



NYSMTA



Summer 2022

NEWSLETTER

NEW • YORK • STATE • MUSIC • TEACHERS • ASSOCIATION • INC.

IMPORTANT DATES

Lecture Forum Proposals

Proposals for NYSMTA Conference 2022
Submission deadline: July 1, 2022

Citation Nomination

Due by September 1, 2022

Chapin Grant

Proposal deadline: September 15, 2022

MTNA Competitions (VIRTUAL)

Application Deadline: Wednesday,
September 14, 2022, by 3:00 PM EST
Video submissions: Deadline: Friday, October 14,
2022, by 11:59 PM EST
Online applications will be available at mtna.org
in later summer

Heddy Kilian Empire State Competitions (VIRTUAL)

Application Deadline: Wednesday,
September 7, 2022, by 3:00 PM EST
Video submissions: Deadline: Friday, October 14,
2022, by 11:59 PM EST
Online application form available at
nysmta.org

NYSMTA Conference 2022

Saturday, October 15, 2022.
Onondaga Community College
Syracuse, NY

NYSMTA Business Meetings

October 21, 2022.
Virtual meetings

MTNA National Conference

March 25 -- 29, 2023.
Reno, Nevada

NYSMTA CONFERENCE 2022 Saturday, October 15 Onondaga Community College



President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you in good health and that everyone is more relaxed now that the Spring semester is over. We have just completed the 2021-2022 academic year, and I want to extend my appreciation to all NYSMTA members for another fantastic season!

I am very grateful to the NYSMTA Board, Officers, State and District Chairs for all their diligence in making each event a success! We have all been through a very confusing time during these past two years, but we have somehow managed to get through the difficult time together, and we have become stronger people. You have demonstrated your incredible patience in going back and forth between various plans (in-person or virtual) for your activities. When you thought it was finally safe to have an in-person event, then things suddenly changed again at the last moment. I cannot imagine how frustrating that must be. You are persistent in making sure students are able to continue making beautiful music and staying in touch with colleagues, either through online Zoom gatherings or in-person. You have my deepest admiration for all you do as members.

I am also very pleased to see the accomplishments that our teachers and students have achieved. This year, we had five prize winners from New York State at the national level of the MTNA Competitions, which were once again held virtually. They are:

- Azelle Kim, Junior Woodwind (3rd place) – Student of Jeong Seok Lee
- Austin Shilling, Senior Woodwind (1st place) – Student of Chien-Kwan Lin
- Patrick Baek, Young Artist String (3rd place) – Student of Steven Doane
- Colin Crane, Young Artist Woodwind (3rd place) – Student of Chien-Kwan Lin
- Sequoia Reed Quintet, Chamber Music Woodwind (2nd place) – Students of Chien-Kwan Lin

WWW.NYSMTA.ORG

Webmaster: Bonnie Choi
NYSMTA Home Page,
Newsletters, Informational Topic Briefs,
Directory, Constitution & Bylaws,
Conferences, Certification, Competitions,
Grants Program, Find-a-teacher.
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:
Stephanie Mercer, VP of Membership
mercermusicstudio@gmail.com

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, 2022. It greatly facilitates
the accurate preparation of the State
Membership Directory.

NYSMTA NEWSLETTER

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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.



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Thanks to all those dedicated teachers who spent so much of their time and energy in preparing their students for the competition. Congratulations to both the students and the teachers.

I would like to thank our Vice-President for Competitions, **Dr. Tracy Lipke-Perry**, for making our state-wide competitions possible. The next Heddy Kilian Empire State Competitions and MTNA State Competitions will once again be held virtually this year. Be sure to check our NYSMTA website and Facebook for updates on the registration deadlines, which should be available soon.

Our Vice-Presidents for Conferences, **Dr. Laura Amoriello** and **Dr. Kathryn Sherman**, along with the Conference Planning Committee, have been working hard in preparing for our next State Conference that is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2022. It will be held at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse. Yes, we will finally have an in-person conference! Please mark your calendar and invite your friends to attend. Our main conference artist and presenter this year is Jeremy Siskind. There will also be member presentations and, of course, our popular "Lightning Talks"! I encourage you to actively participate by submitting a proposal for the Lecture Forum and/or the "Lightning Talks". You can also submit posters for the Poster Display Session. It should be very exciting!

