



NEBRASKA musicteacher

NMTA Newsletter

Summer 2025

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From the President



It is hard to believe that my term as your president will end in October and that this is thus my final article for the newsletter. Together, we have accomplished several notable achievements these past two years. First, thank you for your remarkable level of participation in the membership survey about eighteen months ago regarding our annual conference. Following feedback from that survey, the Executive Committee and Board decided to offer a summer event for the first time this year, a workshop featuring Jeremy Dittus, a Dalcroze Eurhythmics Specialist which was held at the Carol Joy Holling Retreat Center in Ashland on Saturday June 21. We will also be holding a shorter one-day conference on October 17 at Concordia University in Seward. Our featured speaker for that event will be Rhonda Fuelberth, an expert on inclusive music education. Details for that event will follow soon.

As detailed in my last newsletter article, we have also successfully transitioned our festival theory and ear training testing online this year. This change addressed a critical issue with both facilities and staffing and is saving us thousands of dollars per year in paper test copying costs. Realized cost savings have allowed us to pay for facilities rental fees at each of our festival sites (which we expect to be an ongoing issue) without raising entry fees. While we were not able to have the new online testing ready in time to offer theory and ear-training at the 2024 State Festival, we will be reimplementing theory and ear-training testing for the 2025 State Festival. Our festivals remain the events with the largest participation in our organization, and your leadership will keep working to maximize both student and teacher experience in these events.

Looking forward, I anticipate that the single largest challenge to our organization will be our declining membership numbers. NMTA is not alone in this challenge, which is a frequent topic
continued on page 2

From the President continued

of conversation among leadership in the Music Teachers National Association, our parent organization. I hope that you will stay in conversation with your leadership about ideas for how NMTA can best support you in your vital role as a music teacher. I also hope you will highly recommend NMTA to any Nebraska music teachers you may know looking for a wonderful organization in which to support and build teaching skill, gain festival, competition and other performance opportunities for their students, and gain valuable networking opportunities with other professionals. There are also many direct discount programs, business support services, grant opportunities, and other savings available to members, as detailed in my article in the Summer 2024 newsletter. Finally, I challenge each of you to stay involved with NMTA events and to say “yes” when leadership opportunities present themselves. Our organization cannot thrive without each of you. It has been an honor to serve as your president, and I look forward to continued teaching alongside you to serve Nebraska music students and to further our noble profession.

Brenda Wristen, President

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of NMTA membership is scheduled for

Friday, October 17, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Cattle Conference Room in the Janzow Campus Center of Concordia University in Seward, NE.

**THIS YEAR'S MEETING WILL INCLUDE VOTING
FOR OUR NEXT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!**

The nominating committee has brought forward the following slate of nominees:

For President-elect: Krista Hafez-Clark

For Secretary: Yulia Kalashnikova

For Treasurer: Ruth Meints

For Vice President: Lisa Myers

President: Jane Sonneland (*automatically advances from President-elect*)

Immediate Past President: Brenda Wristen (*automatically advances from President*)

PROPOSED BY LAWS CHANGES

The NMTA Executive Committee and the NMTA Board recommend the following changes to our bylaws. In accordance with our bylaws, we will vote on these proposed changes at our annual association meeting on October 17, 2025, at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. Our complete bylaws are published on our website. However, for convenience, included below is the current and proposed wording for each change along with a rationale.

Current: Article X—Election of Officers, Section 2:

The nominating committee will present to the business session of the annual conference the names of at least four candidates, with a minimum of one for each of the elective offices (President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer). The office of President will automatically be filled by the President-Elect. The slate of officers shall be distributed to the entire membership within at least 30 days prior to the conference election. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Those members qualified to vote may cast ballots for not more than one candidate for each office.

Proposed Changes: Article X—Election of Officers, Section 2.

- 1) *Proposed Change for first sentence:* Change “business session of the annual conference” to “annual meeting of the association.” The sentence then begins: “The nominating committee will present to the annual meeting of the association the names of at least four candidates,....”

Rationale: We do not and have not had a “business session” at our annual conference. More importantly, removing the reference to an annual conference allows for the possibility of conducting our annual association meeting at other times or in other venues.

- 2) *Proposed change, with the second sentence to read:* “The outgoing President-elect will automatically become President, and the outgoing president will automatically become Immediate Past President.”

Rationale: Proposed language specifies that election to the office of President-elect involves automatic succession to the office of President, and then the office of Immediate Past President.

Current Article X—Election of Officers, Section 4.

