



NEVADA *Notes*

From Our President, Dr. Spencer Baker

Dear NMTA members, thank you for your work and dedication. As we come into a still busier time of Holiday concerts and studio recitals, I just want to take a moment to enjoy all the beautiful musical moments we have accomplished since just the beginning of the school year. I hope you will take some time, as well, and reflect on the impact your teaching has on all of your students, community and profession. I want all of you to be proud of the work you do, the person you are, and the difference you make!

The State board met in November, and all have been busily preparing, running events, and gave reports of all the many activities that once again transpired, many being annual events and festivals. Our next quarterly board meeting will be January 8th, 2026. Please consider attending the National conference in 2026. This will be the 150th Anniversary of MTNA, held in Chicago, March 21-25th, 2026. Early registration will save some money, before December 15th, 2025. I encourage you to attend!

Now is the time to also consider presenting for the NMTA "Crescendo" conference, October 30-31st, 2026, held in conjunction with the MTNA Nevada State Competition on the campus of UNLV. The conference committee is extending the proposal submission deadline (please see information later in the newsletter). We continue our Silent Movie project as well this Spring to fundraise for the conference. The UNLVMTA chapter did an outstanding performance of "Haunted House" (Buster Keaton) at UNLV this week! Please look for opportunities to join a studio, present your own, or sign up for the Windmill Library concert April 22, 2026. Our LVMTA Teachers recital this year may also feature a Silent Film. These are really fun to put together and give students (and teachers) an informal recital setting to perform.

I also serve as the UNLVMTA faculty advisor and am glad our members were able to serve as adjudicators for the Silver State competition the past several years. The competition also includes UNRMTA judges and we welcome this collaborative effort. I do want to mention we have a new UNR Piano Faculty member, Dr. Cicilia Yudha, NCTM. Dr. Yudha is now serving as the UNRMTA Collegiate Faculty member. She will visit Las Vegas to work with LVA students in February and we're looking forward to more collegiate collaborations this Spring and at the Crescendo Conference. Welcome to NMTA, Dr. Yudha!

I wish all of you success, good health and very Happy Holiday Season! Enjoy this very special time of the year with your families and loved ones.

Dr. Spencer Baker, DMA

NMTA President

Upcoming Events

MTNA National Conference, March 21-25
Chicago, Illinois.
Register before December 15th for savings

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YEARS

MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 21-25, 2026 • CHICAGO

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ANNUAL HALLOWEEN RECITAL FOR NNMTA

SUCH FUN!

The MTNA Conference Planning Committee requests the submission of proposals for the **NMTA State Conference** taking place on OCTOBER 30-31, 2026 at UNLV. We invite you to share your expertise at next year's conference. Simply fill out our presenter form and submit it by **February 16, 2026**. Presenters will be selected and notified by **March 15, 2026**. Papers, panels, performances, lecture-recitals, demonstrations, research and creative projects are invited. Conference sessions are generally 60 minutes in length inclusive of introductory and closing remarks, and Q&A. Additional consideration will be given for 20-minute sessions for an Accelerated Learning Track.

The committee welcomes proposals on all aspects of music and music teaching. Proposals on the following broad subjects are encouraged but not limited to:

- Teacher/student communication - learning theories/learning styles
- Studio business practices
- Developmental approach to music instruction - neurological/physiological
- Technology- tangible materials or ideas for members to use in their studios
- Music instruction for the very young/busy adults/the retired/the disabled
- Group teaching - teaching strategies for class piano, musicianship classes
- Music for Everyone - ideas for helping all students discover the joy of music
- General Topics/ Multi-cultural/ Innobative.
- Improvisation - Jazz, Pop, Song Writing etc.
- Collegiate Presentations. College students' group or individual discussion.

Guidelines for Submitting Proposals:

Complete the online proposal submission form by using this link:

<https://forms.gle/WmUimg1bmsuMxctCA>

35-word session description

one-page resume for each participant

35-word bio for each participant

A color photograph of each participant

Proposals should not be commercial in nature.

