From the President…

It is hard to believe that four years have passed since I took over the presidency. By the time you receive this newsletter, you will be in the capable hands of our new president, Constance Fischel. Before I leave my position, I want to thank everyone for your encouragement and support throughout these four years. If I start naming individuals to thank, the list will go on forever, but I would like especially to thank our board members and event chairs for all they have done. I was extremely lucky to have a friendly and supportive board, which worked together to accomplish many things. I sincerely thank every one of you from the bottom of my heart.

I learned a lot during these four years and developed many friendships, which I know will last for the rest of my life. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as your president!

Thank you and have a wonderful rest of the summer!

Junko Takahashi

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Thank you for applying for the first MSMTA Scholarship for High School Graduating Seniors with a Declared Music Major In College. I have submitted your students’ applications without teachers’ and students’ names to our committee to ensure fair judging.

I believe every single applicant was well qualified to receive our scholarships and I know the committee had a very hard time selecting only two. Here are the two students who will be receiving $1000 scholarship for this year.

Alisa Hwang (Bok Hwa Kim) - will be attending Northwestern
Josh Gardner (Patricia Blanchard) - will be attending Westminster Choir College.

Thank you and congratulations to all the high school seniors and best of luck to them as they continue their music education!

Junko Takahashi

Thank you for applying for the $500 MSMTA Grant for Continuing Education.

I submitted your applications for the committee for review. I know the committee had a difficult time selecting only two recipients and wished we could give more than two grants. Here are the recipients for this year’s grants:

Li-ly Chang
Mark DiPinto

Congratulations to Mark and Li-ly and hope others will apply again next year.

Thank you,

Junko Takahashi
JORDAN KITT’S GRANTS

I am pleased to announce that president and CEO of Jordan Kitt’s, Mr. Chris Syllaba has agreed to continue offering grants for MSMTA teachers in memory of the long-time former owner, Mr. William J. McCormick, Jr.

As in prior years, Jordan Kitt’s will offer four grants, each in the amount of $400. The grants can be used towards either (1.) lesson tuition for a student in need or (2.) continuing professional education fees of a teacher.

An application notice will come directly as an email from Jordan Kitt’s in July, so please keep an eye out for it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Junko Takahashi

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

KEYBOARD MUSICIANSHIP 2014-15 REPORT

The Keyboard Musicianship Program had an enrollment of 932 students from the studios of 76 teachers from twelve chapters. With the exception of a few, all students played to receive the Gold Seal Certificate (4, 5, or 6 modules).

The Keyboard Musicianship Committee is grateful to the dedicated chairpersons for arranging testing locations, selecting the volunteer judges and monitors, scheduling mailing, record keeping etc. Many teachers contributed freely of their valuable time to make this a successful program.

I congratulate and thank the following teachers who chaired the twelve chapters and through their hard work and expertise made this program so successful:

Joanna Greenwood, Jeannine Case, Carol Gauthier, Edwina Hunter, Mary G. Wolf, Erin Runkles, Olga Kuperstein, Bonnie Kellert, Hui-Yen Chang, Mary Stevens, Christopher Hall, and Constance Fischel.

I would also like to thank Hui-Yen Chang, Bonnie Kellert and Mary Ann Parker for their invaluable contribution.

During the 2014-15 academic year, 110 trophies were awarded in the categories of Advanced Honors, Intermediate Honors, and the Keyboard Musicianship Award.

The Advanced trophies were awarded to the following:

Elleyana Simmons (Svetlana Volkova), Matthew Mu (Yong Hi Moon), William Chen (Yong Hi Moon), Madison Oehler (Anne Hsueh Chen), Kelly Ross (Irina Dvoynoy), Sally Feng (Hui-Yen Chang)

Congratulations to all teachers and their hard working students. For more information about the trophies and how the student may qualify, please consult the MSMTA Student Activities Packet.

Level 11 of the MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship syllabus will be used in 2015-2016 year testing. For more information, please contact Luba Turkevich.

The new Minus Level One Module will continue to be used as last year. The age limit for Minus Level One is 7 and younger by September 1, annually.

