



# NEBRASKA musicteacher

NMTA Newsletter

Winter 2023

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## from the President

As I write this article, I'm finishing up my fall semester and preparing for the holidays. I'm submitting final grades and saying good-bye to students, as well as buying Christmas gifts and doing some holiday baking. I was listening to a podcast recently (the Piano Pantry Podcast), and the speaker suggested wrapping up the year in a way that helps you out in January. Rather than just closing the door to the office or studio, she said it can be a gift to your "January self" to get things prepared now. Clean up, organize music and files, get lessons planned and music ready. That way you can be fully present over the break without worrying how or when you're going to get everything done. This is not the time to tackle big projects, rather a time to reset and tidy up so you can walk in ready to go. Here are a few small things that you can do now to help you out later:

- Go through your teaching supplies to see if anything needs to be restocked. Sharpen pencils and throw out pens and markers that aren't working. Put in an order to replace things and print copies of any planners or assignment sheets you need.
- Give a short amount of time to cleaning out email—not a full overhaul, but making sure you've got the most recent things handled.
- Think ahead for students if you can, and try to order books that you know you'll need in the first few weeks of the new year.

Any of these tasks can be done before long breaks, but also at the end of any regular week to help the next one get started smoothly. Although I may want to run as fast as possible away from the office before a break starts, I plan to take a few hours to go through these things. I hope you'll consider it as well, and that these small tips will help you feel less rushed after breaks.

While you're planning ahead, think about attending the MTNA conference in Reno, Nevada on March 25-29. The conference will be in-person, and will provide a great professional development and networking opportunity for all of us.



Happy New Year!

Angela Miller-Niles  
NMTA President

# 2023

## Call For Conference Session Proposals

The 2023 NMTA State Conference will take place at the University of Nebraska Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska on October 19-20, 2023.

The State Conference Committee welcomes proposals on all aspects of music teaching, performance, literature, music 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 jpg photo of presenter.

Include the following in your proposal:

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, 2023.

**SUBMIT TO:** Brenda Wristen, NMTA President-Elect, bwristen@unl.edu as a Word or pdf attachment.

## Congratulations to our Foundation Fellow!

Congratulations to our Foundation Fellow, Linda Dahlstrom! She will be officially presented with the fellowship at the Gala during the MTNA conference in Reno, Nevada in March 2023.

Linda was inspired by her mother, a fine musician, and she quickly learned to follow her mother's example. She enjoyed singing in choirs and playing duets with her mother. Piano teaching was her first job in high school, along with accompanying her friends on their instruments. After college, she supplemented her public school teaching with private piano lessons until moving to Nebraska. Soon after retiring, she took on private piano students again and joined MTNA and Nebraska MTA. She's been blessed with participating in District and State Festivals, serving as District Chair, attending state conferences and online workshops.

### Congratulations Linda!



# MTNA FOUNDATION FELLOW

Stunned and speechless! That was me when my name was called as the NMTA Fellow recipient for 2023!! Our board meeting/dinner in October was just finishing up, when Angela announced my name. Wow!

I'm just living out here in central Nebraska enjoying my piano students and coordinating our local NMTA music teachers and students for the District Festival. And now I feel so recognized and honored! Thank you all so much for this designation and all who contributed in my name.

I have registered for the national MTNA conference next March in Reno, Nevada, and will be making travel plans soon. Thank you, also, for the travel grant to help get me there in style! I will be reporting on my experiences there with music teachers from across the nation. I'm looking forward to the keynote speakers, the concerts, the showcases and exhibits, and the inspiring presentations and sessions. And, of course, walking across the stage at the Monday evening Gala!!

Thank you for supporting the hard-working music students and NMTA teachers in the Grand Island, Hastings, and Kearney district of Nebraska!

-Linda Dahlstrom

Grand Island

Omaha Music Teachers Association started off the new teaching year with an educational and informative program presented by Dana Rau, a music therapist with the Omaha Public Schools, about teaching students with ADHD and Autism. At our November meeting, members presented newly released Christmas music as well as "oldies but goodies." In December our annual Christmas luncheon was held at Cascio's steakhouse. Member Aida Soria shared her compelling story about growing up as a second-generation immigrant and how music has shaped her life's journey.

