



## NEBRASKA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Dear NMTA Members,

On behalf of the NMTA Executive Committee, I am pleased to provide details of the 2023 Nebraska Music Teachers Association State Conference, Competitions, and Festival events. The campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha in Omaha, NE is co-sponsoring our conference, with most events taking place in the Strauss Performing Arts Center.

**NMTA State Conference: Thursday & Friday October 19-20**

**MTNA Performance Competitions: Friday (evening) & Saturday October 20-21**

**NMTA Performance Competition: Saturday October 21**

**NMTA State Festival: Saturday & Sunday October 21-22**

Main highlights of the conference include the following guests:

- **Vanessa Cornett, guest clinician:** Vanessa Cornett is Director of Keyboard Studies and Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis–St. Paul. She is author of the book *The Mindful Musician: Mental Skills for Peak Performance* (Oxford University Press, 2019) and is a 2022-2023 Fulbright U.S. Scholar. An international clinician and educator, Dr. Cornett has presented workshops, seminars, and masterclasses in 23 of the United States and in 18 countries across six continents. She has published widely on the intersection of contemplative practices, sport psychology, peak performance, performance anxiety management, and the mental health and well-being of musicians.
- **Angela Cheng, guest artist:** Hailed as one of Canada's most distinguished pianists, Angela Cheng has appeared with numerous orchestras, including the Israel Philharmonic, Boston Pops, and the symphonies of Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, and St. Louis. She has also performed at Wigmore Hall (London) the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), the Musikverein (Vienna), and Mariinsky Concert Hall (St. Petersburg). She studied extensively with Menahem Pressler at Indiana University.
- **Marti Epstein, commissioned composer.** Marti Epstein is a Boston-based composer whose music has been performed by the San Francisco Symphony, The Radio Symphony Orchestra of Frankfurt, Ensemble Modern, Trinity Wall Street, and the Boston Symphony Chamber Players. Marti was a two-time fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center (1986 and 1988) and a three-time fellow at the MacDowell Colony (1998, 1999, 2022). In 2020, Marti was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. *Nebraska Impromptu*, an album of Marti's chamber music for clarinet, was just released this past April on New Focus Recordings. Marti is Professor of Composition at Berklee College of Music/Boston Conservatory of Music.
- Sessions by NMTA members **Kristín Jónína Taylor, Krista Clark, and Oscar Vázquez Medrano.**

Biographies of our conference clinician, artist, and commissioned composer and a copy of this bulletin are available on the NMTA website: [nebmta.org](http://nebmta.org). Please remember that college students can attend this year's conference free of charge, though we do request they register so that we can plan adequately. We look forward to seeing you in Omaha for what promises to be an outstanding conference!

Brenda Wristen, NMTA President-elect

[bwristen@unl.edu](mailto:bwristen@unl.edu)

## 2023 NMTA STATE CONFERENCE—TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

12:00-1:00	Registration
1:00-1:55	<i>The Paradox of Performance Preparation.</i> Vanessa Cornett, conference clinician
2:00-2:55	<i>The Baker Sonata: A Masterwork from a Legendary American Piano Professor</i> Kristín Jónína Taylor, presenter
3:00-3:30	Refreshment Break
3:30-4:30	<i>Mindfulness for Teacher and Student Well-Being.</i> Vanessa Cornett, conference clinician
5:00-7:00	NMTA Board Meeting
7:30-9:00	Angela Cheng Recital
About 9:00	Post-recital Reception

### Friday October 20<sup>st</sup>

9:00-9:55	<i>Don't Sit Up Straight! - A Closer Look at Posture</i> Krista Hafez Clark, presenter
9:55-10:15	Refreshment Break
10:15-11:10	<i>Nailing Jell-O to a Tree: Centering the Distracted Student</i> Vanessa Cornett, conference clinician
11:30-12:15	NMTA Awards Luncheon
12:15-1:15	NMTA Annual Meeting
1:30-2:25	Premiere of 2023 Commissioned Composition (for solo piano and fixed media) Marti Epstein, composer
2:30-3:25	<i>A Global Perspective of Music Performance Anxiety</i> Vanessa Cornett, conference clinician
3:25-3:45	Refreshment Break
3:45-4:40	<i>Manuel M. Ponce: The Mexican Romantic</i> Oscar Vázquez Medrano, presenter

UNO PARKING INFORMATION:

On Thursday October 19th, a **valid UNO permit is required to park on campus from 7:00 am to 7:00pm**. NMTA attendees can purchase a daily visitor permit online on the MavPARK website: <https://unoparking.t2hosted.com/Account/Portal>. With a daily visitor permit, you can park in any surface lot or garage in a general use parking stall. The closest lots to the Strauss Performing Arts Center in which daily visitor permits are valid are the East or West Parking Garages.

On Friday, October 20th, no permits are necessary. Open parking is available in general use parking stalls in both the East and West Parking Garages

On Saturday October 21st and Sunday October 22nd, no permits are necessary. NMTA members and parents/students may park in all general use parking lots and garages.

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

Hampton Inn & Suites Aksarben  
1401 S. 72nd St. Omaha, NE 68124  
Phone: (402)-933-5510

Rate: Two Queen Beds or King Room \$99 plus tax—includes breakfast

Call and give group code **Nebraska Music Teachers Association** or make your reservation using the following link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/omaaahx-nmt-547cbba8-1780-4c0e-8c9a-d1147b054adb/>

Please note that the link defaults automatically to a Wed. October 18-Saturday October 22 stay. However, you can adjust these dates at the top of the page as necessary. Individual reservations must be canceled a minimum of 48 hours prior to arrival. Any rooms canceled less than 48 hours prior to arrival will be subject to a first-night penalty fee.