Our state conference is designed to provide continuing education for music teachers. It is very important for us to continue learning so we can keep our mind and spirit recharged and rejuvenated. This will allow us to be better teachers, and students will benefit from our knowledge. I hope to see many of you at our upcoming conference. Please don't forget to check our NYSMTA website for registration deadline information and updates. If your email address has changed, please contact our Vice-President for Membership, Ms. Stephanie Mercer, as soon as possible so you may continue receiving periodical reminders from us that are sent out to all members via email.

NYSMTA is truly fortunate to have so many amazing teachers/colleagues on the Board who are willing to contribute their time and energy in making us a better organization. To keep our organization active and vibrant, it is important for all of you to get involved as much as possible, not only to participate in our activities, but also to contribute your time and ideas. Please let me know if you have great suggestions on what NYSMTA could do to better serve your needs, which will help with future planning. We are always looking for volunteers. If you are available and willing to help or are interested in joining the board, please let me know.

Thank you again to everyone for all of your cooperation and support in making the 2021-2022 season a success. I look forward to working with you in the coming fall for all the events that we have planned for the next school year. With your involvement, support, and encouragement, we can all grow and benefit from this wonderful organization.

Wishing everyone a happy and wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Hendry Wijaya
NYSMTA President

NYSMTA CONFERENCE 2022

Saturday, October 15

Onondaga Community College, Syracuse

The New York State Music Teachers Association is pleased to announce that once again it will be presenting an in-person State Conference this year. It is to take place on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse. This one-day event will feature **Jeremy Siskind**, a renowned educator and virtuosic pianist, as its Conference Clinician. Having ranked highly in several jazz piano competitions, Mr. Siskind is known for his innovative musicianship and his pedagogical leadership in cultivating creativity. His sessions about fostering creativity and artistry in all students are sure to inspire. He will also share easy-to-implement tips and tricks for teaching jazz style and will present a concert of his ground-breaking piano work, *Perpetual Motion Etudes for Piano*.

In addition to Mr. Siskind's presentations and performance, members will offer Lecture Forum presentations and poster displays. The very popular five-minute Lightning Talks will take place, along with the Commissioned Composer premiere (details elsewhere in this newsletter). Opportunities for members to reconnect with friends and colleagues from across our large state are perhaps one of the most attractive reasons for attending this Conference! Details regarding all of the conference events will become available over the summer and sent along to all members.

We very much hope to see many people gather once again.

Laura Amoriello & Kathryn Sherman, Co-Vice-Presidents for Conference



Photo by Barb Hauser New

Lecture Forum Presentations

Submission Deadline: July 1, 2022

Lecture Forum offers members of NYSMTA professional opportunities to present a topic of interest or specialization at its conferences. This year's conference will be held Saturday, October 15, 2022 at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, NY. The presentation format is flexible: One can read a paper, present a lecture, perform a lecture recital, or demonstrate a technique. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, music literature, teaching techniques, the psychology of teaching, performance stress, improvisation, the business side of the music profession, or a historical account of performance style.



The topic proposal should be a detailed, written document describing the presentation exactly as it is to be done. Maximum 250 words. Be sure to include any equipment necessary for the presentation. Suggested time is 25 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions and discussion.

Please submit your proposal by July 1 to Janice Nimetz, jnnimetz15@gmail.com. The Lecture Forum Committee will review proposals and notify proposers by the end of July.

Janice Nimetz, Chair

2022 MTNA/NYSMTA COMMISSIONED COMPOSER



Hwaen Ch'uqi of Rochester has been selected to be the 2022 MTNA/NYSMTA Commissioned Composer. The working title of Mr. Ch'uqi's new composition is "Suite in the Baroque Manner", scored for two pianos/four hands. Its premiere will take place at the NYSMTA Conference at Onondaga Community College this October, performed by pianists Hwaen Ch'uqi and Emi Okumura of Duo Q'inti.

An Inca Indian and a native of Perú, pianist and composer Hwaen Ch'uqi has performed in venues across the world. Mr. Ch'uqi holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied under Professor Natalya Antonova. He was invited three times as a fellow to the prestigious Tanglewood Music Center, and was a semifinalist at the Second Sviatoslav Richter International Piano Competition in Moscow, where he was awarded the Special Prize.