In December, Kristin Taylor resigned as president. We appreciate her service on the board and wish her the very best as she juggles her many responsibilities! We are looking forward to upcoming events including the Music Fundamentals Fair in February with 279 students entered, the Young Artist competition in February, and the Trophy Festival in March.

Upcoming programs include a workshop in February by Dr. Kristina Cox, a music education professor at UNO, a program on teaching music composition presented by members Regina Carnazzo and Candace Sutter in March, and a program on ornamentation and interpretation in April presented by renowned author Donna Gunn of Lincoln.

Very best to all of our NMTA friends and colleagues!

Mark Dickmeyer

# OMTA

Omaha Music Teacher Association



# 2023 Service Award



Do you know an NMTA member who should be recognized for work at the local, state or national Level? The NMTA Executive Committee is accepting nominations for the 2023 NMTA Service Award. Nominations must be received by February 1, 2023. Please send your letter via email describing the nominee's service to our organization to: Gail Dunning - [nebmtainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nebmtainfo@gmail.com)

## NMTA Service Award Requirements:

1. **Member in good standing of NMTA/MTNA for the past five consecutive years**
2. **Demonstrated outstanding service to NMTA/MTNA on either the local, state or national level**
3. **The award recipient must not have received the award in any of the previous ten years**
4. **No one currently serving on the NMTA Executive Committee is eligible for this award**

The NMTA Executive Committee will select the recipient. The individual receiving the award must attend the state conference in the year in which the award is given and must be present at the awards ceremony. The honor includes a plaque and cash award. The recipient will be honored in the subsequent NMTA newsletter.

## Ediger Scholarships

Please encourage your students to apply for the NMTA Thomas Ediger Scholarships! Each of these \$1000 awards recognizes the musical study, musical achievement, musical contributions, and good citizenship of the recipient.

Those who are seniors in high school who are planning to graduate in 2023 are eligible to apply for the NMTA Thomas Ediger High School Scholarship, and those who are currently enrolled as music majors at a college or university in Nebraska who are planning to continue higher education toward a music degree in the summer or fall semester of 2023 may apply for the NMTA Thomas Ediger Collegiate Scholarship. Applicants must be studying with a current member of NMTA whose dues were paid by September 1, 2022.

The entry deadline is 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 5, 2023. This year, for the first time, applications will be submitted as pdf's via email, eliminating any concerns about postmarks or U.S. Postal Service delivery times.

Also new this year, recommenders will send recommendations directly to the Scholarship Coordinator via email, making it easier for them to submit and eliminating any need for them to enclose the recommendation in a signed envelope for submission with the applicant's other materials.

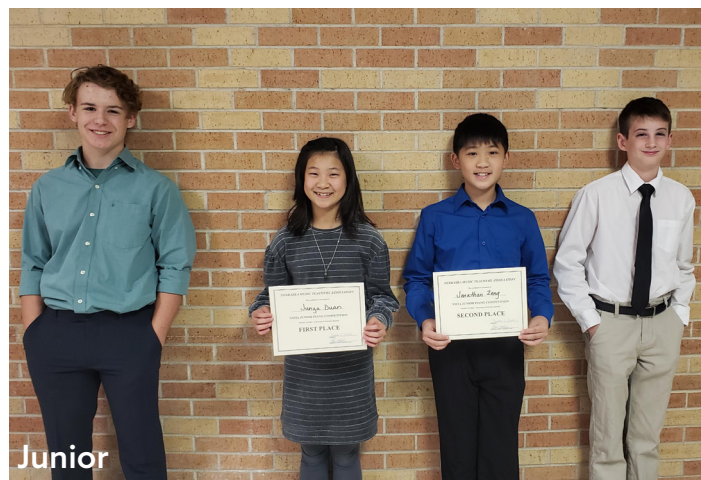
I hope these updates will make the process simpler and more convenient for everyone. Detailed information is available on our website at <https://nebmta.org/thomas-ediger-scholarships/>. I hope many students will take advantage of this opportunity!

