

NEW YORK STATE
MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
c/o Gary Fisher
108 Washington Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
gfshr@frontiernet.net

IMPORTANT DATES

Citation Nomination
Due by September 1, 2016

Chapin Grant
Proposal deadline: September 15, 2016

NYSMTA Business Meetings
Friday, October 7, 2016
Nazareth College
Rochester, New York

MTNA Competitions
Friday, October 7, 2016
Nazareth College
Rochester, New York
Submission Deadline: September 14, 2016

Empire State Competitions
Friday, October 7, 2016
Nazareth College
Rochester, New York
Submission Deadline: September 9, 2016

NYSMTA Conference 2016
Saturday, October 8, 2016
Nazareth College
Rochester, New York

MTNA National Conference
March 18 -- 22, 2017
Baltimore, Maryland

Kilian Competition for Piano & Voice
May 14, 2017
Syracuse, New York

Lecture Forum
Proposals for NYSMTA Conference 2018
Submission Deadline: March 1, 2018

PLEASE MAKE YOUR
CONFERENCE HOTEL
RESERVATION BY
SEPTEMBER 7th TO
SECURE THE REDUCED
RATE.



President's Message

Dear NYSMTA members and friends,











Greetings from NYSMTA! Once again, we are about to gather for a Conference, in beautiful Rochester. We are indebted to Gary Fisher and Bonnie Choi who have made arrangements once again for us to meet at Nazareth College. Thank you to everyone who spent hours and days arranging and coordinating with many people over the last months, in order to make this valuable event happen.

Once again, competitions and business meetings will be held on Friday and all other events on Saturday, in order to make this conference as practical and attractive to as many attendees as possible. There is much to experience and share, including the luncheon meeting and discussion period on Saturday.

We must thank all the presenters for the intriguing variety of topics and for the enthusiasm which will surely encourage discussions during and after the conference. Because this is why we meet: live interactions and connections we make with our colleagues are invaluable!

Input from all NYSMTA members and conference attendees is most welcome. To this end, we have been working behind the scenes to upgrade our website after it was hacked several times this past spring. The site has been “down” since then. The web address: nysmta.org will be the same; please check periodically to see what is new, and when it’s finally online. We also have a

continued on p. 2



“Growing through Giving”


The Biggest Piano Event in the World

Guild auditions provide milestones from year to year as measurements of progress

*All Spring –
Enroll Early*

National Guild of Piano Teachers

Sponsored by the
Largest Organization of
Piano Teachers in the World



International Headquarters:
P.O. Box 1807
Austin, TX 78767 U.S.A.

Teachers Division of American College of Musicians Founded in 1929 by Irl Allison











Audition
participation and
absence from school
APPROVED BY
TEXAS
EDUCATION
AGENCY

I am interested in joining the Piano Guild. Please send me more information about membership and Guild goals.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss _____
(Print or Type Name and Address)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____



WWW.NYSMTA.ORG

Webmaster: Bonnie Choi
NYSMTA Home Page,
Newsletters, Directory,
Constitution, Conferences,
Certification, Competitions,
Grants Program, Judges List,
Speaker's Bureau information.
Linked to www.mtna.org

If you have an address change,
new phone number or e-mail
address, please contact the Vice-
President for Membership, for inclusion
of that information in the next
Directory and to keep the Enews list
updated.
Bonnie Choi, VP of Membership
bchoi6@naz.edu
585-389-2695

You would also need to contact
the MTNA National Office
(Toll Free) **1-888-512-5278**

The Executive Committee
requests that all NYSMTA members
pay their annual MTNA dues by
October 1, 2016. It greatly facilitates
the accurate preparation of the State
Membership Directory.

NYSMTA NEWSLETTER

Published by
New York State Music Teachers
Association, Inc.

Editor: Gary Fisher
108 Washington Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
gfsr@frontiernet.net

Design & Production:
Bonnie Choi
bchoi6@naz.edu

Newsletter Deadlines:
May 1, July 1, November 1

Submission of newsletter articles
and reports by e-mail is strongly
preferred; otherwise allow extra time
for editing. Please be sure to include your
name on all submissions. Thank you.



continued from p. 1

Facebook page: New York State Music Teachers Association. Please “friend” us
and post comments and photos. What can we do to make our organization and
this conference more attractive and useful? Please be sure to leave comments and
suggestions. Please share news of your own districts, locals, and private studios.
What issues matter to you? Our NYSMTA is here to support the districts and
individual members but we need assistance and participation from members.