To get a sense of Mr. Ch'uqi's pianism and his compositional language, one may investigate his [youtube channel](#). Inca Warrior, In particular, one may be interested to hear the [Twenty-Five Preludes, CWV 19](#) for piano four-hands, as well as a pedagogical work for late intermediate/early advanced piano students entitled [De Mes Amis, Les Animaux \(Of My Friends, The Animals\), CWV 34](#).

Poster Display SESSIONS

Submission Deadline: August 1, 2022

These offer an opportunity to someone who may not wish to speak before a group, and is interested in creating a purely visual presentation which can be read and absorbed at one's own pace. It is a chance to pursue a topic with some greater depth and details than would be available in a limited-duration Lightning Talk. This could be a particularly good opportunity for our collegiate members. Posters generally fall into two principal types: pedagogy/best practices and research-based. The posters themselves should be large enough to be read relatively easily. The use of photos, charts and diagrams, or music scores surely enhance such a presentation.

Proposals for, and questions regarding, poster displays would be submitted to both Dr. Asami Hagiwara at asamihagiwara@gmail.com and Dr. Mary Holzhauer at holzhauer.mary@gmail.com. They should contain a 50-word abstract, a short biography of similar length, along with a computer generated sample in PDF or JPEG format.

[Submit Proposal](#)

Lightning Talks

Submission deadline: August 1, 2022

These brief oral presentations, *to be no more than five minutes in length*, offer an opportunity to all members to share their own observations about any number of relevant and engaging pedagogy topics. It could involve ideas as varied as a reminiscence of one's thoughts after a particularly great lesson (given or taken) or after a particularly productive practice session, or the recollection of a meaningful conversation with someone, along with any number of specific topics of historical or practical pedagogical interest. Visual elements, such as power point or slides or a short video, can certainly augment one's talk. Every one of us in our profession possesses within ourselves a library of experience and insight, from which a short few "pages" could be a wonderful gift to share with colleagues.

Proposals for participation in the Lightning Talks session should include a title and a 50- word summary of the topic, along with a 50 -- 75 word biography. These, and any questions concerning the Lightning Talks, would be submitted to both Dr. Asami Hagiwara at asamihagiwara@gmail.com and Dr. Mary Holzhauer at holzhauer.mary@gmail.com.

[Submit Proposal](#)

CITATION AWARD

NYSMTA awards a CITATION at our bi-annual State Conference to an individual deserving of the highest recognition for their service/contribution to the music teaching profession. Service can be recognized through leadership roles at the State, Division, or National levels of MTNA, and/or outstanding contributions to music and the arts through community, cultural and artistic activities. Any member of NYSMTA may offer a nomination of an individual to be recognized. Nominations are submitted to a state committee that reviews the submissions, makes a selection, and prepares the award for presentation.

Nominations should be submitted in writing or by email with detailed reasons for the recommendation by September 1, 2022. Please send these nominations to:

By Mail:
Michael Merolla
PO Box 428
Miller Place, NY 11764

By E-Mail:
mbm00@optonline.net

MTNA CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to NYSMTA members **Jamie D. Barnum**, **Akina Yura**, and **Zifeng Zheng**, who have achieved MTNA National Certification in Piano (NCTM). All state certifications are now in permanent or emeritus status. Those who are interested in applying for national certification may direct any questions to



Laura Amoriello,
NYSMTA Chair for Certification
lamoriell@gmail.com.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SLATE FOR NYSMTA OFFICERS 2022

The New York State Music Teachers Association Nominating Committee is pleased to offer the following slate of new officers for the 2022-24 term:

President-Elect: **Tomoko Uchino** (District 4)
Co-Vice-Presidents for Conference: **Mary Holzhauser** (7) and **Eliran Avni** (10)
Treasurer: **Gary Palmer** (District 12)
Secretary: **Gary Fisher** (District 12)
Vice-President for Competitions: **Tracy Lipke-Perry** (11)
Vice-President for Membership: **Stephanie Mercer** (12)
Co-Vice-Presidents for Professional Activities: **Maura Hall** (6) and **Pej Reitz** (7)

Moving into their new positions will be:
Jacob Ertl, President (12)
Hendry Wijaya, Immediate-Past-President (1)

NYSMTA Nominating Committee:

Beverly Smoker (12)
Meg Bassinson (6)
Janice Nimetz (5)
Julie Miller (11)
Emily Boyce, chair (10)

CHAPIN 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 grant must be used to support new research undertaken by the recipient. When the study is complete, the findings are to be presented to NYSMTA members either through a published article in an issue of the NYSMTA Newsletter or the American Music Teacher magazine, or through a presentation at a bi-annual NYSMTA State Conference or an MTNA annual national conference.