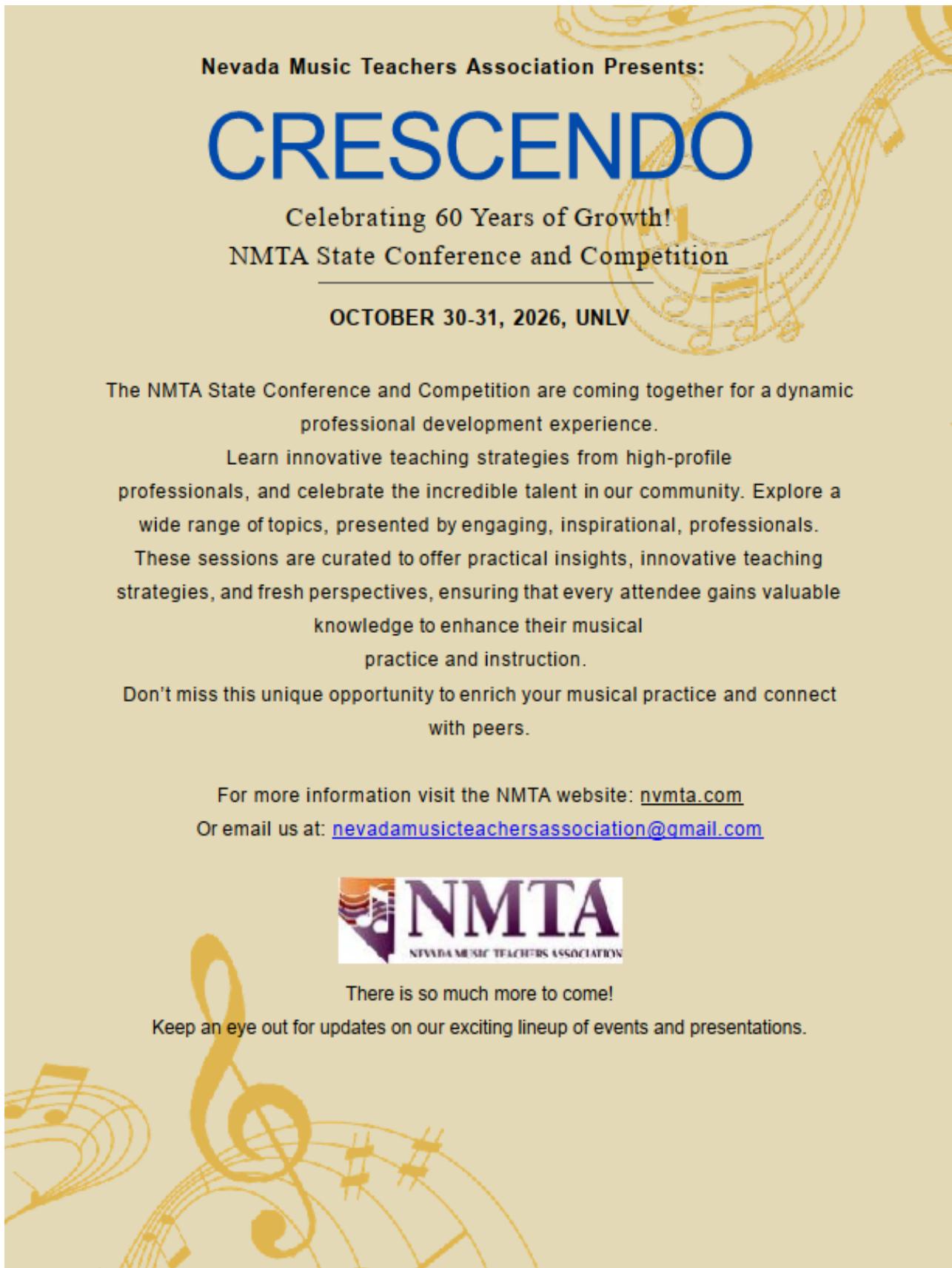
Proposals must be received no later than February 16, 2026. Presenters will be

selected and notified by **March 15, 2026**.

If you have any questions about the conference proposal process, contact Spencer

Baker, NMTA president spencerbaker.piano@gmail.com or

Damaris Morales, Conference Committee Chair damaris@damarismorales.com



Nevada Music Teachers Association Presents:

CRESCENDO

Celebrating 60 Years of Growth!