-Anne Madison, Scholarship Coordinator





Senior



Junior



Collegiate

## 2022 NMTA Performance Competition

The NMTA Nebraska Performance Competition was held on October 22, 2022 at the University of Nebraska - Kearney. All entrants were pianists. Our adjudicator was Dr. Jonathan Sokasits, Professor of Piano at Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska. The competition is divided into three levels: Junior - up to 10 minutes of repertoire (6 students), Senior - up to 15 minutes of repertoire (5 students), and Collegiate - up to 20 minutes of repertoire (3 students). This competition is open to the students of all NMTA members and is non-qualifying and state-level only.

### **Junior Level**, Left to Right: (Teacher in Parentheses)

Jack Dickinson (Anne Madison)

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** - Junya Duan (Chern Voon Fung)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - Jonathan Zeng (Marina Fabrikant)

Sam Kitchen (Jennifer Novak Haar)

**Honorable Mentions not pictured**

Angela Sun (Jana Manning)

Kaylee Cornish (Yulia Kalasnikova)

### **Senior Level**, Left to Right: (Teacher in Parentheses)

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** - Bennett Lambelet (Bryan Stanley)

Andy Wu (Tammy Miller)

Ivan Fedorchuk (Yulia Kalashnikova)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - Chuyee Huang (Boban Martic)

Lachlan O'Keefe (Boban Martic)

### **Collegiate Level**, Right to Left:

Joshua Miller (Kristin Taylor);

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** - Edith Hickman (Kristin Taylor)

Anna Renard (Kristin Taylor)



# 2022 MTNA Performance Competition

The MTNA Performance Competition took place Saturday and Sunday, October 22 & 23, 2022 on the campus of University of Nebraska at Kearney in the Fine Arts Building Recital Hall and Drake Theatre. There were twenty-nine competitors.

Results of the Performance Competition (teacher's name in parenthesis)

## **YOUNG ARTIST BRASS:**

**Winner Horn** – Bradley Greathouse (Alan Mattingly)

Alternate Horn – Timothy Aulner (Alan Mattingly)

## **JUNIOR PIANO:**

**Winner** – Sophie Yu (Feifei Jiang)

Alternate – Nora Peithmann (Sandra Quiring)

## **SENIOR PIANO:**

**Winner** – Ty Stephany (Paul Barnes)

Alternate – Winston Schneider (Anne Madison)

Honorable Mention – Zachary Jacobsen (Paul Barnes) & Nathan Liu (Anne Madison)

## **YOUNG ARTIST PIANO:**

**Winner** – Rebekah Stiles (Paul Barnes)

Alternate – Ruoshui Deng (Mark Clinton)

Honorable Mention – Maverick Harrold (Kristin Taylor)

## **JUNIOR STRING:**

**Winner Violin** - Taryn Geiger (Ruth Meints)

Alternate Violin – Junyi Yuan (Chern Voon Fung)

Honorable Mention Violin – Auspi Li (William Wolcott)

## **SENIOR STRING:**

**Winner Viola** – Libby Meade (Ruth Meints)

Alternate Cello – Nicholas Li (Tracy Sands)

Each Winner has submitted repertoire requirements via video performance for the West-Central Division level competition. Those results will be announced during the second week of January.

State-level Brass judge was Dr. Tim Farrell of the University of Nebraska at Kearney; Piano Performance Judges were Dr. Lei Weng of the University of Northern Colorado, Dr. Irena Ravitskaya of Fort Hays State University, and Dr. Slawomir Dobrzanski of Kansas State University; String Performance judge was Dr. Jubal Fulks of the University of Northern Colorado.

Fifteen teacher members of NMTA are represented: Paul Barnes, Mark Clinton, Marina Fabrikant, Chern Voon Fung, Catherine Herbener, Feifei Jiang, Anne Madison, Boban Martic, Alan Mattingly, Ruth Meints, Sandra Quiring, Tracy Sands, Nancy Schoen, Kristin Taylor, and William Wolcott.

Linda Rogers, NCTM

MTNA State Competitions Chair, Nebraska



# Movement and Music: the danced minuet

by Anna Renard



Anna Renard is a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is a student of Dr. Kristín Jónína Taylor. She is working towards completing a Bachelor of Music in piano performance and a Bachelor of Studio Art in graphic design.