Luba Turkevich, Chair

Continued on Page 3
2015 MSMTA ELEMENTARY DISTINGUISHED MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

TEACHER               STUDENTS
Blanchard, Patricia  Jamison Dittmar, Grace Houghton, Susanna Dittmar, Ezra Huckabee
Bondhus, Deborah      Isabel Reeves, Sophia Strocko, Ethan Doan, Mason Doan, Amanda Chin, Nathan Nguyen
Case, Jeannine        Olexia Merchant
Chang, Dr. Hui-Yen    Siddharth Rajan, Mandy Zhang, Richard Cai
Chen, Anne Hsueh      Samantha Cho, Raymond Chen, Julia Barr
Gauthier, Carole       Samuel Layton
Horwitz, Claudette    Olivia Linus
Hunter, Edwina        Apollos Edinbugh, Alexandra Nelson
Kellert, Bonnie       Rachel Cheung
Kim, Bok Hwa          Noah Kim, Mia Li, Amy Hwang, Noah Kim
Kuperstein, Olga      Emily Wang, Austine Zhang, Stuart Zhu, Kevin Wang, Coleman Leung, Zhenzhu Nelson, Luke Wang, Tia Yu, Ammy Yuan, David Li, Erin Li
Kuperstein, David     Emily Xu, Robert Song
Lin, Mei-Yu           Bahar Banihasheimi, Grace Hu
Merport, Alla         Justin Wang, Ally Paik, Hannah Shen
Nazarenko, Dmitri     Hannah Zhang
Ovcharenko, Marina    Carina Guo
Pao, Yeechen          Ryan Jen
Soukhoveev, Olga      Olesia Soukhoveev
Suskey, Shisa         Elia Chung
Turkevich, Luba       Aaron Mei, Kathleen Li
Volkova, Svetlana     Nathan Gumagay, Una Mekic, Kevin Fou, Jonathan Liu, Amy Tang, Emily Liu, Selma Hamza, Chelsea Tu, Charissa Yi, Michelle Zie, Jessica Hoang
Wolfe-Ralph, Carol    Joshua Kucharski
Yeh, Yaling           Isabella Tang, Flora Ye, Kylie Chen, Stefanie Wang

Claudette Horwitz, chair
This year’s Distinguished Music Achievement Awards were given to 60 students in the Junior division and 33 in the Senior division, from the studios of 35 MSMTA teachers. As the chairperson of the DMA Awards, I would like to express my gratitude to all the participating teachers, and my congratulations to all the recipients for their outstanding accomplishments over the years.

**2015 DMA RECIPIENTS:**

**JUNIOR:**

- Zoë Gardner (Patricia Blanchard)
- Lachlan Houghton (Patricia Blanchard)
- Olivia Taylor (Patricia Blanchard)
- Nancy Zabiegalski (Patricia Blanchard)
- Sophie Elhallal (Faye Bonner/Cherie Jeng)
- Melissa dela Cuesta (Jeannine Case)
- Anthony Maceo (Jeannine Case)
- Jessica Bu (Dr. Hui-Yen Chang)
- Carol Wang (Dr. Hui-Yen Chang)
- Mia Chang (Anne Hsueh Chen)
- Alex Liu (Anne Hsueh Chen)
- Matthew Bloom (Constance Fischel)
- Sarah Di (Immanuela Gruenberg)
- Yee-Lynn Lee (Christopher Hall)
- Yee-Van Lee (Christopher Hall)
- Jocelyn Mathew (Christopher Hall)
- Briquette Wang (Christopher Hall)
- Ashley Xu (Christopher Hall)
- Shefei Jiang (Cherie Jeng)
- Simon Wang (Cherie Jeng)
- Teddi Yoo (Bonnie Kellert)
- Michelle Zheng (Bonnie Kellert)
- Susan Baek (Dr. Bok Hwa Kim)
- Sophia Guan (Dr. Bok Hwa Kim)
- Michael Liu (Olga Kuperstein)
- Flora Li (Mei-Yu Lin)
- Alex Manacabelli (Lori McCarthy)
- Nishka Parikh (Dr. Dmitri Nazarenko)
- Angela Wu (Dr. Dmitri Nazarenko)
- Tiffany Zhang (Dr. Dmitri Nazarenko)
- Ethan Li (Yevgeniya Oleshkevich)
- Justin Hung (Yevgeniya Oleshkevich)
- Collin Wong (Yevgeniya Oleshkevich)
- Elaine Cheng (Hyun Park)
- Eirena Li (Hyun Park)
- William Chen (Ruth Peng)
- Abigail Halterman (Debra Smedley)
- Jenny Yarmovsky (Olga Soukhoveev)
- Graham Lindner (Shisa H. Suskey)
- Brian Pham (Shisa H. Suskey)
- Clarissa Xiu (Junko Takahashi)
- Jereme Corbin (Luba Turkевич)
- Michelle Ling (Luba Turkевич)
- Keira Digaetano (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
- Andrew Peng (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
- Rachel Rashford (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
- Ishana Shastri (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)

