



# NEVADA *Notes*

## From Our President, Dr. Spencer Baker

### Upcoming Events

#### September

LVMTA Ensemble Festival Sept. 20

NNMTA Teacher Appreciation Brunch

LVMTA Jazz Festival Sept. 27

#### October

NNMTA Halloween Recital

UNLV Piano Forum Oct 17

NMTA Meeting - October 31

#### November

MTNA State Competition, UNLV, Nov.1

NMTA/NNMTA Silver State Competition

LVFMC Woodwind Festival - Saturday, November 22, 2025 9am-1pm @ Christ Church Episcopal

#### December

LVMTA Playathon

NNMTA Playathon

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Welcome back, teachers!

I know everyone is excited to begin a new year. There is a wonderful energy this season brings. Hopefully all have had a rejuvenating Summer and enjoyed a welcome change of pace. Now, many of us settle into the routine and discipline of our Fall schedules and a new school year. There are challenges, new faces, and puzzles to solve. For many of us, these are just what teachers enjoy about the profession and where we excel. The air is buzzing with projects, arts festivals, and re-connecting with our colleagues. I strongly encourage you remain flexible, open to opportunities, and consider all the wonderful activities where you may be of service. Arts education gives us all such incredible motivation, renewed spirit, creative space, and human connection. I'm so grateful for all your support and continued leadership in our organization. Thank you for all the good news! May your Fall be filled with all of the seeds you have planted, watered, weeded, and ripened for a great harvest!

### NMTA 60th Conference and Competition: October 30-31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

As our NMTA State Board met, I was amazed by all the news we shared of trips, Summer travel, vacation and life moments. Our NMTA teachers lead very full lives all of which translates into our studio experience. The meeting was full of many upcoming student plans and incredible professional development opportunities for teachers. I want to let you know, we are beginning a journey toward a combined NMTA State Competition and NMTA State Conference 2026. This next year, 2026, will be the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Music Teachers National Association and celebrations are planned all year. I hope you'll carefully consider attending the National Conference in Chicago, March 21-25, 2026. Early registration will be opening later this Fall. We are also marking NMTA's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026. NMTA was founded in 1966 and has been affiliated since 1978 with MTNA.

The State Conference committee chose the theme "Crescendo 2026". It's perfect for describing the building excitement and growth of both associations. You'll see a Call for Proposals coming soon this Fall. Now is the time to consider a session you may want to present for teachers at the Crescendo Conference. How might your proposal reflect the theme: " **Crescendo**: Celebrate and Connect! " ? Presenters will be notified early 2026. Some of the "headliner" and keynote presenters have been approached, and that news will be forthcoming soon. There is a flyer that was distributed at the LVMTA Opening Social and NFMC music preview included in this newsletter.

I look forward to embarking on this incredible journey and Crescendo into a 2025-2026 marked with Celebrations, Connections and Community!

Nevada Music Teachers Association

Presents:

# CRESCENDO

## Celebrate and Connect! NMTA 60<sup>th</sup> Conference and Competition

The NMTA State Conference and MTNA State competition are coming together for a dynamic professional development experience.

Learn innovative teaching strategies from high-profile professionals, and celebrate the incredible talent in our community.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to enrich your musical practice and connect with peers.

OCTOBER 30-31, 2026

UNLV



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## NEVADA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



## Uli Geissendoerfer Masterclass

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# ROOTS OF JAZZ: RHYTHM, MELODY, AND HARMONY

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An inspiring masterclass designed to deepen musical understanding  
and prepare students for the Jazz Festival

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2025**

**10AM-1PM**

**SOUTHERN NEVADA MUSIC**

Contact: Cindy Lee, NMTA State Piano Chair  
klavierjh@gmail.com





## NFMFC Piano Solo Bulletin Preview —Cindy Lee



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**For More Information:** [certification.mtna.org](http://certification.mtna.org)

**For more information:** Contact Laurie Swain,  
NV State Certification Chair, [Lspiano@cox.net](mailto:Lspiano@cox.net)

## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS REPORT

Hello, teachers!

