Volume 21, Issue 1

NEVADA Notes

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES

October 22, 2022 UNLV Fall Piano Forum 1:30-5:00pm

October 28-29: MTNA Competition

November 4-5: Silver State Competition

March 25-29, 2023: MTNA National Conference in Reno

Note from the editor: This newsletter goes out as pdf, which can **be enlarged** for easier viewing.

****Additional emails from NMTA now go out via mail chimp**, which, if you have a gmail sorter, may go into your trash folder, so you'll need to change your gmail settings to accommodate.

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From the President . . .

Marie Lee

Dear NMTA Colleagues,

Happy Summer to you all! Hope you're able to spend some time relaxing after this very busy, interesting school year.

A big thanks to our state conference planning committee for a fantastic day of in-person professional development! While we missed our president that day, Cheryl Thornton, who was out sick, we were happy to have her join via Facetime for the sessions. What a surprise to have Farida Jamin and Amy Jahn from Reno fly all the way to Las Vegas to attend!

Psychologist Jenny Gayan kicked off the event with her very popular session on Navigating Difficult Behaviors with adolescents in music classes. She shared so much helpful material that we could have used much more time for her Q and A. This definitely looks like a topic we could explore further at future conferences. Laurie Swain helped us finish MTNA Certification project #3 in a record 30 minutes which left us hungry for our delicious box lunches catered by Jason's Deli. Piano solo and ensemble masterclasses by Dr. Timothy Hoft of UNLV were enlightening along with the creative ideas shared in our NED Notes (Nevada Educator Notes) in 3 minutes each. We wrapped up the day with an energetic Q and A, masterclass, and student concert with Nevada's own David Perrico, conductor of the Raiders NFL House Band. His encouraging, authentic style was refreshing to see and we know those in attendance, especially the students, were motivated to continue their music-making.

Please be sure and check out some of the conference highlight photos in this newsletter.

Also, whether or not you attended state conference, we value your feedback to shape future state conferences. We ask you that you take 5 minutes or less to please fill out this short anonymous survey so we know how to better meet your needs.

Our sincerest gratitude goes out to our outgoing NMTA board members for their tireless hours of service on our behalf: Cheryl Thornton as President (staying on as Immediate Past President), Mayu Nomura as 3rd VP/Competition Coordinator, Suzanne Clayson as Immediate Past President (staying on as Hospitality Chair), Lindsey O'Connor as 4th VP/Social Media and Publicity (staying on as President-Elect.) *"If you want something done, ask a busy person."* Thanks to you all for finding the time to serve us!

We welcome several new members to the 2022-2024 board (please see the complete list in this newsletter) and look forward to furthering the work of Nevada Music Teachers. We're still looking for a 4th VP over Social Media and Publicity. Please send me an email at marielee42.ml@gmail.com for the very brief job description to see if could be a good fit for you. This is an important and fun way to get to know your fellow Nevada teachers without much time commitment!

Stay cool, Nevada teachers!
Marie Lee

A Note from Cheryl Thornton, Immediate Past-President:

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Board Members of the Nevada Music Teachers Association who so generously gave their time and support to me the past two years. Despite the tremendous challenges that Covid brought, everyone on the Board stepped up and went way beyond the expectations to make every state event successful. Marie Lee, Suzanne Clayson, and Dr. Lindsey O'Connor worked extremely hard on the past two conferences to include every member and every instrument group so that there would be something of interest to all who attended. The MTNA and Silver State competitions would not have come off without Mayu Nomura, Jee Wong, Cindy Lee, Demaris Morales and Michelle Lee chairing them. Of Course, David Skouson took care of all our accounting needs and kept NMTA financially solvent. Not to mention, Laurie Swain who continues to help our members become nationally certified. Emma Pease-Byron is an exceptional secretary! She takes and records the most detailed notes. Allison Olson, 1st. Vice President, is our membership chair and continues to reach out to new members and keeps our membership roster up to date. Spencer NMTA's 2nd. Vice president is our local association chair and reaches out to our college students. It has been such a pleasure working with Amy Jahn and Amy Homer-Smith as Presidents of Northern Nevada and Las Vegas Music Teachers Associations. They have been such a help to me and NMTA the past two years. And lastly, our Newsletter Editor, Karen Sampson Hudson, publishes the most creative and informative newsletters several times a year. I cannot believe how many professionals are required to keep wonderful music alive and passed on to our next generations. It is my humble prayer that all who read this will feel inspired to join these fabulous board members in keeping the Nevada Music Teachers Association moving forward. Thank you all, again.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Thornton, Immediate Past-president

THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
CHERYL THORNTON
NMTA PRESIDENT 2020-2022

2022 AWARDS
CONGRATULATIONS!
NNMTA Outstanding Service Award - Olga Barry
LVMTA Outstanding Service Award - Jee Wong
NMTA Excellence in Teaching - Cheryl Thornton
Lifesaver Award - Amy Jahn

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.

NEVADA MUSIC TEACHERS CONFERENCE 2022

Music connects us.

JEE WONG

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD: LVMTA

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.

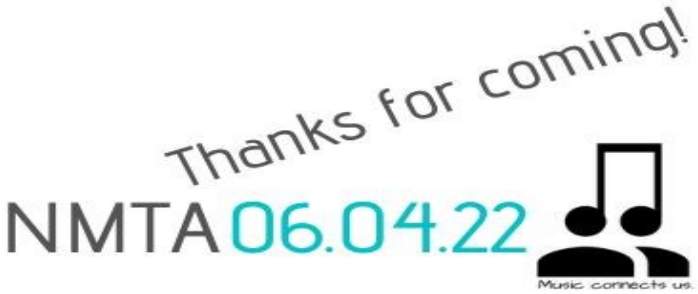
CHERYL THORNTON

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.



