



Jee Wong received his Master's degree in Piano Literature and Piano Pedagogy from the University of Montana where he was a graduate teaching assistant in group piano, piano ensemble and dance accompanying for two years. His teachers include Steven Hesla, Dennis Alexander, and Dr. Jody Graves. He has also pursued postgraduate studies with Ivan Davis, a student of Vladimir Horowitz, from the University of Miami. He was a staff artist and adjudicator for Yamaha Piano Company in Japan from 1995 – 1999 where he performed and gave workshops in Asia. Mr. Wong was appointed as one of the examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) in 2010 – 2012. He has worked with pianist George Winston, choreographer Karen Kaufmann, and R&B artist Brian McKnight. His work with the disabled "A Step Forward" was featured in PBS in 2002. He served as staff pianist for the American Ballet Theatre for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts from 2009 – 2012. His multi-media piano project "Lotus" was also featured in Kennedy Center in 2006. Mr. Wong is a visiting faculty member for Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where he teaches piano pedagogy and keyboard literature during the summer months. He has traveled in Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and Japan in the 2017 – 2018 season as a Goodwill Ambassador for Feed the Children Foundation. In 2019 he served as visiting faculty member for the Jakarta Institute for the Arts in Jakarta, Indonesia. In the 2022 season his concerts will showcase music by Mexican composers Carlos Chavez, Manuel Ponce and Miguel Jimenez in Mexico, Puerto Rico and South East Asia. Mr. Wong is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) and an adjudicator for Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). His soundtrack was featured in the Seattle International Film Festivals in August 2003. Mr. Wong is passionate about bringing concerts to the community and schools. His fundraising concerts have raised funds to benefit Corazon de Vida, an organization provide life changing support for abandoned and orphaned children in Baja, Mexico, and ASAP ministries, an organization provide education, evangelism and humanitarian aids to children living in trash dump as well as children who are victims of human trafficking in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos.



JEE WONG

NMTA OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD



BRENDA PAZAR



NNMTA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Brenda Pazar, NNMTA Membership Chair, describes her relationship to music in this way: “Music, particularly the piano, has been a mainstay in my life. Since I started lessons at age 3, music has always been there for me, providing a feeling of accomplishment and a sense of self-worth. It is a love and ability that has been faithful in all circumstances.” Those circumstances for Brenda included a childhood in Washington State, followed by settling in the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska where she established a thriving piano studio. A move to Reno brought her in contact with NNMTA, which supported her as she began building her piano studio again. Soon Ivory Hollow Piano Studio was filled with students who deeply loved their teacher and thrived under her gentle, encouraging teaching. As soon as she joined NNMTA in 2014, Brenda was asked to become Membership Chair. She embraced this new role wholeheartedly, making NNMTA a place of warmth and support for all its members. She established many new ways of connecting with and caring for NNMTA members, such as acknowledging members’ birthdays and making sure some of our senior members receive hard copy NNMTA newsletters in the mail. Members soon learned that they could call Brenda with any concern or difficulty and she would respond with warmth and compassion. In addition to her regular membership duties, Brenda also took on the task of re-creating and maintaining the NNMTA calendars, enhancing existing formats to include a third calendar organized by event. She also began tracking NNMTA sponsors, acknowledge donations with thank you notes. Finally, a few years into her membership, she also began her journey to obtain MTNA certification. While still working through the process, she has completed about half of the certification projects which is no small feat especially during this past year of working around the pandemic! Her respect for teachers old and young and her genuine desire to make sure everyone felt welcome and included has touched the lives and hearts of our members and made NNMTA a better organization. NNMTA is deeply grateful to Brenda for her years of loving service.



MARLENE MEAGHER



LVMIA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Marlene Meagher has been a music educator for over 30 years. She holds a degree in music education from the University of Texas at El Paso with a major in flute and piano. She has taught instrumental and general music in grades K-12. Mrs. Meagher worked in El Paso, Texas where she was a band director for over 25 years. Under her direction her bands received numerous local, regional, national awards and international recognition. Marlene Meagher played flute and piccolo in the El Paso Symphony orchestra for ten years. She teaches private piano lessons for ages 4 –adult. She also teaches woodwinds for ages 8 and up. Her students perform in recitals and numerous competitions throughout the year. Mrs. Meagher was founder and director of the Sun City Middle School band camp and organizer for the EPMTA Piano Camp. She has taught elementary music for the Clark County School District. Mrs. Meagher has served as an adjudicator for piano and instrumental events as well as marching band, concert band, and sight-reading competition. She is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, Texas Music Educators Association, and is the Immediate Past President of Las Vegas Music Teachers Association. Mrs. Meagher is the currently the Director of Orchestral Studies Pinecrest Inspirada.