There is a lot to ponder. Let’s continue the communication and discussion.

Looking forward to seeing you in Rochester, as well as hearing from you in some
manner.

Ruthanne Schempf, DMA, NCTM
President, New York State Music Teachers Association

**VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE
REGARDING HIGH SCHOOL
EMPIRE STATE COMPETITION**

Please note there is a change for the coordinator of the High School
level of the Empire State Competition. **It is very important that
applications be sent to the new coordinator:**
Daisy Lin, P.O. Box 8554, Albany, New York 12208
518-618-7488
daisylin888@yahoo.com

We send Jane Chang, the former coordinator, and her family all our
best wishes on their move to the West Coast.

**HUGE BRAND NEW
MUSIC GIVE-AWAY
at the
Conference!**
(see page 8 for details)

NYSMTA CONFERENCE 2016 – REGISTRATION FORM

Name_____ Local Association_____

Address_____

Telephone_____ Email_____

REGISTRATION FEE (check one and enter amount at right) \$_____

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| NYSTMA Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (lunch included) |
| Non-member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 (lunch included) |
| Collegiate NYSMTA member | <input type="checkbox"/> free (lunch available at reduced rate*) |
| Collegiate non-member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 (lunch available at reduced rate*) |
| Nazareth College students | <input type="checkbox"/> free (lunch available at reduced rate*) |
| Students of NYSTMA members | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (lunch available*) |

Registration fee includes

- Workshops and Presentations • Lunch Buffet with Round Table Discussions
- Guest Artist and Commissioned Composer Performances
- Conference Hospitality • Music Give-Away
- * Conference chair will contact registrant with information

TOTAL (checks payable to "NYSMTA") \$_____

You can register using this form or, if more convenient, online at
<https://nysmta.wufoo.com/forms/k59vryi1hfyetc/>

☐ I am not a member of NYSMTA. Please send me a membership application form and information.

Please send completed form and payment by September 24 to:
Gary Fisher
108 Washington Road
Pittsford, New York 14534
gfsr@frontiernet.net

CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION

Please contact the hotel directly to make your room reservation. Directions from your home to the hotel, as well as from the hotel to the college, are best accessed by using Google.com, Mapquest.com, Yahoo.com, maps.live.com, or a similar online mapping service.

The college address is:

**Nazareth College
4245 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618
585-389-2694**

On-campus directions will be included with your conference confirmation.

The hotel address is:

**Woodcliff Hotel and Spa
199 Woodcliff Drive
Fairport, NY 14450**

Reservations: (585) 381-4000 or (800) 365-3065

<http://www.woodcliffhotelspa.com/>

Room rate is \$129 plus 14% tax

Two queens or king bed.

Hotel check-in is after 3:00 pm/check-out time is prior to 12:00 noon.

**NOTE! For the reduced group rate, please be sure to mention
“NYSMTA/Nazareth”
when making your reservations.**

CUT-OFF DATE FOR REDUCED RATE RESERVATIONS:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

Hotel Room Sharing

If you are planning on making a hotel reservation and would like to find a person with whom to share the room, please contact Gary Fisher at gfishr@frontiernet.net or call (585) 389-2694. He will let you know of other individuals who would also like to share a room.

NYSMTA CONFERENCE 2016

Guest Artist

Jacob Ertl, pianist



Dr. Jacob Ertl is currently the Coordinator of Keyboard Studies and Assistant Professor of Piano at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY. He has performed across the United States, and abroad in Europe, Israel, China, Canada, Panama, and Mexico.

A winner of numerous national and international competitions, Ertl has debuted at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in NYC, on Chicago Radio's "Live from WFMT" series and Wisconsin Public Radio's "Live from the Elvehjem" series. He has performed as soloist with orchestras and wind ensembles, and is regularly invited to give guest recitals and master classes at universities, colleges, and arts high schools. He also frequently performs solo and chamber music at international summer music festivals including Nice, Gijon, Oviedo, Tel-Hai, Banff, Bowdoin, Quartet Program, Pianofest in the Hamptons, PianoTexas, Dakota Sky, and Lake George.

Ertl has recently recorded two CD's in 2015: a world premiere recording of Fisher Tull's *Piano Concerto* released on Naxos, and a digitally released disc with Eastern Standard trio, including world premiere recordings and composer commissions. Ertl has also recently completed a tour of China, where he gave four solo recitals and nine master classes at various universities.