No elected officer may be immediately re-elected to the same office except for the Treasurer.

Proposed Change, Article X. Election of Officers, Section 4.

- 3) *Proposed Change to strike the sentence and substitute:* “The offices of President-elect, President, and Past President are each a two-year term. The Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, each elected to a two-year term, may be reelected to additional consecutive terms with their consent.”

Rationale: Given declining membership numbers, this change would allow the election of individuals to serve additional consecutive terms provided they are willing to serve. In these cases, individuals would still have to be elected by the membership in accordance with the other stipulations of our bylaws.

THE FIRST EVER NMTA SUMMER WORKSHOP!



The first ever **NMTA Summer Workshop** was held at the scenic Carol Joy Holling Retreat Center in Ashland on June 21st. The morning started with an inspirational message delivered in an outdoor, lakeside chapel-like setting by Paul Barnes. Moving inside to the Swanson Center, he continued to inspire us with his piano performance of *Hristos Anesti*! Thank you to Nidhal Keddah of Schmitt Music in Omaha for making an acoustic piano rental a possibility! What a difference a beautiful acoustic piano made during the presentations and performances throughout the day!

Our Workshop Clinician, Jeremy Dittus, enthusiastically shared three Dalcroze sessions with us! His sessions were engaging, informative, and interactive. Many smiles and lots of laughter were part of every session! His manner of presentation made our Summer Workshop one to remember!

Bass meets Voice featuring Jackie Allen and Hans Sturm provided our afternoon break with just the right touch. A nice variety of music in their easy-listening, smooth, and jazzy style was enjoyed by all.

Workshop activities concluded with options of boating, hiking, shopping, a tour of Willow Point Art Gallery and Museum, and finally, a relaxing group dinner at Glacial Till!

Thanks to everyone who provided their assistance, starting with the initial planning of this new event and continuing through to the end by helping in various capacities!

Traditionally, the **NMTA State Conference** has preceded the Competitions and State Festival weekend mid-October. This year's three-day event is planned for October 17-19 at Concordia University Nebraska in Seward. Our One-Day Conference planned for Friday, October 17th, will include speakers, recital performances, our Commissioned Composer presentation, and the NMTA Annual Business Meeting and luncheon. Most of our event will be held in the Borland Music Center, a beautiful new music building complete with high-end pianos! Thanks to Kurt von Kampen and Elizabeth Grimpow for recommending our presence at Concordia University which will serve as our Co-Host! Watch for event details to be emailed to members by early August.

Musically yours,

Jane Sonneland, President-Elect



PAUL BARNES GAVE AN INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE TO START OUR DAY



PAUL BARNES PERFORMED THE NEBRASKA PREMIERE OF HRISTOS ANESTI! (COMPOSED BY N. LINCOLN HANKS)



DAL(ROZE) WORKSHOP



DAL(ROZE) WORKSHOP



BASS MEETS VOICE



DAL(ROZE) WORKSHOP



ATTENDEES WITH DAL(ROZE) CLINICIAN JEREMY DITTUS

LMTA GRANTS

NEA RESCINDS \$10,000 CHALLENGE AMERICA GRANT FOR THE LMTA MUSIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

On May 2, 2025, the Lincoln Music Teachers Association received an email from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to let us know that the agency was withdrawing funds for our approved Challenge America award of \$10,000. The same email went out to countless other nonprofits both in Nebraska and across the country. Although deeply disappointing, at the time of the notification, LMTA-MOP had not received nor spent these grant funds, so we are not in a deficit due to the withdrawal of this grant. We have appealed the decision and will await further information.

Lincoln District Festival

The 2005 Lincoln District Festival took place on April 12 at Nebraska Wesleyan University. A total of 140 solo entries and 1 flute ensemble entry were received from 28 teachers. Students of piano, violin, cello, and flute participated, with five judges (3 piano, 1 strings, 1 flute) helping to evaluate their performances. Notably, this year's festival featured a new online theory and ear training test, which I personally found to be highly beneficial.