**Cut-off date for group rate: Sunday, October 1, 2023. There are a limited number of rooms available at the group rate.**

## MTNA Competitions

### MTNA Junior, Senior and Young Artists Performance Competitions Friday (evening) & Saturday, October 20-21, 2023

The MTNA-sponsored student performance competitions will be held on Friday evening and Saturday, October 20-21, 2023, at the University of Nebraska Omaha in Omaha, NE. Application deadline is 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, September 13 at the MTNA website [www.mtna.org/programs/competitions](http://www.mtna.org/programs/competitions). (Note: Chamber Music Applications for Chamber Music String and Chamber Music Wind will be available November 1, 2023, and are due by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.) For more information, visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) or contact Linda Rogers, MTNA Competitions Chair: [llrog8@gmail.com](mailto:llrog8@gmail.com)

**Teachers:** MNTA/NMTA dues to the national office deadline: August 31, 2023. Entrants will be assessed a \$150.00 nonmember teacher fee if membership is not paid for 2023-2024 membership year.

### MTNA Elementary, Junior, Senior and Young Artists Composition Competitions

The application deadline for participation in the MTNA Composition Competition is Wednesday, September 13, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time at the MTNA website: [www.mtna.org/programs/competitions](http://www.mtna.org/programs/competitions). For more information visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) or contact Regina Carnazzo, MTNA Composition Competition Coordinator: [carnazzo@cox.net](mailto:carnazzo@cox.net).

## NMTA STATE FESTIVAL

### NMTA State Festival Saturday, October 21: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday, October 22: 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m.

The NMTA State Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 21-22, 2023, at the University of Nebraska Omaha in Omaha, NE. The registration deadline for participation in the State Festival is Wednesday, September 13. Entry fees are non-refundable.

#### Reminders:

- Students who qualify at the District Festival may advance to the NMTA State Festival. Qualification includes receiving a I or II performance rating and 70% or better on the theory test.
- Students who have previously scored 90% or above on the 4B Theory Exam may opt to take the Honors Test.
- No sight reading is given at the State Festival.
- Online entries after the September 13 deadline will not be accepted.

For more information, including entry requirements, the online registration link, practice theory tests, and the NMTA Student Festival and Competition Manual (Revised 2022), please see the NMTA website: [www.nebmta.org](http://www.nebmta.org). (Click on "Festivals" and scroll down to "Nebraska State Festival".)

Entries will be made online at [nebmta.org](http://nebmta.org). Mail check to Festival Chair: William Whipple, 4640 Elk Ridge Circle, Lincoln, NE 68516. For questions: [williamppwhipple@gmail.com](mailto:williamppwhipple@gmail.com); (319) 573-1186.

MTNA/NMTA dues to the national office deadline: August 31, 2023

## NMTA PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

MTNA/NMTA dues to the national office deadline: August 31, 2023. Entrants will be assessed a \$150.00 nonmember teacher fee if the membership is not paid for the 2023-2024 membership year.

### NMTA Junior, Senior, and Collegiate Performance Competitions Saturday, October 21, 2023

The NMTA-sponsored student performance competitions will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in Omaha, NE. The postmark deadline for the NMTA Performance Competitions is Wednesday, September 13. Please note the following NMTA Performance Competition categories:

#### 1. LEVELS AND REQUIREMENTS

- **JUNIOR:** Students must be 11-14 years of age at the date of the competition. Repertoire should include at least two pieces of contrasting styles, with a maximum performance time of 10 minutes.
  - **SENIOR:** Students must be 15-18 years of age at the date of the competition. Repertoire should include at least two pieces of contrasting styles, with a maximum performance time of 15 minutes.
  - **COLLEGIATE LEVEL 1:** Students must be enrolled in a college or university as an undergraduate at the date of the competition. Repertoire should include at least two pieces of contrasting styles, with a maximum performance time of 20 minutes.
  - **COLLEGIATE LEVEL 2:** Students must be enrolled at the graduate level at the date of the competition. Repertoire should include at least two pieces of contrasting styles, with a maximum performance time of 20 minutes.
2. Any student of an NMTA teacher is eligible, with the exception as noted in #3 below. District Festival participation is not required.
  3. Any student entered in the MTNA competitions will not be eligible for the NMTA Performance Competitions.
  4. Only one judge will be provided for each level of competition.
  5. One winner will be selected in each category at each level. A Second Place and possible Honorable Mention may be named.

Entries will be available online on the NMTA website. Mail check payable to NMTA to the State Chair: Helena Aung, 12600 Avery Ranch Blvd, Unit 2013, Cedar Park, TX, 78613. For questions: [helenaung@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenaung@yahoo.co.uk); (479)-684-1266.

## IMPORTANT DATES

August 31	Deadline for paying 2023-2024 MTNA/NMTA teacher membership dues
September 13	Online deadline for MTNA Performance and Composition Competitions, NMTA Performance Competition and NMTA State Festival
September 13	Postmark deadline for NMTA State Conference Registration and Conference Luncheon reservation. Registrations postmarked after September 13 will be at late registration rate.
October 1	Deadline for Conference hotel reservations at group rate
October 19-20	NMTA State Conference at the University of Nebraska Omaha
October 20-21	MTNA-sponsored Competitions at University of Nebraska Omaha
October 21	NMTA Performance Competitions at University of Nebraska Omaha
October 21-22	NMTA State Festival