An advocate of music outreach, Ertl has been the Artist-in-Residence Fellow for PianoArts for eight years, where he has performed hundreds of interactive outreach concerts and collaborated with over twenty public schools, colleges and universities. In 2013 and 2014, he also gave numerous education concerts at the Dakota Sky International Piano Festival using eight unique interactive programs.

A strong supporter of music of our time, Ertl regularly programs new music and is a member of the Eastman Broadband contemporary music ensemble, with whom he has toured to Mexico (Chihuahua International Music Festival) and New York (Americas Society, Symphony Space). He has also toured to Panama for the Musicarte Festival of Contemporary Music as a guest performer with Pittsburgh based new music ensemble, Alia Musica. Ertl has also given numerous lecture recitals on Frederic Rzewski's *De Profundis*; a work for speaking pianist.

Ertl completed the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees at the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with and served as teaching assistant for Nelita True. He earned the Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, studying with Robert Shannon. He has also studied regularly with Arie Vardi, Vladimir Krainev, Pascal Rogé, Julian Martin, Robert McDonald, and Emanuel Krasovsky, among others. His pre-college teachers in piano and chamber music include Michael Kim and Carol Leybourn. In addition to teaching at Nazareth College, Ertl is Director of Lake George Music Festival On Tour, and Coordinator of the Nazareth College Piano Camp.

<http://www.jacobertl.com>

MTNA/NYSMTA 2016 COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

Octavio Vazquez



The music of Octavio Vazquez (b. 1972) has been performed throughout the US, Europe, and Asia, in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the National Auditorium of Spain, Cologne's Philharmonie, and the Big Hall of the St. Petersburg Conservatory. He has also written for film and collaborated with world music artists as an arranger, orchestrator and producer, most notably with Grammy Award winner Cristina Pato. His orchestration of "Negro Caravel" for Ms. Pato's CD "Muller" was nominated for the 2011 Spanish Music Academy Awards.

His works have been recorded for the labels NAXOS, Delos, Landra Music, Gale Recordings, Ouvirmos, Fol Musica, and Bohemia Music, and by radio and TV stations such as PBS, PRX, the Spanish National Radio and Television, New York's WQXR, and the Chinese International Radio. His catalog currently includes over sixty titles, all of them published by the Conwell Publishing Group of New York.

Notable performers of his works include conductors such as Dima Slobodeniouk, Carlos Kalmar, Paul Daniel, Hansjörg Schellenberger, and Víctor Pablo Pérez, and soloists Hilary Hahn, Cristina Pato, Dmitri Berlinsky, Amaury Coeytaux, Jonathan Gandelsman, Nurit Pacht, Eric Jacobsen, Adam Levin, Viacheslav Dinerchtein, Adam Kent, and Eldar Nebolsin. He has received grants and commissions from the Verdehr Trio, Poulenc Trio, New York State Council on the Arts, New Music USA, Michigan State University, Spanish Radio and Television Orchestra, Galicia Royal

Philharmonic Orchestra, Galicia Symphony Orchestra, Meet the Composer, Guernica Project, Via Stellae, Fulbright Commission, Chi-Mei Foundation, SGAE/Autor Foundation, and Xacobeo Classics 2010 among others.

Festivals featuring his music include the Kölner MusikTriennale (Germany), Festival de Basse Navarre/ Navarra Internacional Festival (France and Spain), the Prokofiev International Festival (Russia), Macedon Music (Australia), Niagara International Chamber Music Festival (Canada), Camarissima International Festival (Mexico), California Summer Music, European Dream Festival, Composers Now, Queens New Music, and Southampton Arts (USA), and the AreMore, Via Stellae, Espazos Sonoros, Clásicos en Verano, and Música en Compostela International Festivals (Spain).

A graduate of the Adolfo Salazar Conservatory, the Royal Conservatory of Music of Madrid, the Peabody Conservatory, and the University of Maryland, Dr. Vazquez has given lectures and masterclasses at Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College, Hofstra University, Fordham University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland, Salisbury University, and Texas Christian University (USA), Carlos III, Santiago de Compostela, and Complutense Universities (Spain), the XXXVII Congress of the International Viola Society (South Africa), and the Next Renaissance Conference (Netherlands). He teaches composition at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York.