Anyone interested in applying for the Chapin Grant should contact, by September 15, 2022: Michael Merolla, Chapin Fund Chair PO Box 428 Miller Place, New York 11764 mbm00@optonline.net

2022 HEDDY KILIAN EMPIRE STATE AND MTNA COMPETITIONS

To take place in virtual format this year

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MTNA NY STATE COMPETITION

VIRTUAL IN 2022

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
3PM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

INFO/APPLY: [NYSMTA.ORG](https://www.nysmta.org)

Sponsored by the New York State Music Teachers Association

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION LEVELS:
Junior: ages 11-14 (Piano, String, Woodwind)
Senior: ages 15-18 (Brass, Piano, Piano/Quintet, String, Voice)
Young Artist: ages 19-26 (Brass, Piano, String, Voice, Woodwind)
CHAMBER MUSIC: (String & Wind)
COMPOSITION:
Elementary: ages 6-10
Junior: ages 11-14
Senior: ages 15-18

Sponsored by the New York State Music Teachers Association

HEDDY KILIAN EMPIRE STATE COMPETITION

All Instruments/Voices

Junior High
Senior High
Collegiate (university)

Cash Prizes!

APPLY BY: 3PM, 9/7/22
INFO/APPLY: [NYSMTA.ORG](https://www.nysmta.org)

The New York State Music Teachers Association sponsors two annual competitions: the NY state-level MTNA Competition and the Empire State Heddy Kilian Competition. These are valuable educational opportunities for students to be recognized for their musical growth and excellence.

The Heddy Kilian Empire State Competitions offer events at the junior high, high school and collegiate levels in the categories of piano, voice and instrumental. Information and application links can be found at <https://www.nysmta.org/heddy-kilian-empire-competition>.

The Music Teachers National Association offers competitions at the Elementary (composition only), Junior, Senior and Young Artist levels in composition, piano, voice, string, woodwind, brass, piano duet and chamber music (see link for specific category/age level details). Information for these competitions can be accessed [here](#). Application information for the MTNA events will be posted in summer 2022 as format and venue details become available.

Questions regarding either of these competitions can be addressed to the NYSMTA Vice-President for Competitions, Dr. Tracy Lipke-Perry at lipkeptd@potsdam.edu. We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

MTNA COMPOSITION COMPETITION

Your students have an opportunity to submit their 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 Eastern Division level; winners there then go on to the National level.

The MTNA Composition Competition provides an excellent goal for young composers. Many young students come to us 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, along with wanting to learn to play an instrument. 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, High School and Collegiate. Deadline for submission in this year’s event is September 14, 2022 at 3:00 PM EST. For all relevant information, go to https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/engage/competitions/Composition_Guidelines.aspx

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



NYSMTA SUPPORTS MUSIC LESSONS FOR EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL STATUS. PLEASE CONSIDER ACCEPTING A MUSICLINK STUDENT IN YOUR STUDIO

NYSMTA has been a long-term partner of the MusicLink Foundation. MusicLink connects students experiencing financial need with professional music teachers who volunteer to teach on partial or full scholarships for as long as these students continue to be motivated to learn.

MusicLink does not provide financial compensation to teachers for their tuition donation; however it does reimburse them for other student-related expenditures. In addition, it provides assistance in the purchase and repair of instruments, moving costs of donated pianos, free or discounted music from major publishers, and summer music camp scholarships. MusicLink is the recipient of the 2017 MTNA Achievement Award, for making a significant and lasting contribution to music and music-making.

Our wish is that every member of NYSMTA might consider volunteering to teach one MusicLink student. Those of us who work with these students and their families are rewarded by providing the same high quality long-term music training that we offer to families who are financially able to afford full fees. It is our belief that no child should be denied the joy of music study due to a lack of financial resources. We invite you to join us!