2022 Nevada Music Teachers Association Conference

Saturday, June 4th 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Nevada School of the Arts

11:00a Welcome: Cheryl Thornton, NMTA president

11:05 Jenny Gayan, psychologist: A Clinician's Tips for Musicians: Navigating Challenging Behaviors

11:45 Certification: Laurie Swain

12:15p Lunch/Roundtable discussions

1:05 Intermediate piano solo: Dr Timothy Hoft

1:35 Piano ensemble: Cheryl Thornton

2:05 Discussion: Jee Wong

2:20 NED Notes: Juliana Kuo, Damaris Morales, Kim Cleveland, Farida Jamin and Amy Jahn, Emma Pease-Byron

2:50 Election

2:55 Awards: Outstanding Service, Excellence in Teaching

3:15 David Perrico Q and A, Dr Lindsey O'Connor as moderator

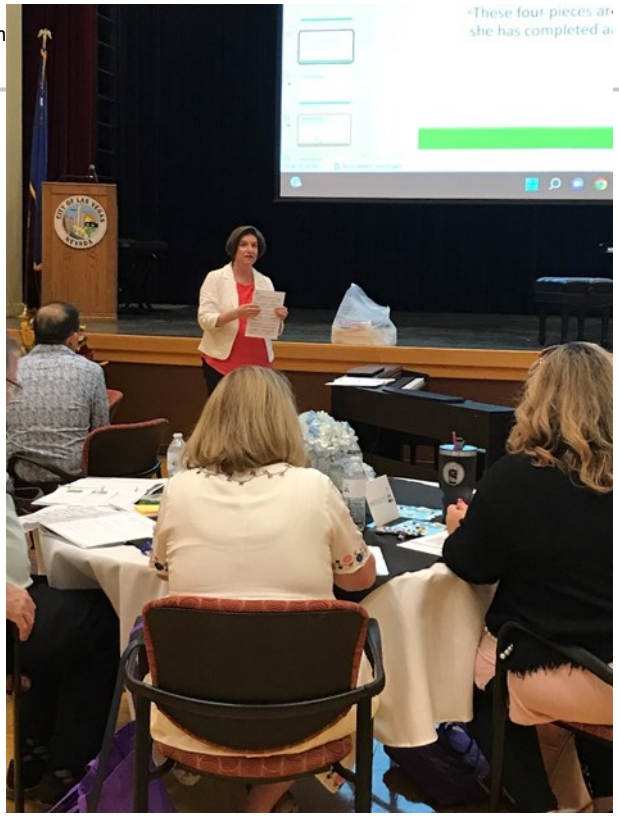
3:45 Jazz solos masterclass with David Perrico

4:15 Student concert with David Perrico, group photo

5:00 Thank you and end of conference: Cheryl Thornton

Access NMTA State Conference book HERE

Volum



Dear Amy, you may
this poster, but we would like
how special you are to us! You
Connected us with
of focus groups, covered
always acted with
You are an excellent

Jee Wong

NMTA
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
Cheryl Thornton

Dear NMTA Members,

Your feedback is important. Whether or not you attended this year's state conference, we care about your experience and will use your feedback to shape future events.

Would you kindly click HERE to fill out a brief 6-8 question survey? It is multiple choice and will take 5 minutes or less. Even if you did NOT attend conference, we value your input and want to know what benefits you best and where we can improve.

All questions are totally anonymous so you can be direct and honest in your responses.

Please access the Conference Survey here. Five minutes or less and we'll have your input to make future NMTA events more meaningful for you and your professional development.

Thank you,
NMTA Conference Planning Committee

Local Chapter Updates

News from the South

We welcome Damaris Morales as the new LVMTA president. She's traveling this summer but we look forward to hearing from her in our next newsletter.

Happy summer, everyone!

News from the North

Amy Jahn, Acting President

NNMTA had a busy end to its spring season starting with the Lower Youth Piano Festival the weekend of May 21-22. David Skouson was one of our excellent judges along with local members Christine Barden and Dr. Mayu Nomura filling in for Naomi Sanchez who was supposed to adjudicate and present a continuing education session for us, but who tested positive for COVID-19 the day before her scheduled arrival in Reno! Everything went off without a hitch though thanks to our local teachers stepping in to fill the breach. Lower Festival was then followed by another round of Command Performance recitals on May 26. A huge thank you to Festival Chair Cindy Harris for all her hard work and quick thinking in getting us through another great Festival season!

We finished up the year with our annual membership luncheon and general meeting on June 10, followed by the Ron Williams' Teacher Recital on June 11. Despite our small numbers at the luncheon and meeting, it was successful and productive with good fellowship and ideas shared by all. Thanks to Theresa Schmauder for hosting us! The teachers recital was also a great success with wonderful performances by Olga Barry and Dr. Williams, among others.

We will now transition to a new term with our new President, Farida Jamin. I look forward to working with Farida along with our other continuing officers and board members as I go on to serve NNMTA as Immediate Past President.

Besides a board meeting in late August, we will kick off the new year with our annual Membership Appreciation Brunch on September 9. I hope everyone has a relaxing and refreshing summer!

Amy Jahn,

Acting NNMTA President

From Lindsey O'Connor:

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

Subscription is included in NMTA membership.

NMTA
NEVADA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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4th VP/Social Media/Publicity (Open)

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