Greetings from East Tennessee! This summer has been interesting as my family is transitioning to the south, but I am so thankful to be able to continue serving on the NMTA board and serve virtually so that I can complete my term with you all. I would like to extend a welcome to Dr. Cecilia Yundhi, who just joined the faculty at UNR. She will also be the new UNRMTA collegiate advisor and she will be amazing. I also want to welcome Dr. Sally Wei as our new NNMTA interim president. To our former NNMTA president Bryan, thank you for your service! You will be greatly missed.

This has been a productive summer and wonderful things have been happening. It was wonderful to hear the news that UNLV was going to be getting 25 Steinways! This generous gift came courtesy of the KJS family. A special thank you to Denise Wunderlich and Southern Nevada Music for making it happen. What a blessing these pianos will be for the students and faculty at UNLV!

Let's talk Crescendo. What a great opportunity it is, for the MTNA state competition and the NMTA state conference to come together for professional development. This will be a great opportunity for teachers to learn new tips, tricks and strategies and connect with their peers. There is a great lineup of presenters that are scheduled to participate. They are: Peter Mack, Heather Smith, Stephen Pierce, and there will be a performance by the Aspen Grove Trio. Make sure to mark your calendars for October 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 for this wonderful conference. Save that date and don't miss out!

LVMTA recently had their opening social, where they previewed pieces from the NFMC bulletin for 2024-28. The social was wonderfully planned by State Piano Chair Cindy Lee, and it was a great way to kick off the 2025-2026 year.

Last year, Marie Lee approached me to ask if I would host an organ interactive experience at Christ Church Episcopal. What a fun evening it was! The kids dressed up in costumes and they all got a chance to play Nevada's largest pipe organ at Christ Church Episcopal. I'm so excited that they will be coming back for a second year, which will be hosted by Nathan Cartarette. Thank you Nathan and Marie, for organizing another experience for the students. It is a wonderful opportunity for piano students to learn about the organ.

I want to commend all who are working hard behind the scenes to prepare all of these wonderful events. I wish you all a great 2025-2026 year!

— — — Amy Homer-Smith



## UNLVMTA NEWS

### KJS Family Foundation Gifts 25 Steinway Pianos to UNLV School of Music



***UNLV College of Fine Arts music faculty and staff, along with Dean Nancy Uscher and Denise Wunderlich of Southern Nevada Music and her team, celebrate the KJS Family Foundation gift of 25 Steinway pianos to the UNLV***

**A special toast took place August 19 at Southern Nevada Music Company to celebrate the KJS Family Foundation's generous gift of 25 Steinway pianos to the UNLV School of Music.**

**“The College of Fine Arts and the School of Music at UNLV are incredibly grateful to the KJS Family Foundation for their generous gift, which has enabled the university to purchase many magnificent Steinway pianos.” said Dean Nancy Uscher. “These instruments will transform the the lives of our students and enhance the work and performing lives of our faculty. We are absolutely thrilled about this great opportunity!”**



## Local Chapter Updates

Welcome Back LVMTA Members!

It's an honor to have a second year as the LVMTA President! The team is excited to take on the upcoming challenges and events this year.

We welcome several new board members, including President-Elect Pierce Emata, Secretary Selma Greer, Vice President of Membership Maren Daynes, and Musicianship Exam Chair Nathan Carterette.

**Best Regards,**

**Julian Lam, LVMTA President**



## LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES



Dear Colleagues:

In July, NNMTA recognized two outstanding members for their contributions to our organization – Dr. Bryan Chuan and Cindy Harris! Dr. Chuan, our immediate past President, has relocated to Connecticut for a new job. Ms. Harris has served as our treasurer and Festival chair for years, and her dedication genuinely inspires many of us!

I am honored to step into the role of president for the Northern Nevada music teachers. My aim is to get to know these wonderful music educators, and my position will help me do that. Additionally, I will motivate our members to connect in every possible way, whether during or outside of their professional hours. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our first networking event, which brought us closer together than we could have imagined.

Another major plan is to expand the Silent Film Festival's execution. The huge success last year, led by our member Cindy Harris, gave us a lot of confidence to pursue more than one concert in February 2026. With Damaris Morales from the State's help, we are ready to rock and roll again!

We are so excited about the upcoming events and are more than ready to have fun in the music-making.

Cheers,

Sally Wei

*Nevada Notes* is circulated on a regular basis to all current NMTA members.

Subscription is included in NMTA membership.



**NMTA**  
NEVADA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## NMTA Officers and Board

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