<http://www.octaviov.com>

ARTISTRY in Performance and Teaching



- **New! M.M. in Performance and Pedagogy**
Concentrations in strings, brass, winds, percussion, piano and voice.
- **M.S. in Education** (Music Education)
- **M.S. in Creative Arts Therapy** (Music Therapy)

Graduate Assistantships are available.

NAZARETH COLLEGE

An accredited institutional member of NASM.

4245 East Avenue, Rochester, New York ■ naz.edu/music

Chapin Foundation Grant

The Elfriede Chapin Fund has been established to award a monetary grant annually to one NYSMTA member. The recipient will use the grant to work on a special project that will benefit member teachers. The project must be used to establish new research developed during the grant. When the study is complete, the recipient must present the findings, either through a published article in an issue of the NYSMTA Newsletter or the American Music Teacher magazine, or through a presentation at a biannual NYSMTA state conference or an MTNA annual national conference.

Anyone interested in applying for the Chapin Grant should contact, by September 15, 2016:

Michael Merolla, Chapin Fund Chair
PO Box 428
Miller Place, New York 11764
mbm00@optonline.net

A Few Words to Consider...

Go back any number of years and look at any number of messages from NYSMTA officers, and you will be sure to find some version of a call for participation, a plea for volunteerism, a request for members to step up. By all means NYSMTA is not alone in this state of affairs, one in which it seems that the same names of a small number of individuals appear year after year as officers and board members. The words "seeking new blood" may be something of a cliché, but they certainly capture exactly what our greatest need is at this time. Out there among the member readers of these words, and beyond to those who are not yet members, are individuals who have such incredibly valuable talents and energies and experiences to offer and to share. Whether you are just starting out as teachers and performers or if you have engaged with music for a lifetime, you know who you are. We too want to know who you are, and to get to know you as you join with your like-minded colleagues. An organization such as NYSMTA cannot thrive and grow and provide all of the exceptional possibilities that it can unless there is an influx of new ideas, of fresh energy and effort and interest. Without it, we wilt and we shrink and we eventually disappear. Please consider becoming active on the state level of NYSMTA. You can be guaranteed of meeting terrific folks you would never have a chance to meet otherwise. Please let us know who you are, what ideas interest you and how you might want to participate. Feel free to send a message to our state president, Ruthanne Schempf at schempf@gmail.com. And all this can start by attending the state Conference in October. We really look forward to meeting you!

2016 HEDDY KILIAN COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL PIANO

The Heddy Kilian Competition in Piano and Voice is an annual event sponsored by the New York State Music Teachers Association. High school students in grades ten through twelve are eligible to compete. It was established by the family of a devoted and respected musician from the Syracuse area to honor her work, and continues to be generously supported by her children. The competition venue moves among three upstate locations. This year’s Kilian Competition took place at Nazareth College this past May 8, coordinated by Gary Fisher.

Seven pianists competed this year. First place was awarded to **Benjamin Daly** of Manlius, New York. Benjamin is a student of Andrew Russo of Jamesville, New York. Second place was awarded to **Jonathan Madden** of Fairport, New York. Jonathan is a student of Brian Preston of Rochester, New York. Our congratulations to these talented individuals and their teachers.

Nomination Slate for 2016 – 2018 NYSMTA Administrative Committee

Please watch for an Enews message announcing a slate of names standing for election to the NYSMTA Administrative Committee. Voting will take place at the the General Business Meeting on October 8 at the Conference.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Membership Directory of the New York State Music Teachers Association is updated every other year; a print copy is mailed to all current members. A safe and secure online membership database will become available on the new website. We ask that if you have not renewed your membership for the current year to please do so as soon as possible. When renewing your MTNA/NYSMTA membership, please make sure that your email address is up-to-date. All communications, other than this Conference Newsletter, are done through Enews, so your correct email address is extremely important. Timely attention to it will insure continued receipt of MTNA/NYSMTA information, as well as inclusion in the NYSMTA Membership Directory.

If you are reading this newsletter and announcement as a non-member, we warmly invite you to consider joining (or re-joining, as the case may be).

Initiating or renewing membership is done through the National office. They can be reached at 513-421-1420 x237 (Melissa Curtice) or at <http://www.mtna.org/membership-information>. 70% of our members have already renewed for the current year. If you are part of the remaining 30%, please take a moment to register.