Participants represented all 8 performance levels:

1A: 21, 1B: 35, 2A: 33, 2B: 20, 3A: 13, 3B: 6, 4A: 9, 4B: 3

Theory test participation by level was as follows:

1A: 20, 1B: 37, 2A: 38, 2B: 18, 3A: 10, 3B: 7, 4A: 7, 4B: 2, 4B Honors: 1

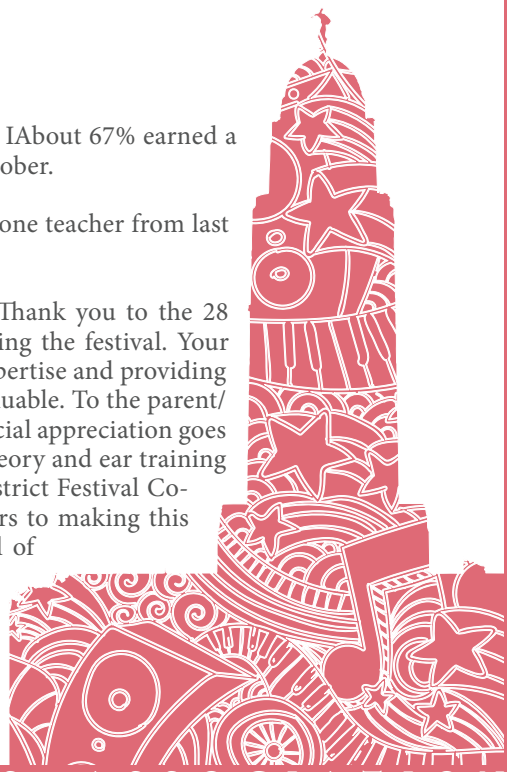
The festival results were: About 89% of participants received a rating of I+, I, or I- About 67% earned a Certificate of Theory Excellence About 92% qualified for the State Festival in October.

We're pleased that 28 teachers participated this year, representing an increase of one teacher from last year. 16 parents/family members helped by monitoring Judges' rooms.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in this festival. Thank you to the 28 teachers who sent their students to participate and volunteered their time during the festival. Your dedication is truly appreciated! To our five judges, thank you for sharing your expertise and providing encouraging feedback to our students. Your professionalism and insight are invaluable. To the parent/family monitors, thank you for your help in ensuring the event ran smoothly. Special appreciation goes to Florencia Zuloaga, NMTA Theory Chair, who made the possible the online theory and ear training test with great success. Special appreciation also goes to Lisa Myers, Lincoln District Festival Co-chair in 2005 and Chair for many past years, who has dedicated countless hours to making this festival a success. Without her tireless efforts, we wouldn't have the same level of quality. And to her husband Brent, thank you for your support and assistance. Your collective efforts have made this festival possible, and we're grateful for your contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mai Butler Co-chair of Lincoln District Festival



NMTA WORKSHOP GRANT

A Workshop Grant of up to \$1,000 is available to any NMTA member or NMTA-affiliated organization to assist with the expenses of a workshop for the purpose of teacher education and training and/or student activities. Applicants must be members or associations in good standing in the year of the application, and the workshop must be presented during the 2025-2026 membership year.

Workshop Proposal Requirements:

- Description of the workshop, including location and date.
- List of expected participants, including whether the grant is to be used by a local affiliate or an individual teacher
- Specific amount requested with a detailed budget: include costs like rental fees, judge/speaker fees, liability insurance, materials/equipment, piano tuning, etc. The grant is up to \$1,000 and will only cover specific costs listed.
- Contact information: name, address and phone number

Find application forms and other information at <https://nebmta.org/grants/>. Materials are due to Immediate Past President Angela Miller-Niles at angela.miller.niles@gmail.com by September 1, 2025.



Travel Grant

A travel grant of \$1000.00 is available through NMTA to assist with travel expenses for a teacher attending an MTNA-affiliated conference. The applicant must be an NMTA/MTNA member in good standing during the year of application, and the travel must be completed in 2025. Teachers of all instruments and voice are eligible.

Include the following as part of your application:

- Conference location and dates
- How long you've been an NMTA member
- Whether you've received a grant in the past (and if so, when it was received)
- Any service to an MTNA-affiliated organization
- Any special awards or recognition from an MTNA-affiliated organization
- Brief resume

Recipients are required to write an article describing their conference experiences for the Nebraska Music Teacher issue that immediately follows the event as a final report.

Find application forms and other information at <https://nebmta.org/grants/>. Materials are due to Immediate Past President Angela Miller-Niles at angela.miller.niles@gmail.com by September 1, 2025.

Omaha District Festival

2025

The Omaha District Festival was held at the University of Nebraska-Omaha on April 26, 2025. We had a total of 199 solo students and 2 ensemble entries, with a participation of 182 students on the day of the festival. The festival saw the participation of 34 teachers who entered their students in all 8 levels going from 1A to 4B in theory and performance. The entries included piano, violin, viola, cello, trumpet and euphonium.

