation in this newsletter.

Angela Miller-Niles, President-Elect

Fellow Thank You

Dear NMTA,

A big, heartfelt thank you for choosing me as the 2020 Nebraska MTNA Foundation Fellow! This is an incredible honor to follow in the footsteps of all who went before me as we work hard to keep our organization thriving. My piano teacher was a long-time member (Lucia Wood) and I know she worked hard to keep things going in Omaha. NMTA members are all hardworking folks whose love of music will help us continue that pursuit of excellence! Thank you, again!

Sincerely,

Paulette Smith

Nebraska MTNA Composition Competition Results

There were 13 total entries in the 2019 Nebraska MTNA Composition Contest. Teachers entering students were Regina Carnazzo, Kenneth Meints, and Nancy Schoen. This year's judges were Zach Stanton, Iowa City, Iowa; Joseph Rivers, Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Carolyn Miller, Cincinnati, Ohio. The online process continues to run smoothly for judging.

Elementary:

Winner: Joe Arndorfer, Student of Regina Carnazzo
Honorable mention: Will Moreland, Student of Nancy Schoen

Junior:

Winner: Winston Schneider, Student of Kenneth Meints
Honorable mention: Maria Fix, Student of Nancy Schoen

Senior:

Winner: Payton Plugge, Student of Regina Carnazzo
Honorable mention: Grace Young, Student of Regina Carnazzo

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Carnazzo, Nebraska State Composition Chairman

2020 Conference Call for Participation in Intermediate Masterclass

The 2020 NMTA State Conference will take place at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 22-23, 2020. The State Conference Committee asks teachers to submit recommendations of students to play piano in a masterclass with Dennis Alexander during the conference. Students should be at the Intermediate level. The class will involve a performance of the piece and comments from Mr. Alexander, as well as potentially trying out new ideas presented.

Required materials:

- Student name, age, grade, years of piano study
- Piano teacher
- Short recording (Music on the recording need not be that intended for the masterclass)

If you have any questions, please contact Angela Miller-Niles at anmille1@wsc.edu.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1, 2020.

SUBMIT TO: Angela Miller-Niles, President-Elect, via e-mail at anmille1@wsc.edu.

Nebraska MTNA Performance Competition

Nebraska's 2019 MTNA Performance Competition brought 32 entrants - students of 15 teachers - to perform in the new Recital Hall and newly-renovated Concert Hall at UNOmaha's Strauss Performing Arts Center October 17 and 18. Participant levels entered included 11 Young Artist, 12 Senior, 1 Senior Piano Duet, and 8 Junior. NMTA member teachers of entrants were John Bailey, Diane Barger, Paul Barnes, Karen Becker, Jackson Berkey, Marina Fabrikant, Washington Garcia, Maria Rotella Jacobsen, Anne Madison, Alan Mattingly, Ruth Meints, Anne Nagosky, Jennifer Novak Haar, Kristin Taylor, and Marcia Wiebers

Winners, alternates, honorable mentions (teacher's name in parenthesis) of each level include:

Young Artist

- Brass - Justin Mohling, Lincoln (Alan Mattingly)
- Piano – Seulji Kim, Omaha (Kristin Taylor); alternate Tianyu Luo, Omaha (Washington Garcia); honorable mention – Sean Lebita, Lincoln (Paul Barnes)
- String – Jocelyn Meyer, Lincoln (Karen Becker)
- Woodwind – Allison Movesian, Lincoln (John Bailey); alternate Dayton Linhardt, Gretna (Diane Barger)

Senior

- Senior Piano Duet – Crystal Huang & Allison Luo, Omaha (Paul Barnes)
- Piano – Alina Hatfield, Elkhorn (Anne Madison); alternate Nathan Liu, Omaha (Anne Madison); honorable mention Ealynn Hsu, Lincoln (Marcia Wiebers) and Charles Campbell, Omaha (Jackson Berkey)
- String – Virginia Jansen, Omaha (Ruth Meints); alternate Larissa Myers, Lincoln (Ruth Meints); honorable mention – Pranay Neelakanta, Elkhorn (Ruth Meints) and Crystal Huang, Omaha (Anne Nagosky)

Junior

- Piano – Winston Schneider, Omaha (Anne Madison); alternate Matvey Moissejev, Lincoln (Marina Fabrikant)
- String – Pauline Lee, Omaha (Ruth Meints); alternate Libby Meade, Omaha (Ruth Meints); honorable mention – Jasmine Palikhya, Omaha (Ruth Meints) and Rachel Wu, Omaha (Ruth Meints)

Piano competition winners, Seulji Kim, Alina Hatfield and Winston Schneider, participated in a Master Class with Alexander Kobrin, the NMTA Conference guest artist.

Piano adjudicators for the event were Susan Gray (University of South Dakota), James March and Kathryn March (both Morningside in Sioux City). Luis Viquez (University of South Dakota) was woodwinds judge. Stephanie March (Morningside) served as strings judge.

Winners of each level will represent Nebraska at West Central Division, by online video entry only. Deadline for the video entry is 3 PM Eastern Standard Time, December 4, 2019.

Effective change this year (2019-2020), the Chamber Music Competition will move to a two-tier competition: Preliminary Round by video submission only; and Final Round to be held live at the MTNA National Conference. Ensembles compete without regard to state or division; seven ensembles are selected in both String and Wind categories from a nationwide pool of applicants to compete in the Final Round.

Linda Rogers, NCTM
MTNA Performance Competition Chair