Questions, requests or information submitted can be sent to:
Bonnie Choi, Vice-President for Membership, NYSMTA
Nazareth College Music Department
4245 East Ave., Rochester, New York 14618
(585) 389-2695
bchoi6@naz.edu

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Wilmot Hall of Music, Nazareth College

ONGOING

- Empire State Competitions: all events
- MTNA Competitions: all events

NYSMTA MEETINGS: AFTERNOON AND EVENING

Wilmot Hall of Music, Nazareth College (Please note: Specific meeting times will be available in September at www.nysmta.org; they will be forwarded to board members from the NYSMTA president.)

- Administrative Committee
 - District Chairs/Collegiate Chapter Chair
- Executive Board
 - Long Range Planning Committee

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Wilmot Hall of Music, Nazareth College

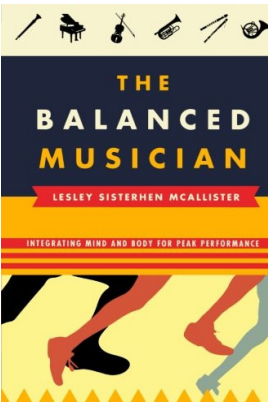
ONGOING

- Conference hospitality
- Music Give-Away

PRESENTATIONS



Dr. Lesley Sisterhen McAllister will be the featured clinician at the NYSMTA Conference 2016. Dr. McAllister is Associate Professor of Piano and Director of Piano Pedagogy at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She is author of "The Balanced Musician: Integrating Mind and Body for Peak Performance." She has presented frequently at national pedagogy events, including the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy (GP3) Forum, two MTNA national conventions, and the College Music Society national conference. Her articles have appeared in several journals, including Clavier Companion, Piano Pedagogy Forum, American Music Teacher and the MTNA E-Journal. Dr. McAllister was given the “2010 Article of the Year” award by the Music Teachers National Association. The former chair of the editorial board for the MTNA E-Journal, she currently serves as co-chair for the Pedagogy Student Planning Committee for the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. Dr. McAllister holds degrees from the University of Houston (BM), Florida State University (MM), and the University of Oklahoma (DMA).



“The Musician as Athlete: Implementing Research on Imagery and Mental Rehearsal from Sport Psychology into Music”

While detailed practice leads to polish and preparation, musicians need a different set of skills to attain a more holistic mindset for peak performance. Beginning with a discussion on the similarities between athletes and musicians, this presentation will explore techniques used by sport psychologists to help athletes reach peak performance, including imagery, mental rehearsal, affirmations, and relaxation techniques. These strategies lead to dependable memorization and the attainment of “flow” during performance when combined with the often-neglected areas of wellness such as sleep, proper diet, and self-care.

“Motivating the Net Generation: Five Simple Tools to Get Your Students Thinking, Practicing, and Learning at Home”

The advent of the Internet has shaped the learning styles and expectations of students of the “net generation.” These students have a need for immediacy and an interest in multi-tasking that seems to contrast with the focused, detailed practice required of developing musicians. This session explores motivational techniques that utilize technology such as video sharing and social networking along with other apps and websites to enhance the learning experience for today’s student.

“Positive Teaching: Getting the Best Out of Every Student”

Very rarely do we come across the “ideal student” who learns quickly, focuses during the lesson, practices well, and sounds musical. Instead, teachers often find that they need to be flexible in their approach to serve the unique needs of a diverse population of students. This requires CARE: Concern, Authenticity, Respect, and Empathy. With a consideration of the factors affecting student success and the symptoms of particular learning disorders, this presentation will share teaching strategies to help even “problem students” improve and stay motivated.

Laura Amoriello. “From Living Room to Stage: Helping Students Fight Performance Anxiety”



They’ve mastered their piece, secured the memory, and firmly established expression and choreography. Why then do our students still struggle to perform with confidence? Preparing our students musically for a performance is important, but equally critical is preparing them mentally. How can we help students enjoy a fulfilling experience on stage? Grounded in both theory and practice of performance psychology, this workshop is designed to help piano teachers address performance anxiety in the lesson. It is divided into two parts: keys to effective practicing and practical tips for managing anxiety.

Josh Massicot. “Incorporating Functional Keyboard Skills into the Private Lesson”

From young students interested in signing up for beginning jazz band; to those applying to such diverse programs of study as music therapy, music education, and music business; and for all those in between who simply want to become more freely versatile players, functional keyboard skills play an important and meaningful role in the fulfillment and success of our students. This workshop will explore the skills of harmonization, transposition, improvisation, arranging and lead sheet realization. Systematic, accessible and pragmatic approaches to developing your students' functional pianism in the environment of the private lesson will be shared.