**SENIOR:**

- Emily Tian (Dr. Svetlana Volkova)
- Isabeau Chang (Deborah White-Bondhus)
- Yuri Kim (Deborah White-Bondhus)
- Catalina Lennon (Deborah White-Bondhus)
- Caroline Lovelace (Deborah White-Bondhus)
- Sofia Merkowitz-Bustos (Deborah White-Bondhus)
- Sunaya Reddy (Deborah White-Bondhus)
- Bethany Kuo (Dr. Carol Wolfe-Ralph)
- Jason Cao (Yaling Yeh)
- Cissy Huang (Yaling Yeh)
- Joyce Yang (Yaling Yeh)
- Justin Zhang (Yaling Yeh)
- Eric Zhong (Yaling Yeh)

**Bok Hwa Kim, chair**
The High School Piano Examinations Program is a unique example of how schools and professionals in the community work together to enhance students’ educational options. Done in cooperation with the Maryland State Department of Education, this is the 36th year that this program has provided recognition, and in some cases credit, to piano students in their high school. As the first chair, Ann Matteson worked under the leadership of MSMTA president, Dr. Gail F. McDonald. Others who worked in the program at the origination were: Mary Jane Schaeffer, Gary Dinn, Dr. Stewart Gordon, and Ruth Weinberg. They conferred with the legislature and the Maryland State Department of Education’s Director, Division of Instruction, Dr. James W. Lathan and Mr. James L. Tucker, Jr., Chief, Aesthetic and Gifted Programs. The examination are unique in that they are open not only to MSMTA teachers’ students, but to any Maryland student in grades 9 through 12 who study piano privately. Letters and applications forms are sent out each fall to the principals and to music department heads of all public and private high schools in Maryland to tell them about the program. Students play a minimum of 10 minutes of memorized music from three different periods of music literature. They receive critiques from two judges, a certificate of achievement, and a report to be placed in their permanent record folder.

Students taking the examination for credit, must present five more minutes of adjudication time in technique over and above the memorized music.

This year we had 201 students take the examination. We are pleased to see this valuable program continue for the benefit of the students.

I would like to thank all the teachers who participated in the program: Nicole Amyot, Maja Blagojevic, Patricia Blanchard, Lisa Bussing, Deborah Brown, Donna Bridgland, Kristin Butler, Jeannine Case, Dr. Hui-Yen Chang, Amber Deng, Wendy Dengler, Marc Donnelly, Geiza Dourado, Harvey Doster, Irina Dvoynoy, Sima Elks, Constance Fischel, Immanuela Gruenberg, Christopher Hall, Nancy Hallsted, David Holmes, Claudette Horwitz, Edwina Hunter, Wendy Johnston, Bonnie Kellert, Dr. Bok Hwa Kim, Heesun Kim, Conchita Jan, Dr. Wei-Der Huang, David Kuperstein, Olga Kuperstein, Carolyn Lamb Booth, Chia-Hsuan Lee, Chieh Ming Lee, Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng, Mei-Yu Lin, Doris Mattingly, Joy Mentzel, Jamie Mitchell, Dimitri Nazarenko, Cathryn O’Donovan, Yee Chen Pao, Jamie Pasho, Yevgeniya Oleshkevich, Marina Polskaya, Huyn Park, Ruth Peng, Maxime Russell, Ellen Sakai, Evelyn Shih, Dr. Joan Spicknall, Sue Ruhl, Dr. Junko Takahashi, Ziona Tuchler, Luba Turkевич, Thank Vo, Sofia Vulfson, Helen Weems, Roseanne White, Deborah White-Bondhus, Bert Wirth, Dr. Caol Wolfe-Ralph, and Cecelia Wyatt.