NMTA State Conference and Competition

OCTOBER 30-31, 2026, UNLV

The NMTA State Conference and 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. Explore a wide range of topics, presented by engaging, inspirational, professionals. These sessions are curated to offer practical insights, innovative teaching strategies, and fresh perspectives, ensuring that every attendee gains valuable knowledge to enhance their musical practice and instruction. Don't miss this unique opportunity to enrich your musical practice and connect with peers.

For more information visit the NMTA website: nvmta.com
Or email us at: nevadamusicteachersassociation@gmail.com



There is so much more to come!
Keep an eye out for updates on our exciting lineup of events and presentations.



INVITES YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR
PROPOSAL FOR STATE CONFERENCE

THE NMTA STATE CONFERENCE IS
TAKING PLACE ON
OCTOBER 30-31, 2026 AT UNLV.

Papers, panels, performances, lecture-recitals, demonstrations, research and creative projects are invited

THE COMMITTEE WELCOMES PROPOSALS ON
ALL ASPECTS OF MUSIC AND MUSIC
TEACHING.

Proposals on the following broad subjects are encouraged but not limited to:

- Teacher/student communication - learning theories/learning styles
- Studio business practices
- Developmental approach to music instruction - neurological/physiological
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- Group teaching - teaching strategies for class piano, musicianship classes
- Music for Everyone - ideas for helping all students discover the joy of music
- General Topics/ Multi-cultural/ Innovative.
- Improvisation - Jazz, Pop, Song Writing etc.
- Collegiate Presentations. College students' group or individual discussion.

2025 SILVER STATE COMPETITION

Las Vegas Report

The NMTA Silver State Competition was held in Las Vegas on November 7-9 at Clark High School. There were a total of 342 contestants from 62 teachers' studios: 117 Piano Classical Solos, 82 Piano Social Solos, 64 String Solos, 15 Piano Concertos, 15 Voice Solos & Ensembles, 14 Woodwind Solos, 11 Social Piano Ensembles, 3 Classical Piano Ensembles, 2 Chamber Music Ensembles, and 2 Composition entries.

Thank you to our esteemed panel of judges for their expertise and providing valuable written feedback to the competitors. The judges were: Classical Piano - Heinz Gilbert Denoyo and Nikola Scepovic, Social Piano/Piano Ensembles - Finn Caoile, String Solo - Benjamin Porter, Voice Solo - Athena Mertes, Woodwind Solo - Marlene Meagher, Composition - Nathan Tanouye. Their bios are available at nvmta.com.

Thank you to the teacher and student volunteers who helped make the competition run smoothly and successfully, and especially to Co-Chairs, Suzanne Clayson & Marie Lee, and NMTA President, Spencer Baker. The Winners List is available at nvmta.com.





SILVER STATE WINNERS LIST 2025

PIANO CLASSICAL SOLO

Student Teacher

1ST GRADE

1st Place	Cadence Chan	Alexandria Le
2nd Place	Penelope Rogers	Maria Kolesnyk
HM	Bella Thompson	Gaoxia Cui

2ND GRADE

1st Place	Sophia Dryn	Won Na
2nd Place	Leah Han	Kailey Kim
HM	Jamie Cao	Gaoxia Cui
HM	Xavier Esguerra	Cynthia Ferris
HM	Addison Zhang	Juliana Kuo

3RD GRADE

1st Place	Yilia Shen	Gaoxia Cui
2nd Place	Irene Guo	Gaoxia Cui
HM	Klara Cui	Xiangsheng Qu
HM	Chloe Fan	In young Lee
HM	Joey Ju	Kailey Kim
HM	Leo Ma	Gaoxia Cui
HM	Lily Yann	In young Lee

4TH GRADE

1st Place	Jayleen He	Gaoxia Cui
1st Place	Lorelai Kim	Yealee Kim
2nd Place	Jacob Chen	Natalya Panchenko
2nd Place	Allicia Lu Xue He	Long Ma
HM	Tobias Chan	Gaoxia Cui
HM	Milo Joyer	Masumi Ichise
HM	Joyce Kim	Kailey Kim
HM	Jerry Xie	Xiangsheng Qu
HM	Janet Yang	Julian Lam