PERFORMANCES

- **NYSMTA Competitions Winners Recital.** Presenting winners of the 2016 MTNA, Empire State and Heddy Kilian competitions in performance
Friday evening, October 7 at the conclusion of competitions
- **MTNA/NYSMTA 2016 Commissioned Composer: Dr. Octavio Vazquez**
Premiere performance of his *Three Departures* for alto saxophone and piano. Chisato Eda Marling, alto saxophone and Sarah Rhee-Tirr , piano
Saturday early afternoon, October 8
- **Conference Artist: Jacob Ertl**, pianist
Music of Albeniz, Ravel, Rzewski and Stravinsky/Agosti
Saturday late afternoon, October 8

**Citation Award
Call for Nominations**

The NYSMTA Citation Committee requests nominations for the 2016 NYSMTA Citation Award. Nominees should have demonstrated service to the music teaching profession by reason of leadership at State, Division and/or National levels of MTNA, and/or have made outstanding contributions to music and the arts through community, cultural and artistic activities.

Please submit nominations either in writing or by email, with detailed reasons for the recommendation, by
Thursday, September 1, 2016 to:

Michael Merolla, PO Box 428,
Miller Place, NY 11764
mbm00@optonline.net

**Call for NYSMTA
Newsletter Article Topics**

Chair of the Independent Music Teachers Forum, Maura Hall, would like to know of topics for articles that would be of interest to our members and readers. As active teachers and musicians, our members are very much aware of issues pertinent to the private teacher that could be addressed in this newsletter. Sharing our own insights, perspectives and experiences is a fundamental benefit of membership in an organization such as ours.

Please let Maura know of your interests by contacting her at *etudesmusic@gmail.com*

**MTNA COMPOSITION COMPETITION
Attention NYSMTA Teachers!**

A reminder here of a great opportunity to submit your students’ original compositions into a state-wide contest, the first of three levels of the MTNA Composition Competition. All submissions are reviewed and judged with insightful written comments. Winners at the State level go on to compete at the Division levels; winners there then go on to the National level.

The MTNA Composition Competition provides an excellent goal for young composers. So many young students come to us not only wanting to learn to play an instrument, but also wanting to learn how to write down the pieces they have already been devising on their own, and to learn how to do it better. Even if we ourselves are not trained composers, just think of how much we can help our students, how much we can motivate them and steer them in stimulating directions. We already do this by the way we guide them through the wonderful literature of great composers, and in doing so lead them to “inhabit” these best models for themselves. And if it is more of a popular style they are striving for, we can still help them to shape their ideas by means of our own strong sense of musical shape and worth and experience. Far too few of us – and far too few of our students – explore this path of creativity and unique self-expression. Here is a chance to motivate and challenge our students, and for them to gain acknowledgment, encouragement and, perhaps, reward.

Similar to the MTNA performance competitions, age categories determine the appropriate level for the MTNA Composition Competition: Elementary, Junior, High School and Collegiate. Deadline for submission in this year’s event is **September 14, 2016**. For downloadable applications and all other information, please visit www.mtna.org, and follow the links for "competitions".

Christine Johannsen, Coordinator, MTNA Composition Competition
845-628-7980 *chrisj.rage@gmail.com*

IN MEMORIAM: ELEANORE ELLSWORTH MACDOUGALL

JANUARY 26, 1935 – NOVEMBER 21, 2015

Written and provided by Hugh MacDougall



Hugh and Eleanore MacDougall
April 2015

COOPERSTOWN – Eleanore (Ellsworth) MacDougall, 80, died of a sudden heart attack on Saturday evening, November 21, 2015, at her home in Cooperstown. She was the daughter of the late Waldo and Dorris (Gouldhart) Ellsworth of Cooperstown, and granddaughter of the late Ralph Waldo Ellsworth, a founder of Ellsworth & Sill’s clothing store. She is survived by her husband, Hugh Cooke MacDougall of Cooperstown, by her brother, Robert Ellsworth of Washington, D.C., and his sons Eric and Holly Ellsworth of Washington D.C., Brian and Isabel Ellsworth of Caracas, Venezuela, and Andrew and Janeen Ellsworth of Pittsburgh, PA, and by her brother Paul and Anne Ellsworth of Dennis Port, Massachusetts, and his daughter, Col. Katherine (Ellsworth) Oler, US Air Force.