Our local chairs do a huge amount of work to make the program work. Thank you to all of them for their hard work!!!!

Annapolis  Cecelia Wyatt
Bowie  Maxine Russell
Columbia  Constance Fischel
Eleanor Roosevelt High School  Ann S. Matteson
Howard County  Christopher Hall
Laurel  Wendy Dengler
Montgomery Blair  Ziona Tuchler
at Northwood High School  Chen-Li Tzeng
Quince Orchard High School  Roseanne White
Richard Montgomery High School  Heesun Kim
Southern Maryland  Patricia Blanchard
Whitman High School  Kristin Butler
Winston Churchill High School  Chia-Hsuan Lee
Thomas Wootton I and II  Luba Turkевич

Thank you to all who took time out of their schedule to judge:

Jeffery Beaudry, Lisa Bussing, Judy Dalton, Wendy Dengler, Constance Fischel, Douglas Guiles, Ann Matteson, David Holmes, Edwina Hunter, Cherie Jeng, Wendy Johnston, Carolyn Lamb Booth, Ann McCandliss, Lori Nelson McCarthy, Mei-Yu Lin, Martha Sallet, Mary Stevens, Betsy Stocksdale, Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng, Dr. Junko Takahashi, Thank Vo, Helen Weems, Deborah White-Bondhus, Dr. Carol Wolfe-Ralph, Cecelia Wyatt.

Special thanks to our registrar, Constance Fischel who processes all the applications and grades, to Ellen Sakai and Carolyn Lamb Booth who work with the Montgomery County schools, and Ellen Sakai who does the certificates with her student, Brandon.
MSMTA Theory Testing Program
Materials Order Form

Purchase of original MSMTA theory materials gives you permission to print or photocopy pages for students.

(no charge for MSMTA members), pdf file emailed

Sample test materials (2015); pdf files emailed

Student version; $25 for complete set of levels $________
$5 per individual level
1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  $________

Teacher version; $25 for complete set of levels $________
$5 per individual level
1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  $________

MP3 files of ear training: $5 per level, emailed (requires 2 emails per level) $________
1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12

CDs of ear training; $5 per level, mailed USPS $________
1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12

Total enclosed: $________

Teacher should send one check made payable to MSMTA for all materials ordered to:

LORI MCCARTHY, 3607 Dunlop Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-5926
301-986-9010, lorinmccarthy@verizon.net

Teacher's Name: ____________________________ Date of order: ______________

Address: _____________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Email: _____________________________
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

MSMTA THEORY TESTING PROGRAM

The MSMTA Theory Testing Program had a great year with 1655 registered students in 12 theory centers. There were a record number of honors awards earned: 103 intermediate, 33 senior and three distinguished awards. The winners can be found in a separate article in this newsletter.

The theory committee is still in the process of working on the theory syllabus revision. To be sure we do a thorough job, it will still take some time so it will not be ready for the 2016 exam. Therefore, we will continue to use the current syllabus with an addendum. The 2016 addendum is almost identical to the one from last year with one additional correction: the spelling of the diminished 7th chord on page 255 in level 7. Please be sure to check both the syllabus and addendum when preparing your students. If you do not have the syllabus or addendum, please email me at lorinmccarthy@verizon.net and I will send you the documents. The syllabus is free to all MSMTA members.

Many of our members have been asking for new sample tests. MSMTA will be releasing the 2015 test as a sample for this coming year. Files will be sent digitally through email only henceforth. Members may request ear training files via mailed CD or emailed mp3 files. A copy of the new form appears in this newsletter for those who would like to order materials in advance of the school year.

