



# OLGA BARRY



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD: NNMTA

Thank you for recognizing me for this service award.

While serving on the NNMTA board four years ago,

I had the pleasure of starting the annual Ron Williams' Teacher Recital Fundraiser.

It has been, and continues to be, a fun, successful event. Teachers play piano duets in the first half of the program, then perform solos in the second half. I enjoy being the chairperson for this event and it's my pleasure to do so.

Written by Amy Jahn, president NNMTA:

It was Olga's idea to re-brand our Ron Williams Teachers Recital in honor of our beloved former UNR piano prof., Dr. Williams, who at age 93, continues to teach and perform to this day! Our first few years with the new version of this teachers recital were great successes. We actually performed in early 2020 as it was just before COVID reared its ugly head, then canceled in 2021. We canceled it this year too because of a resurgence of COVID in the winter, but have rescheduled it for June 11 and although many of the people originally planning to participate in early February are now unavailable, Olga has pulled together others in their stead and I hope/anticipate that it will once again be successful. Olga also had the idea, which we continue, to have the main feature be a suite of duets performed by teachers, some of us playing with Dr. Williams. The first year we did Saint Saens' Carnival of the Animals, then in 2020, we did Bizet's Jeux d'Enfants. This year we are doing the Brahms' waltzes, Op. 39. We thought it would be very fitting to present her award to her at the recital.



## JEE WONG



Jee Wong received his Master's degree in music 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 from the University of Miami and Leon Fleisher from University of Maryland. He was a staff artist and adjudicator for Yamaha Piano Company in Japan from 1995 - 1999 where he performed and gave workshops in Asia. He was also a staff examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music from 2010 - 2012.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD: LVMTA

# CHERYL THORNTON



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Cheryl Thornton received her BM in Piano Performance from Colorado State University, where she studied with Dr. Robert Nisbett, Dr. Wendel Diebel and Dr. Larry Day. Since graduation, Cheryl has continued her education with notable teachers such as N. Jane Tan, Joan Brown, Paul Pollei and Seymour Bernstein. Cheryl held positions as Treasurer of both the Loveland, Colorado Music Teachers Association and the Bellevue, Washington Music Teachers Association.

Cheryl was Las Vegas Music Teachers Association Vice-President of Membership in 1996, and President of the Las Vegas Music Teachers Association from 2008 to 2010. She was President of the Nevada Music Teachers Association from 2010 to 2012. In 2012, she received the Nevada Music Teachers Association Outstanding Service Award.

Cheryl chaired international Piano Teams® competitions for the Well-Prepared Pianist Institute, the Bolognini Scholarship Competition, and the Roger Bushell Scholarship Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. She developed music curricula for two schools – the Jewish Community School on Mercer Island, WA, and Chatsworth Hills Academy in Chatsworth, CA. Besides teaching, Cheryl's passion is ensemble playing and coaching Piano Teams® – 5 pianists playing on 5 pianos. Her piano teams have competed and won in both local and international competitions including The Well-Prepared Pianist Ensemble Competition, the Bolognini Competition, the Roger Bushell Competition, and Nevada's Silver State Competition. In 2021 her Senior Piano Duet won First Place in the MTNA Southwest Division Competition. She has performed on a teacher team for 20 years. She is a church organist and choir accompanist, as well. Cheryl currently serves as President of the Nevada Music Teachers Association. Most recently, she received the 2021 Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame Award in New York City. She was also awarded the 2021 Certificate of Achievement for Twenty-Five Years of Professional Contribution to Las Vegas Music Teachers Association. Cheryl has taught piano at the prestigious Nevada School of the Arts since 2016.