5TH GRADE

1st Place	Maxwell Yu	Long Ma
1st Place	Samantha Zhang	Long Ma
2nd Place	Landon St. Clair	Spencer Baker
2nd Place	Selia Xin	Zhu Sun
HM	Huiwon Cho	Yealee Kim
HM	Aimee Liu	Gaoxia Cui
HM	Oliver Liu	Xiangsheng Qu
HM	Beatrix Zhu	Damaris Morales

6TH GRADE

1st Place	Quinn Gorbel	Elena Leotieva
1st Place	Janice Kim	Kailey Kim
2nd Place	Vegas Li	Julian Lam
2nd Place	Kate Wang	Zhu Sun
HM	Jacob Castrillo	Sheila Watson
HM	Sean Fan	In young Lee
HM	Jayden He	Gaoxia Cui
HM	Ethan Lapira	Ally Santos
HM	Samuel Lee	Long Ma
HM	Jayden Zhang	Juliana Kuo

Student Teacher

7TH GRADE

1st Place	Lorenzo Tiapon	Cindy Lee
1st Place	Kelly Xu	Gaoxia Cui
1st Place	Brittney Yang	Juliana Kuo
2nd Place	Daniel Ju	Kailey Kim
2nd Place	Shuyan Liu	Gaoxia Cui
HM	James Chen	Natalya Panchenko
HM	Sen Malasek	Polya Bankova
HM	Sophie Xin	Zhu Sun
HM	Bella Yoo	Yealee Kim
HM	Sylvia Yoo	Yealee Kim

8TH GRADE

1st Place	Lina Grayson	Polya Bankova
1st Place	Emmanuel Zhou	Long Ma
2nd Place	Aiden Lin	Vicky YiChing Lee
2nd Place	Michael Xie	Yealee Kim
HM	Aerilynn Cain	Karen Waltman
HM	Carina Li	Gaoxia Cui
HM	Noah Yamamoto	Vicky YiChing Lee

9TH GRADE

1st Place	Aileen Duan	Long Ma
1st Place	Rebecca Wang	Gaoxia Cui
2nd Place	Chihuan Huang	Damaris Morales
2nd Place	Lucas Lu	Long Ma
HM	Ellie Dela Cruz	Cindy Lee
HM	Lauren Park	Juliana Kuo
HM	Crystal Zhang	Damaris Morales

10TH GRADE

1st Place	Kellie Chung	Juliana Kuo
1st Place	Jane Lee	Yealee Kim
1st Place	Leonardo Zhu	Damaris Morales

11TH GRADE

1st Place	Aiden Bui	Long Ma
2nd Place	Alexander Fuentes	Cindy Lee
HM	Nathan Lanz	Cindy Lee
HM	Rumy Lee	Yealee Kim
HM	Evan Sun	Juliana Kuo

12TH GRADE

1st Place	Apollo Lyons	Damaris Morales
2nd Place	Hayden Leung	Yealee Kim
HM	Tek Malasek	Polya Bankova
HM	Hunter Rhee	Cindy Lee

SILVER STATE WINNERS LIST 2025

PIANO SOCIAL SOLO

Student

Teacher

1ST GRADE

1st Place	Lenna Rae Koebcke	Jee Wong
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2ND GRADE

1st Place	Sophia Dryn	Won Na
2nd Place	Aljon Mortel	Cynthia Ferris
HM	Emma Dena	Cynthia Ferris
HM	Leah Kim	Yealee Kim
HM	Peyton Wong	Xin Mai

3RD GRADE

1st Place	Owen Zhang	Xiangsheng Qu
2nd Place	Joey Ju	Kailey Kim
HM	Lillian Kitamura	Karen Waltman

4TH GRADE

1st Place	Angelina Rand-Mirchou	Michelle Lee
2nd Place	Gianna Wu	Patricia Lee
HM	Evelyn Lu	Zhu Sun

5TH GRADE

1st Place	Bryan Zhang	Damaris Morales
2nd Place	Victoria Kim	Michelle Lee
HM	Evelyn Baek	Juliana Kuo
HM	Angelina Ma	Julian Lam
HM	Landon St. Clair	Spencer Baker
HM	Selia Xin	Zhu Sun