Thanks to all the participating teachers in the theory program who make this program a great success. If you have never participated before, we would love to have you enter students next year! Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Lori McCarthy, Chair

2015 MSMTA THEORY HONORS AWARDS

MSMTA congratulates the students and teachers who have received the 2015 MSMTA Theory Awards. One hundred and two students received the MSMTA Intermediate Theory Award for passing five levels with a score of 90 percent or higher from the studios of Janet Berg, June Miller, Lori McCarthy, Svetlana Volkova, Yeechen Pao, Jeannine Case, Chen-Li Tzeng, Claudette Horwitz, Jamie Pasho, Carol Edison, Yaling Yeh, Mei Yu Lin, Bok Hwa Kim, Deborah Brown, Susan Smith, Dmitri Nazarenko, Patricia Blanchard, Yevgeniya Oleshkevich, Karen Skelly, Lorri Yawney, Karen Mihalko, Mei-Fen Yen, Constance Fischel, Ruth Peng, Edwina Hunter, Carol Gauthier, Gary Dinn, Tzi-Ming Yang, Yie-Chien Tsau, David Holmes, Olga Kuperstein, Luba Turkevich, Mary Stevens, Christopher Hall, Anne Hsueh Chen, Teresa Kung, Deborah White-Bondhus, Carol Wolfe-Ralph, Chieh-Ming Lee, Lily Teng, JeongEun Park Kang, Ann Matteson, Hyun Sook Kim, Hui-Yen Chang and Junko Takahashi.


Thirty-three students received the MSMTA Senior Theory Award for passing five levels including level 8 or above with a score of 90 percent or higher from the studios of Yong-Hi Moon, Svetlana Volkova, Deborah Brown, Susan Smith, Dmitri Nazarenko, Patricia Blanchard, Yevgeniya Oleshkevich, Ruth Peng, Gary Dinn, Yie-Chien Tsau, Christopher Hall, Anne Hsueh Chen, Deborah White-Bondhus, Tzi-Ming Yang, and Hui-Yen Chang.

Congratulations to the student recipients: Matthew Mu, Carmen Alvial, Seanna Yang, Varsha Vivekanandam, Alina Oeperchuk, Olivia Rossi, Connor Meyers, Michelle Tang, Ethan Hsiao, Katherine Wu, Angela Wu, Tiffany Zhang, Josh Gardner, Melissa Klein, Chase Condon, Emily Zhang, Anthony R. Reambonanza, Sean Li, Karen Hao, Ginny Wong, Alice Wei, Zeren Yang, Showe Liou, Andrew Huang, Ethan Kim, Alex Liu, Jessica Liu, Madison Ohler, Johanna Tsang, Catalina Lennon, Dotson Hsing, Bakari Lyles, and Carol Wang.

Special congratulations to three students who received the MSMTA Distinguished Theory Award for passing level 12 with a score of 90 percent or from the studios of Dmitri Nazarenko, Hyun Sook Park and Hui-Yen Chang: Jesse Huang, Abigail Lo, and Jessica Yao.

It takes special dedication and perseverance to get through such a demanding course of study and again, MSMTA congratulates all the students and their teachers for achievement of these honors.

Lori McCarthy, Chair

Continued on Page 8
Our teaching season has ended and now we look forward to a pleasant summer break and a much needed change of pace!

MTAB’s last two student events featured our annual Senior Awards Competition, held on April 25 and chaired by Wendy Dengler, with five senior students, all winning awards. Two of these, Richard Williams and Jessica Yao, received the Gottlieb Memorial Scholarship (administered by Jeannine Case). The picture includes four of the five students with two of the three participating teachers: from LEFT to RIGHT: Wendy Dengler, Amy Lin, Jessica Yao, Richard Williams, Hannah Demetry and Hui-Yen Chang.

On May 9, the Spring Evaluation and Competition was held at Village Baptist, Grace Baptist and Redeemer Lutheran churches, with 100 students from the studios of 11 teachers, and featured six competitive and three non-competitive recitals. This event was co-chaired by Maxine Russell and Elizabeth White. The competition students received beautifully engraved plaques for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, and engraved medals for honorable mention, and all entrants received certificates and critiques. Pictured here are students from three of the competitive recitals, judged by Jeff Beaudry and held at Village Baptist Church.

MTAB’S annual Spring Luncheon was held at Four Seasons Grille on May 20, and our final “planning” board meeting occurred on June 3 at the home of Jeannine Case, continuing president, with a delicious pot luck luncheon following. MTAB thanks all chairs for their many hours of volunteer work, as well as the support of all participating teachers. Have a great summer!

Jeannine Case, President

Continued on Page 9
AAMTA has ended the year with record numbers of students participating in many events. Special thanks to Ellen Winner, Katya Merchant, and Diane Kinsley for doing a spectacular job chairing this year's events.