Eleanore was born in Cooperstown on January 26, 1935 and attended Cooperstown Central School until her graduation in 1952. After attending Radcliffe College for one year, and spending several years in secretarial work in Boston, she graduated from Boston University in 1958, where she participated in several choirs. Always interested in music, she moved to New York City where she took evening classes at The Juilliard School. In the later 1960's she was for over three years a caseworker for the New York Welfare Department, in charge of about 50 families in East Harlem.

In 1970 she renewed an old friendship with Hugh MacDougall, a United State Foreign Service Officer then on temporary assignment in New York City, and on December 26, 1970 they were married at Christ Episcopal Church in Cooperstown. They have no children. She accompanied her husband for 15 years on assignments in East Africa as Deputy Principal Officer (1971-74) at the American Consulate General in Lourenco Marques (now Maputo), and as Political Officer (1974-76) at the American Embassy in Dar es

Salaam, Tanzania, and finally in South East Asia as Counsellor for Political and Economic Affairs (1981 – 1984) at the American Embassy in Rangoon, Burma (now Yangon, Myanmar), as well as on his several assignments at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. While overseas, in addition to the constant social activities required of wives of senior US diplomats, she was active in local organizations including the 4th Congress of Southern African Women held in Mozambique in 1973, local women’s welfare groups in Tanzania and Burma, and the activities of local Episcopal Churches. She also taught piano and sang in a variety of choruses.

Following her husband’s retirement from the Foreign Service in 1986, they returned to Cooperstown, where she taught piano. She also took organ lessons and served for several years as pianist/choir director, and then as organist, for the First Baptist Church of Cooperstown, as well as participating in activities of the Oneonta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. For many years she was an accompanist and singer in the annual Fly Creek Philharmonic comedy production.

Eleanore was a long-time member of Christ Episcopal Church, and at the time of her death an alto in its choir. From 2006 – 2011 she was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Cooperstown Village Library, serving as its Secretary from 2008 – 2011. She was also a member of the Garden Discussion Group, the Village Democratic Committee, the League of Women Voters, the Otsego Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Glimmerglass Opera Guild.

A Memorial Service was held at Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. with Curate Matthew Stromberg officiating. Eleanore’s ashes were interred this Spring in the Christ Church Columbarium Wall.

In lieu of flowers it is suggested that contributions in Eleanore’s memory be made to the “Cooperstown Food Pantry,” 25 Church Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326. Funeral arrangements are by the Tillapaugh Funeral Service in Cooperstown.

DINING

- Conference hospitality
- Lunch buffet (included in registration fee)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- The Conference Buffet Luncheon occurs at noon. The NYSMTA General Business Meeting takes place at that time. This will be followed by moderated topic discussions during which our members themselves will share experience and insight, and in so doing establish and renew state-wide friendships.



EMPIRE STATE COMPETITIONS

NYSMTA encourages its members to consider entering their accomplished students in the Seventeenth Annual Empire State Competitions, which are to take place on Friday, October 7, 2016 at Nazareth College in Rochester during the NYSMTA Conference 2016. The competitions are open to junior high school, high school and collegiate students in voice, piano and instrumental categories.

**Postmark deadline for application submission is
Friday, September 9, 2016.**

For additional information and application form, please go to:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0Bw2u7EmgAHXad1o2LUZDSFR0UFU>
or www.nysmta.org, follow the link for "Competitions".

For online registration, please go to:
<https://nysmta.wufoo.com/forms/r9hcflc057p9f8>

Junior High School Coordinator:
Heather Wheeler
315-265-2530
hwheelehl@potdam.edu

High School Coordinator:
Daisy Lin
518-618-7488
daisylin888@yahoo.com.

Collegiate Coordinator:
Wenqing Bouche Pillon
917-903-2697
pianomagique@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR NYSMTA ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

Having “inherited” the collection of NYSMTA papers and publications collected over its 50+ year history, I am interested in learning if any members may have any old conference booklets, newsletters, directories or papers which they would wish to send along to add to the existing collection instead of throwing them out. If you do, please let me know what you have and I can then determine if those donations can fill some gaps in the collection, or otherwise add to a fuller picture of the organization’s history. While there is not yet a permanent “repository location” for these materials, they are being maintained safely and intact. Any additional materials will be appreciated.