6TH GRADE

1st Place	Janice Kim	Kailey Kim
2nd Place	Ethan Lapira	Ally Santos
HM	Timothy Fu	In young Lee
HM	Rodman Rouhani	Patricia Lee
HM	Kate Wang	Zhu Sun
HM	Jayden Zhang	Juliana Kuo

Student

Teacher

7TH GRADE

1st Place	Lorenzo Tiapon	Cindy Lee
2nd Place	Brittney Yang	Juliana Kuo
HM	Logan Karno	Anthony Lasorsa
HM	Miva Keh	Juliana Kuo
HM	Jason Zhangzheng	Cindy Lee

8TH GRADE

1st Place	Lavinia Teng	Juliana Kuo
2nd Place	Yixiao Chen	Julian Lam
HM	Kendric Lin	Vicky YiChing Lee

9TH GRADE

1st Place	Ellie Dela Cruz	Cindy Lee
2nd Place	Zhenghao Zhu	Min Seo
HM	R.J. Flores	Juliana Kuo
HM	Emily Zhou	Patricia Lee

10TH GRADE

1st Place	Kellie Chung	Juliana Kuo
2nd Place	Stella Tsao	Long Ma
HM	Emily Lei	Xin Mai

11TH GRADE

1st Place	Nathan Lanz	Cindy Lee
2nd Place	Isabelle Kwak	Yealee Kim
HM	Alexander Fuentes	Cindy Lee
HM	Cameron Kiesel	Michelle Lee

12TH GRADE

1st Place	Hayden Leung	Yealee Kim
2nd Place	Kimi Zhang	In young Lee
HM	Tobyas Chau	Cindy Lee

SILVER STATE WINNERS LIST 2025

STRING SOLO

Student	Teacher
1ST GRADE	
1st Place	Ally Choong
2nd Place	Kevin Zhou

2ND GRADE

1st Place	Dain Lee	Hyelin Jung
2nd Place	Jaden Liu	Susan Kim
HM	Emma (Eunsong) Park	Hyunseo Kim
HM	Mikhail Villarama	Shakeh Ghoukasian

3RD GRADE

1st Place	Alennie Cheung	Susan Kim
1st Place	Violette Tierney	Linda Rodgers

4TH GRADE

1st Place	Leila Melby	Robin Reinarz
2nd Place	Madeleine Bateman	Mary Straub
HM	Evangelina Salcedo	Won Na

5TH GRADE

1st Place	Victoria Kim	Susan Kim
2nd Place	Ava Kristi Espina	Won Na
HM	Renna Lee	Susan Kim
HM	Kamryn Sigmund	Linda Rodgers

6TH GRADE

1st Place	Lucas Jiang	Mary Straub
2nd Place	Mia Barbosa	Shakeh Ghoukasian
HM	Yining Zhou	Shakeh Ghoukasian

7TH GRADE

1st Place	Ashley Nam	Jeayoung Jo
2nd Place	Hailey Ely	Erick Ely
HM	Eva Choi	Amanda Andreasen

8TH GRADE

1st Place	Ethan Lee	Patricia Hicks
2nd Place	Hanna Aschenaki	Mary Straub
HM	Aleksandra Lyubyyh	Ferenc Cseszko
HM	Maxine Medrano	Linda Rodgers
HM	Taesung Oh	Jeayoung Jo

9TH GRADE

1st Place	Alexys Espinoza	Shakeh Ghoukasian
2nd Place	Rosie Prescott	Mary Straub
HM	Elin Lu	Amanda Andreasen

10TH GRADE

1st Place	Yvette Lee	Won Na
2nd Place	Aiden Nam	Susan Kim

STRING SOLO

Student	Teacher
11TH GRADE	
1st Place	Liam Guerrero
2nd Place	Connor Kim
HM	Isabelle Kwak
HM	Jaden Kwak
HM	Alec Kosyagin

12TH GRADE

1st Place	Kevin Perez	Javonie Tejero
2nd Place	Blake Tyler	Robin Reinarz
HM	Vivian Brumbaugh	Shakeh Ghoukasian
HM	Mayley Callihan	Shakeh Ghoukasian