For complete information, please visit <https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org>. Please contact Julie Wegener, NYSMTA MusicLink chair, with any questions—or to volunteer—at jweg360@gmail.com.

A note from Julie Wegener:

I express my thanks for the recent NYSMTA MusicLink memo and appreciate that it generated responses from teachers in several parts of NY State. Most notable were:

- A teacher in NYC knew of a neighbor with a baby grand piano to sell or donate. After reading the NYSMTA memo, the teacher contacted me, “vetted” the piano, helped arrange the piano donation to the MusicLink Foundation. Outcome: Piano will be delivered to the home of a dedicated low-income student who otherwise would not have an opportunity to have a grand piano in her home.
- A voice teacher on Long Island offered a full scholarship to a virtual vocal technique class for children.
- A piano teacher upstate volunteered to teach a low-income student virtually.

If anyone has a pedagogy student who would teach a MusicLink student with supervision, possibly for credit, it would be an opportunity for hands-on practical teaching experience, while helping a child who couldn't otherwise afford lessons. Hopefully, the pedagogy student would continue teaching the child after graduation

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Greeting members of NYSMTA! If you're anything like me, you are enjoying this beautiful spring and the renewal and growth associated with the season. And speaking of renewal, now is the time to renew your MTNA membership and to ensure all your information, including your email address, is up-to-date.

Help NYSMTA grow by referring colleagues and friends to join – all music teachers are welcome! Make sure they know all the great benefits MTNA and NYSMTA has to offer music teachers. Visit mtna.org or call (888) 512-5278 to renew or initiate a new membership. Please renew as soon as possible to ensure inclusion in the Membership Directory, found online at nysmta.org. This file is safe and secure, with password protection. As almost all communications with members (from both State and National) are done electronically, it is especially important to keep this document updated correctly.

Don't forget to share MTNA/NYSMTA's benefits with your college students. Collegiate members pay a reduced fee but enjoy all the benefits of membership (with the exception of holding an office). If you know of a college student who might be interested, please guide them to https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/JoinAndRenew/Membership/Collegiate_Membership.aspx.

As always, if you have any membership questions, please contact me at: mercermusicstudio@gmail.com

Stephanie Mercer
Vice-President for Membership

DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT 3: Nassau—Suffolk.

Alexander Peskanov, District Chair.
alekp@peskanov.com

Teachers are always eager to promote the works of contemporary music, and provide venues for their students to perform works of the 20th and 21st centuries. I have been asked to provide information on some of the projects I have been involved with, in the hopes of engaging our district to achieve this very goal.

Summer -- Fall 2021. Brooklyn Music Teachers' Guild Intercontinental Competition: Music of Immortal and Living Composers 2021. Featuring the following categories, for ages 5 through adult: Piano Solo, Piano Duets (4- hands), Piano Trios (6-Hands), Piano Concerto, Piano and Orchestra, Woodwinds, Brass and Young Composer Award. Winners will be performing at Carnegie Weill Recital Hall on November 20, 2022. Ages accepted were 5 – adult. Go to www.immortalandliving.com for current information. Members state-wide are welcome to participate in our event, and help to promote living composers from around the world.

Winter 2021. The Africana Project is a partnership with the Brooklyn Music Teachers' Guild (BMTG), the Patricia F. Robinson Music Studio in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, and musician Elijah Kiwalabye and his students in Kampala, Uganda.

The beginning: In 2021, musician Elijah Kiwalabye of Kampala, Uganda, heard a musical composition written by BMTG President Alexander Peskanov called "Africana." Mr. Kiwalabye found Mr. Peskanov on Facebook and requested the music for his music students. A partnership was then formed. Mr. Kiwalabye, an exceptionally talented musician and teacher, wants to provide his students with an internationally-based music education that will consist of Western and African instruments and music. He also desires to build a music academy. The BMTG and the Patricia F. Robinson Music Studio intend to help

him achieve this goal.

Sister Cities: We then established a cultural exchange called "Sister Cities." The Brooklyn music students have had a "Meet and Greet" with the children of Kampala on Zoom. The exchange was wonderful and extremely informative. They have also had their first workshop where the students of Kampala taught the Brooklyn students about the instruments they use in Uganda. In the next workshop, the Brooklyn students will talk about their instruments. Both groups of students are looking forward to many more future workshops.