Medals were awarded to 165 students for achieving a score rating of I, I+ or I- and 142 students received a Certificate of Theory Excellence for scoring over 90% on their online theory and ear training tests. A total of 176 students qualified to the NMTA State Festival this Fall!

I would like to extend my gratitude to everybody involved in making this festival possible. This would not have been successful without the help of teachers, parents, high school volunteers and our outstanding adjudicators. Special thanks to Dr. Janka Krajciova, Dr. Gabrielle Padilla Molina, and Ellen Scholl for assisting with setup and teardown, and to the NMTA theory chair, Dr. Florencia Zuloaga, for an exceptional job in creating the online theory tests and guiding teachers navigate this new format.

Congratulations to all the participants for their dedication and hard work, and to the teachers whose commitment continues to make a meaningful impact on music education. Next year's festival will be taking place on April 25th at UNO and Dr. Janka Krajciova will be joining me as a district festival co-chair.

Warm regards,
Manuel Molina
Omaha District Festival Chair

Online Festival 2025

The online district festival was held in May 2025, and included all of the same elements used in the in-person festivals: performance, sight-reading, theory and ear training. 29 students from 15 teachers participated, with teachers from Papillion, Omaha, Lincoln, Alliance, and Grand Island, Nebraska, and Council Bluffs, Iowa. 28 students received a superior minus, superior or superior plus performance rating; and 17 achieved theory excellence with a 90% or higher. Judges were Bill Whipple, Lisa Myers and Janka Kraciova Manning.

Submitted by Angela Miller-Niles,
online district festival chair





OMTA NEWS



Greetings from the Big O!

We have had a very busy 2025 at OMTA! We started off the year with our big Music Fundamentals Fair at UNO in February. This event was a huge success thanks to the efforts of our Fun Fair committee, 26 participating teachers and over 100 parents, spouses, and friends who volunteered to help! This year 260 students played over 1,000 scales, chords, cadences, and arpeggios, along with ear training, sight reading, a theory test and a performance solo. A FUN time was had by all!

The Young Artist competition followed Fun Fair in February. This year, we had eight teachers present the “crème de la crème” of our Omaha area music students with 12 students entered. Both of the recitals exhibited the highest caliber of instruction and playing. The top senior winners, Nicole Liu and Calvin Liu, from the studios of Anne Madison and Mark Dickmeyer respectively, also performed at the Danish Museum on April 27 as winners of the Victor Borge competition. Winners in the Intermediate division were Junya Duan, Alan Guo and Raymond Si from the studios of Kristin Taylor, Jerri Niver and Momoro Ono.

Our February program titled “Neurodevelopmental Disabilities in the Studio: A Primer for Music Teachers” was presented by Dr. Katie Ostransky, a faculty member at Oklahoma City University. Very insightful, educational and practical information presented that many of us use on a weekly basis in working with our students on the spectrum.

After our hugely successful masterclass last year for elementary & intermediate students, we decided to offer the same this year with Terri Heil as our presenter at our March meeting. She was wonderful with the younger kids and a “grand” time was had by all!

The Trophy Festival was a whopping success at UNO on April 12th! We saw lots of smiling faces on our students with their trophies and lots of proud parents, grandparents, and family friends who came to watch the auditions. Everything flowed SO smoothly! This year we had 200 students entered from 24 teacher studios. This educational event is also a fundraiser for OMTA which creates funds for our programs, scholarships, and competitions.

In May, members enjoyed our spring luncheon held at Spezias and were pleased to have our first place senior scholarship winner, Bella Gerloff and second place winner Nicole Liu and their families join us—winners also read their musical essays. Bella received a \$1,000 scholarship and Nicole received a \$500 scholarship.

Omaha Music Teachers Association begins its new “fiscal” year with the election of new officers to include: President-Maria Jacobsen, President-Elect-Cindy Wrenn, Vice President-Tarah Schoell, and returning Treasurer-Jan Zimmerman and Secretary-Florencia Zuloaga. This is wonderful group of dedicated professionals is sure to be a “dream team” for our organization!

The 85 members of OMTA pride ourselves in continuing to offer a multitude of opportunities for both students and teachers! It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as our president these past 2 ½ years! Very best to all of our NMTA friends and colleagues!

Warmest regards,
Mark Dickmeyer

Ediger Scholarships

This year's NMTA Thomas Ediger High School and Collegiate Scholarship winners exemplify the many wonderful students that NMTA teachers have the privilege of mentoring across Nebraska. Our judge, Dr. Shu Li, Assistant Professor of Piano at Augustana University, expressed what a pleasure it was to listen to the students' performances and said, "All the applicants have achieved remarkable results in the fields they study. Congratulations to all of them!"