The annual Solo Festival was recently held involving 49 students and five teachers: Jeannine Case, Liliya Lyon, Katya Merchant, Adriana Schueckler, and Helen Smith Tarchalski. Cash prizes were awarded for the Middle School and High School recitals. Ann McCandliss judged the event.

The AAMTA Achievement Award Medal was recently awarded to 40 students. This is the second year this award has been made available. Students who participate in five events over a two year period are eligible for the medal. Thank you Katya Merchant for overseeing this project.

Chris Sanders, President

MTA Charles County closed out its year with a general meeting, highlighting the musical events of the year, and conducting a roundtable discussion of the ups and downs of teaching and sharing of tips. Our last event of the year was the Scholarship Competition, featuring winners in piano, voice and flute from grades 6-12 in three recitals, representing the studios of seven teachers. We look forward to another musical year, as we take some time to rest, refresh and plan over the summer.

Mary Wolf, President

Moving on to spring will see a number of performance opportunities, including: Ensemble / Chamber competition, Young Musicians competition (flute, piano and voice), Henri Carol Memorial competition, Lisa Bussing awards, and the Kirchhof, Mirabella, Wardall and MSMTA Performance awards.

GLMTA will also participate in the spring in Maryland State Theory exams and Maryland State High School exams.

Another action packed year for our organization!

Deborah White-Bondhus, Newsletter Chair, for Wendy Johnston, President


This year, Greater Laurel Music Teachers Association will be starting a new Trophy Awards program to inspire the students to work on performance and expand their musical growth. This program will be on a points basis, which the students will accrue until they have acquired 30, 60 or 100 points. After they have accrued the required number of points in performance areas, they will receive a trophy from GLMTA.

We also will have a creative Composition festival, the ever popular Halloween festival, the unique Orchestra Concerto competition and Piano Concerto competitions, and the fun Ensemble festival in the fall.

In the winter, GLMTA will host the Maryland State Keyboard Exams and our theme festival, THE SHOW’S THE THING FESTIVAL (Music from Theatre, film and TV).

Janet Swaney, President

The Prince George’s Music Teachers’ Association concluded its activity year with a business meeting at the home of Ann Matteson on May 28. Officers for the 2015-2017 term were presented as follows:

President Janet Swaney
Vice-President Janice Wood
Recording Secretary Linda Head
Corresponding Secretary Mei-Yu Lin
Treasurer Shirley Smith
Historian Ann Matteson

A program of Latin-American Music for the 2016 Saul Roas Memorial Scholarship Competition was presented and performed by June Miller and her committee.

A pot-luck luncheon followed the business meeting and program.

Janet Swaney, President
This has been a fruitful year for MTAGB with two recitals, a Holiday Music Marathon at Kenilworth Mall, the Theory and Musicianship exams and a master class this March. A group of us has also met every first Wednesday of the month for our Music Matinees.

Barbara Stumpf reports: MTAGB’s Matinee Group has now completed its third year. We continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month, with participants playing works-in-progress and learning new repertoire in “shared” performances. Recently, we played through Debussy’s Children’s Corner, Pinto’s Scenas Infantis, Mozart’s Ah, Vous dirai-je, Maman variations, and a selection of pieces based on American folk tunes. Individual members have played pieces by Brahms, Gershwin, Shostakovich, and Ravel, among others. We’ve also enjoyed two “guest performances.” In October, MTAGB member Stephanie Bruning played works by Fairouz, Amy Beach, William Bolcolm, Rachmaninoff, and others as a preview of her “All-American Recital” later in the month. In April, MTAGB friend Lorena Gonzales played for us works by Ponce and Ginastera. We have welcomed new members who have brought added enthusiasm for four-hand work to our group. All in all, we’ve had a fantastic time and look forward to next year!

The May 17 Honors Recital went well today, with thirty-three participants, sixteen of which were adjudicated, seven of which competed for a scholarship.

There were enough participants this time that we decided to have an intermission, after which the students not being adjudicated performed.

We heard a variety of musical styles and periods, from Antonio Soler to Bela Bartok and other pieces by contemporary pedagogical composers. We even had one student perform twice; the first time she played one piano piece at the piano, and the second time she performed two pieces for harp. It was refreshing to have a performance in an instrument other than the piano.