Gary Fisher, NYSMTA Archivist
gfishr@frontiernet.net

TREMENDOUS TEACHING COLLECTION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE AT CONFERENCE!

The New York State Music Teachers Association is the recent recipient of a significant collection of piano teaching music and books on music history and theory. This gift – of sixty boxes – has been offered to us with the understanding that it is to be distributed among NYSMTA members for use by them, instead of remaining stored away. Mrs. Eleanore MacDougall of Cooperstown passed away last year and had been a member of our organization. Her library of teaching materials, practically all in new condition, has been given to NYSMTA by her husband, Hugh MacDougall. He has expressed great satisfaction in knowing that these items will be able to be put to good use among musicians who shared Eleanore's love of teaching. Please see an article and photograph of Mr. and Mrs. MacDougall elsewhere in this issue.

The entire collection will be made available at the Nazareth Conference on Saturday, October 9 as of first thing in the morning. Registered Conference attendees *only* will be able to browse from this truly substantial collection of very usable and varied materials in excellent condition. A free-will donation is asked of anyone who selects items. These funds will go toward the first prize in the Empire State Competition for High School Piano, which will be named for Eleanore and Hugh MacDougall for the 2017 competition.

This beautiful bequest is a truly special opportunity from which members will be able to benefit meaningfully, at the same time honoring the memory of a devoted colleague in our teaching community. One more reason to be sure to attend this year's NYSMTA Conference!



Invite a non-member colleague to attend the Conference!

The NYSMTA Conference welcomes non-members to attend our October Conference at Nazareth College. Conference programs offer relevance and interest to our colleagues in the wider music teaching community. Registration for the Conference provides access to the lectures which create the theme of "Enhancing Lesson Effectiveness: Promoting Accomplishment and Success in the Student/Teacher Interaction", along with performances, lunch and the huge teaching music give-away. Anyone interested in more information about the Conference should visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NYSMTA> or contact Gary Fisher at gfishr@frontiernet.net.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE NYSMTA LECTURE FORUM CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Dear colleagues,

As Chair of the NYSMTA Lecture Forum Committee, I encourage you to consider offering a presentation at the next Conference, to be held in the fall of 2018. The Lecture Forum is the means by which NYSMTA members may submit proposals for conference presentations. Might you have an area of interest about which you could offer a lecture, lead a discussion or explore further with your colleagues? Performance could certainly be an element in such a presentation.

The range of possible topics is very wide. They might relate — but by no means be limited — to your own pedagogic thoughts regarding technique, the repertory, the business of music and teaching, introducing jazz or popular styles to “classical” students, developing a curriculum, renewing student interest, applications of new technologies. This list of tools of the music profession is as long as by our imagination, interests and accomplishments are wide.

The Lecture Forum is an opportunity to engage directly with other members, so many of whom we are able to see only at these Conferences. Exchanging and sharing our ideas and insights, along with developing new ones through face-to-face discussions, are what make the NYSMTA conferences the exceptional experience they always end up being. Your voices are at the heart of our organization, and providing a forum in which they can be heard is one of our greatest responsibilities. Please do consider taking an active role in the day's event: your thoughts and professional experience are what can help make our 2018 Conference stimulating and worthwhile.

As the new website takes shape, you will find that proposals will be able to be submitted online. The topic proposal document should be a detailed description of the intended presentation, two to three paragraphs in length. Presentation time may range from thirty to fifty minutes, including time for questions.

Questions and proposals may be submitted to me at jmnimetz15@gmail.com. You might also wish to recommend a particular individual who you feel would be someone of interest to our members. Proposals for presentations at the NYSMTA Conference 2018 should be received by no later than March 1, 2018. I look forward to hearing from you as we plan ahead for 2018, and to seeing you at this year's Conference at Nazareth College on Saturday, October 8.

Janice Nimetz
Chair, NYSMTA Lecture Forum

VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING HIGH SCHOOL EMPIRE STATE COMPETITION

Please note there is a change for the coordinator of the High School level of the Empire State Competition.

It is very important that applications be sent to the new coordinator:

Daisy Lin, P.O. Box 8554, Albany, New York 12208

518-618-7488

daisylin888@yahoo.com

We send Jane Chang, the former coordinator, and her family all our best wishes on their move to the West Coast.