Africana Project Telethon: This began with the gifting of a Kawai Grand Piano, donated in the memory of my parents, Feya and Efim Peskanov. The instrument is to be given to the Thrive Music Academy Africa, in Kampala, Uganda. Students from all five continents will be participating in a number of marathon concerts, raising money for the transportation of the piano to Uganda. The first concert, a fundraiser for the project, was a live performance with the Brooklyn students and a video of the Kampala students, in New York fall of 2021. The Brooklyn students will travel to Kampala for the second concert in the near future. For the third concert the Kampala students plan to travel to New York, and perform at Carnegie Hall on July 2, 2022. In addition, there was another telethon which took place toward the end of May, 2022. I believe this will be very inspiring and exciting for our teachers' students to take part in this cultural exchange!

This educational exchange reaches far beyond the typical classroom. For example, one of the students from Kampala, Leah, wrote lyrics to "Africana". Mr. Peskanov is currently publishing the music with the lyrics and assisting Leah in becoming a member of ASCAP!

For more information, please reach out to me at alep@peskanov.com.

District 4: Westchester -- Rockland -- Putnam. Rie Matsumoto and Bari Mort, District Chairs. 26riematsumoto@gmail.com and barimort@aol.com

Events for 2021 – 2022 included both in-person and online events. Fall recitals involved over 100 students and 16 teachers. An online mid-winter Musicianship Festival drew many dozens of participants. Spring recitals included nine in-person and one Zoom program. The Young Pianists Competition and Winners Recital took place in April, followed by District Auditions and the Young Originals (a composition program) evaluations and recital programs. Plans are already underway for expanded student programs along with ongoing recitals and festivals for the coming school year.

DISTRICT 6: Capitol Region. Meg Bassinson, District Chair. megmbass@nycap.rr.com Because of continuing COVID concerns, our district had to cut back on activities this year, but we are now starting to bring some things back in-person. We had several online board meetings to stay in touch. We recently had a recital on April 2nd at SUNY Albany titled "Beethoven's Belated Birthday Bash" and area students are playing pieces by Beethoven. This was followed by in-person evaluations on May 7th at Schenectady County Community College and an awards recital on May 14th. We hope this trend will continue and we can get back to a more active schedule in the fall!

DISTRICT 10: Buffalo-Niagara. Lily Li, District Chair. lilyli pianist@gmail.com Lily has just recently been appointed to her new role. NYSMTA warmly welcomes Lily to our organization and to her new position.

DISTRICT 12: Greater Rochester area. Tasha George-Hinnant, District Chair. tnginnant@gmail.com Several recent and upcoming events can be found on our calendar. They include the late-winter Howard Hanson Auditions & Winners Recital, the Gold Cup Festival and Recitals in January, the District 12 Student Achievement Program during March through May, the American Composers' Festival in April featuring Timothy Brown, the Junior All-Star Piano Competition in early June, and the Nazareth College/ NYSMTA/RPTG Pedagogy Workshop on Monday/Tuesday, June 27th-28th, 2022 featuring Dennis Alexander.

A FEW OF THE MANY BENEFITS & OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FROM MTNA

(with thanks to President Hendry Wijaya for the reminders)

Liability Insurance. MTNA offers general liability insurance coverage for every MTNA-affiliated State and District Event. Every State and Local Association or District is covered under this policy for an unlimited number of events at no cost to any individual association. MTNA has agreed to pay the cost of this premium. Please note: this insurance is not available to individuals. Application would need to be made for each individual event, taking approximately two weeks for MTNA to issue this insurance.

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Connect/Affiliate_Services/General_Liability_Insurance.aspx

Program Development Grants provide up to \$5,000 of seed funds to any organization to assist in developing materials to be used for applying for larger funding from other foundations.

Community Engagement Grants provide financial support of up to \$750 to any individual or affiliate and focus on projects that engage the community in making music, appreciating music or attending live music events.

Teacher Enrichment Grants provide financial support of up to \$750 to any individual member/nonmember for the purpose of professional development, continuing education or personal/community enrichment.

Affiliate Enrichment Grants provide financial support of up to \$750 to any local or state affiliate for the purpose of professional development, continuing education or personal/community enrichment.

Although the deadline for current funding has recently passed, it is certainly not too early to keep these opportunities in mind while planning for next year. Visit mtna.org for information.