Thanks to Betsy Stocksdale for organizing this event. She has done a wonderful job. Thanks to Patti Crossman for making available the great auditorium in the Arts and Humanities Building at CCBC Essex. And thank you to Ruth Peng and Yuka Stein for serving as hosts and setting up food and drink for the performers to enjoy at the intermission.

Wendy Balder, President
On March 7, MTASM held our annual Spring Festival for Piano at Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church, California, MD. There were 85 entries with students performing both solo and ensemble works. Our judges for the non-competitive event were Ella Wu and Louis Orphanos. Participating teachers were Patricia Blanchard, Helen Gardner, Barbara Graham, Georgia Harvey, Hyun Sook Kim, Abigail Purcell, Meleah Backhaus-Shrout, Debra Smedley, Janet Swaney, NCTM, and Donna White, NCTM. Our event chair was Patricia Blanchard.

Our annual Voice Festival, was held on April 25 at SAYSF Bible Church with five participants. The participating teacher and event chair was Joan Chovanes, NCTM.

The MSMTA Theory Test was administered on April 11 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Lexington Park, MD. There were 115 students tested. Participating teachers were Patricia Blanchard, Helen Gardner, Georgia Harvey, Hyun Sook Kim, Mary Stevens, and Donna White, NCTM, with transfer students from Gary Dinn, Anne Chen and Susan Smith. The chair for our event was Mary Stevens. Many thanks to the teachers who helped check tests and our extra room monitors.

The Music Teachers Association of Southern Maryland ended our busy year with the MSMTA Scholarship for Performance and Honors Recitals. Our MSMTA Scholarship winner was Jasmine Smoot (Blanchard) and the MTASM Intermediate winners were first place Kaitlyn Ng (Kim), second place Hannah Cha (Kim), third place Eliana Reynolds (Blanchard), and honorable mention Lucy Paskoff (Graham). Our judge for the event was Dr. Sophie Hong of North Bethesda. Participating teachers were Patricia Blanchard, Barbara Graham, Georgia Harvey, Hyun Sook Kim, Abby Purcell, Debra Smedley, Janet Swaney, NCTM and Donna White, NCTM. Our event chair was Patricia Blanchard.

All the best to our new president, Debra Smedley, who is already busy planning a great year of activities for 2015-16!
The Howard County Music Teachers Association has finished its successful season of recitals, examinations and competitions! All of our events were smoothly run and were very rewarding experiences for the students and their families. Many thanks to our chairs and those teachers who entered their students and helped with these events.

Our final competition of the year is the High School Award Competition. This year, due to a large enrollment, we split it into two competitions: 9th and 10th grade students had a separate competition, while 11th and 12th grade students competed for the MSMTA Scholarship for Performance. This year, Alisa Hwang, a senior student of Dr. Bok Hwa Kim, won the MSMTA Scholarship. Our congratulations to this hard-working student!

This was an election year for HCMTA. After 24 years of serving as an HCMTA officer, Kathy Stansbery is stepping down to allow others to take over some of her past duties. Our officers for 2015-2017 are: President: Bok Hwa Kim; Vice-President and Director of Student Activities: David Kuperstein; Treasurer: Karen England; Secretarial Committee: Sima Elkis, Bok Hwa Kim, Olga Kuperstein and Kathy Stansbery. Our thanks to these members for taking on these important offices for our association!

We would like to give recognition to our Historian and Membership Chair, Alta Thomann, who is one of our longest-serving and still-active members! Also, a thank-you to Kristina Suter, who is our liaison with Howard Community College. It is behind-the-scenes members like these who keep our organization going!

We hope everyone has a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating summer!

Kathryn Stansbery, outgoing Vice-President and Secretary

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Alisa Hwang, HCMTA winner of the 2015 MSMTA Scholarship for Performance with her teacher, Dr. Bok Hwa Kim

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ADVERTISEMENTS

MSMTA is now accepting advertisements in its newsletter. Space is limited to two pages total, so ads will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates are:

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For more information, contact Richard Hartzell at: rlhartzell@verizon.net

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please email all notices and copy for inclusion in the October 2015 MSMTA newsletter by October 5, 2015, to: rlhartzell@verizon.net or mail to:

Richard Hartzell
MSMTA Newsletter Editor
1817 Arcola Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20902-2830
Tel: (301)-649-4221

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