Dancing has been an important pastime for many generations. Today, people young and old go out to enjoy dancing in a variety of settings: from ballroom, to clubs, to simply watching. The same happened in the eighteenth century. One of the most popular social dances in aristocratic societies was the minuet. The courting dance was originally performed by one couple at a time, and as described by Julia Sutton, it was used as an opportunity to “demonstrate by their exquisite manners, dress, and skill that they were indeed worthy adornments to society.”

The formal ballroom minuet, the *menuet ordinaire*, was a sophisticated social dance, characterized by its lively and improvisatory nature from both musicians and dancers. Due to the improvisatory nature, the musicians had to pay careful attention the dancers. In a controlled environment, such as teaching, the music and the dance choreography lined up perfectly. However, this was not commonplace in the unpredictable environment of the public ballroom. The unpredictable is what made the minuet an interesting and entertaining experience for the musicians, dancers, and onlookers. In public ballroom settings, little to no concern was had for organizing the figures and steps within the minuet’s phrases. Dancers did not conform to a standardized version of the minuet and neither did the musicians. This provided flexibility with the dance, the music, and the relationship between the two.

The basic moves used to complete a minuet step over six counts of music is called the *pas de menuet*. The six counts were divided with sinks and rises as well as weight transference from one foot to the other, always starting with the right foot. These basic steps were repeated throughout the dance, executed in many directions, and utilized variations.

In addition to the *pas de menuet*, variation, embellishments, and improvisation were notable qualities of the minuet. Treatise writers Taubert and Tomlinson claimed that the minuet should always include elements of improvisation and that it could be danced to any piece of minuet music the musicians should choose to play. The added embellishments and rhythmic variations became general dance step vocabulary. These included additional beats, pirouettes and jumps, and the use of hemiola. It is suspected that these embellishments, later known as ‘grace steps,’ were used by dancers to deal with an odd number of musical bars that is not divisible by six counts.

The music and the dance were intertwined, especially in a pedagogical sense when learning from a treatise. In Tomlinson’s treatise, he provides detailed display of the minuet’s choreography and the tune that should be used to accompany it, which aids dance masters when teaching their students. Tomlinson synchronized and coordinated the music and dance figures in a way that eased the facility of both teaching and learning the minuet figures, allowing dance masters to control all aspects of the learning environment. As a result, some dancers were unable to dance the figures to different music.

The learned structure of a minuet must be followed by the participants. The standard dance figures were framed by leading-in and leading-out figures that allowed the couple to move about the dance floor and honor the presence at the beginning. The standard figures of the minuet –the reverse S or Z– were its prominent discerning feature. Dancers followed these symmetrical floor patterns, or paths, that took place during one strain of music. Other popular figures were the giving of the right hands, the giving of left hands, and the giving of both hands which are explained in detail in Rameau’s *Le Maître à Dans*. The frequency and the order of the basic figures were up to the dancers. Regardless of the amount of improvisation or variation used by dancers, it was imperative that the reverse S or Z figure and the *pas de menuet* remained clear.

As important as the figures are, the music is an integral part of the overall performance and experience.

The social minuet was typically in binary form, or two strains of music that are each repeated. The music was composed of a melody with the unmistakable accompaniment in triple meter. The melodic material in the first strain went from tonic to dominant, while the second strain of music went from dominant to tonic. Several repetitions of the music may have been required of the musicians to accommodate the dancers.

From the prestigious ballrooms to the public ballrooms, dancing the minuet was a delightful social activity for everyone during the eighteenth century. It consisted of dance figures, the *pas de menuet*, and improvisational attributes. Although the minuet is no longer danced, the music lives on in sonatas, symphonies, and other piano repertoire.

### Bibliography

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Sutton, Julia. "The Minuet: An Elegant Phoenix." *Dance Chronicle* 8, no. 3/4 (1985): 119–52.  
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### From the Editor

We welcome articles written by our NMTA members for the Nebraska Music Teacher newsletter. If you would like to submit an article, teaching tips, or other items of interest to NMTA members for publication in the Summer 2023 edition of the newsletter, the deadline is June 1, 2023. Please send your article as an email attachment, unformatted, using Times New Roman, 11 point, to me at [nebmtainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nebmtainfo@gmail.com).

-Gail Dunning  
Nebraska Music Teacher Editor