This was our first year of offering the NMTA Thomas Ediger High School Scholarship in three categories, piano, strings, and other musicians/vocalists. Because there were only applicants in piano and strings, the third scholarship was awarded in the category with the most applicants, which was piano this year. Our NMTA Thomas Ediger High School Scholarship winners are Pauline Lee (strings), a student of Ruth Meints, Bennett Lambelet (piano), from the studio of Dr. Bryan Stanley, and Nicole Liu (piano), a student of Anne Madison.

In describing his future plans, Bennett would like to earn an undergraduate degree in piano performance, and "In the grander scheme, I see myself harboring my skills as a pianist, clarinetist, and composer with orchestral and choir experience, leading ensembles as a conductor and creating my own music to be shared." One of his recommenders said of him, "I have heard him perform his own piano compositions in recitals. They are exceptional. They are beautiful, interesting, complex, and refined. I am a published composer, and I found myself experiencing them as the work of a peer, not a student."

In addition to her experiences as a soloist, Nicole has a passion for collaborative piano and for supporting others. She organized a live performing arts club at her high school that performed at retirement homes, rehab centers, and international festivals to enrich community, and she built Social Emotional Learning focused curriculum kits that impacted more than 30,000 students. In the fall, she plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania, where she will study within the Information and Organizations concentration of STSC.

Along with Pauline's extensive accomplishments as a violinist, including being an MTNA national finalist, she is a percussionist in her high school band and has been an assistant teacher in Omaha Conservatory's String Sprouts program for several years. Her teacher, Ruth, said, "On a fun side note, her hula-hooping at the HeifetzPEG talent show was featured by TwoSetViolin and eventually set off a chain of events that resulted in Hilary Hahn hula-hooping with TwoSetViolin while playing a Paganini Caprice." Pauline is planning to major in biology with the goal of pursuing a career in genetics and, potentially, to double-major in violin performance.

The winner of this year's NMTA Thomas Ediger Collegiate Scholarship is Spencer Feldman, from the studio of Dr. Kristin Taylor at UNO. Spencer is an accomplished pianist, cellist, and jazz musician. He loves musical theater and aspires to play in the pits on Broadway as well as to pass on what he's learned as a music educator. One of his former teachers complimented his work ethic, creativity, and artistry and said, "Always elevating himself, Spencer pushed his peers to improve their musical abilities . . . A student of his capabilities and heart is rare to come by."

Congratulations and best wishes to this year's winners!

Anne Madison, Scholarship Chair

READY, SET, RENEW!

THANK YOU FOR BEING AN MTNA MEMBER.

A friendly reminder the current MTNA membership year ends June 30, 2025.

If you have not done so already, please renew now to ensure your member benefits continue.

Click the link below to renew online,
call (888) 512-5278, Monday–Friday, 8:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. Eastern Time
to renew over the phone or renew by sending back your mailed renewal statement.

Renew Online:

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Sign_In.aspx

SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS



We invite NMTA teachers and college students to submit original essays for possible publication in future issues of the NMTA Newsletter.

Requirements:

- Essays may be pedagogical or scholarly in nature.
- Essays must be limited to 1,000 words or less
- Submit as Word documents, using Times New Roman 10-point font
- Single spaced with double space between paragraphs.

The newsletter editor reserves the right to edit essays chosen for publication. Send submission as an email attachment to Immediate Past President Angela Miller-Niles at angela.miller.niles@gmail.com

CENTRAL DISTRICT

FESTIVAL REPORT

NMTA Music Festival
Central District
Hastings College
April 26, 2025

This spring's Festival had 34 solo performances, including a few who doubled up with a piano and a stringed instrument solo. There were 28 medals awarded and recorded on the beautiful red and black score poster made by Linda Alexander. It makes for a beautiful photo backdrop.

There were six teachers involved preparing their students and administering the online theory and ear training tests in their studios. It made for a little different feel to the Festival day, as the families were more in and out. But all the students did so well with their solos on the piano, violin, and harp. Beautiful music filled the halls for several hours that Saturday morning!

We awarded 20 Theory Excellence certificates, including four students earning a 100% score.

The Festival chairs, Linda Dahlstrom and Lindsay Dietze, took notes from the teachers on the pros and cons of online testing and will report the results soon. We also took notes on the sight reading challenges that many piano students experienced this time.

Our adjudicators were retired public school music teachers Joel Jank from Hastings and Monika Peters from Grand Island.

Thank you to each teacher who monitored the performance studios and kept the morning flowing. And maybe next April we will not have to deal with construction by Fuhr Hall!!!

A special note of thanks goes to Jonathan Sokasits for his help setting up and tearing down, and just being there for us all!

Sincerely,
Linda and Lindsay, Central Co-chairs

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For those of you who have not yet renewed your MTNA/NMTA membership for 2025-2026, this is a friendly reminder that now is the time to do so. You can respond by mail using the information sent to you in April by MTNA, by calling (888) 512-5278, or via email at www.mtna.org

NMTA EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING 2025-2026 NEW AND REINSTATING MEMBERS.

Lori Jessen
Reinstating member
Dakota City, NE
Piano, Theory, Composition, Voice

Brent Shaw
Reinstating member
Lincoln, NE
Organ, Church Music, Piano

Kirsten Wissink
New member
Lincoln, NE
Viola, Violin

Wenhao Zhang
New collegiate member
Athens, OH
Unknown

More detailed contact information can be found in the Find a Teacher section of the website at www.nebmta.org.

Marcia Wiebers
NMTA Membership Chair



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: 2026 TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Do you know an NMTA member who should be
recognized for their outstanding teaching?**

The NMTA Executive Committee is accepting nominations for the
2026 Teacher of the Year Award.

Nominations must be received by January 15, 2026

For more details on the award, see <https://nebmta.org/teacher-awards/>.
Please send your letter via email describing the nominee's qualifications to:
Brenda Wristen at nebrmta@gmail.com.



IN MEMORIAM

Gail Dunning



As many of our NMTA colleagues know, we lost our dear friend and colleague, Gail Dunning. Gail has been an active teacher in Omaha since moving here in 1976. She served in different capacities in NMTA for many years, eventually leading the state organization as president. She was also elected as NMTA teacher of the year in 2013. Gail had been battling cancer for many years. Unfortunately, she took a turn for the worse after the first of the year and went into hospice care on Saturday, March 22nd. She passed away on March 27th. A Celebration of Life was held at Florence City Hall with many friends, colleagues, and students sharing memories. A Memorial Service was also held by her family in Omaha on April 8th. A funeral and interment followed in her hometown of Waucon, Iowa. We will all miss you Gail!

Mark Dickmeyer, OMTA President

Gail Elaine Dunning was born on April 4, 1952, in Waucon, IA, the daughter of Robert Logan and Olive (Herman) Dunning. She grew up on a dairy farm and always maintained an attachment to the farm. However, it was soon evident that Gail would not remain there as she began playing the piano at the age of four. She graduated from Waucon High School in 1970, and played French horn and piano accompaniment for local vocal groups. She attended the University of Iowa and received a bachelor's degree in music in 1974. Gail also completed a masters of music in piano performance in 1976.

After graduating from the University of Iowa, she moved to Omaha, NE, teaching piano and establishing her highly successful Gail Dunning Piano Studio within years. Her private students consistently earned superior ratings at festivals and competitions such as the Truran Piano and Omaha Young Artists competitions. Gail was on adjunct faculty at Creighton University from 1985 – 1996. Overall, she taught music for 49 years.

Gail was very active in various professional groups. She has been a member of the Music Teachers National Association since 1979. She served as president of the Private Music Instructors of Omaha and was instrumental in facilitating the successful merger of this association with the Omaha Music Teachers. She served as the senior scholarship chair, secretary, vice president, and president-elect for the Omaha Music Teachers Association. Gail was a member of Nebraska Music Teachers Association and was named Teacher of the Year in 2013; she also served as a theory chair, district festival chair, president-elect, and was president from 2018 – 2021.

She was a true friend to many and retained close ties to her extended family. Gail loved taking trips to visit her parents, her siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She attended many reunions with friends in her home town of Waukon.

Survivors include a sister, Susan (Robert) McCoy of Somersworth, NH; brother, Phillip (Linda) Dunning of Brighton, IL; nieces and nephews: Wendy (Jon) of Rochester, NH, Brent (Julie) of Westborough, MA, Christopher (Michelle) Dunning of St. Charles, MO, Alex and Ryan Kaban of Rochester, NH, and Marcus, Lexi, and Noah McCoy of Westborough, MA. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her longtime friend, Chuck (Blankenbeckler) Beckler of Omaha.