PIANO CONCERTO

Student	Teacher
4TH GRADE	
1st Place	Victoria Matsuoka
2nd Place	Zachary Mummolo

5TH GRADE

1st Place	Leo Wong	Juliana Kuo
2nd Place	Evelyn Baek	Juliana Kuo

6TH GRADE

1st Place	Ethan Almond	Timothy Hoft
2nd Place	Lina Lyoubi	Damaris Morales

7TH GRADE

1st Place	Emily Chen	Timothy Hoft
2nd Place	Lorenzo Tiapon	Cindy Lee
HM	Miva Keh	Juliana Kuo
HM	Jinxi Lee	Jee Wong

8TH GRADE

1st Place	Joyce Li	Damaris Morales
2nd Place	Lauren Park	Juliana Kuo

9TH GRADE

1st Place	Dylan Chan	Timothy Hoft
2nd Place	Kyra Lalas	Jee Wong

10TH GRADE

1st Place	Hunter Rhee	Cindy Lee
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SILVER STATE WINNERS LIST 2025

CLASSICAL ENSEMBLE

Student Teacher

9TH GRADE

1st Place	Angelina Ma & Mathew Ma	Julian Lam
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12TH GRADE

1st Place	Apollo Lyons & Paxton Garcia	Damaris Morales
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SOCIAL ENSEMBLE

Student Teacher

3RD GRADE

1st Place	Lily Yann & Sky Yann	In young Lee
2nd Place	Chloe Fan & Selina Du	In young Lee
2nd Place	Lillian Kitamura & Renan Monreal	Karen Waltman

4TH GRADE

1st Place	Fumito Iida & Donovan Morrisey	Karen Waltman
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5TH GRADE

1st Place	Christina Dagher & Nicolas Dagher	Patricia Lee
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6TH GRADE

1st Place	Angelina Rand-Mirchou & Francesca Rand-Mirchou	Michelle Lee
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8TH GRADE

1st Place	Emmanuel Zhou & Samuel Lee	Long Ma
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9TH GRADE

1st Place	Amelia Cacuci & Ellah Mark	Patricia Lee
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11TH GRADE

1st Place	Sequoia Fisher, Aria Walker, Eve Walker & Madeleine Wall	Cheryl Thornton
2nd Place	Nathan Lanz & Alex Fuentes	Cindy Lee

SILVER STATE WINNERS LIST 2025

WOODWIND SOLO

Category	Student	Teacher
3RD GRADE		
1st Place	Rose Benson	Cynthia Ferris
5TH GRADE		
1st Place	Ahaan Kolluru	Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye
8TH GRADE		
1st Place	Chloe Jae-in Calzo	Joyce Kang
2nd Place	Claire Chu	Cynthia Ferris
HM	Luke Jeon	Joyce Kang
HM	Fiona Zhou	Lindsey O'Connor
9TH GRADE		
1st Place	Patrick Sun	Laura Friedlander
10TH GRADE		
1st Place	Alaina Kung	Minji Wu
2nd Place	Yeham Kang	Julienne You Kyoung Rim
11TH GRADE		
1st Place	Jasmin Smith	Jeahyon Jo
2nd Place	Josiah Mallari	Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye
12TH GRADE		
1st Place	Alexander Tanouye	Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye

CHAMBER

Category	Student	Teacher
11TH GRADE		
1st Place	Isabelle Kwak & Anna Jung	Hyelin Jung

COMPOSITION

Category	Student	Teacher
7TH GRADE		
1st Place	Lorenzo Tiapon	Cindy Lee
12TH GRADE		
1st Place	Lorenzo Miravite	Lee Schreiber

VOICE SOLO

Category	Student	Teacher
2ND GRADE		
1st Place	Lynn Harin Park	Cho Hee Hwang
3RD GRADE		
1st Place	Byeol Lim	Cho Hee Hwang
2nd Place	Rena Kim	Cho Hee Hwang
HM	Hannah Wang	Julian Lam
4TH GRADE		
1st Place	Aria Lam	Julian Lam
5TH GRADE		
1st Place	Mia Harris	Cheryl Thornton
6TH GRADE		
1st Place	Katherine Yamasaki	Juliana Kuo
2nd Place	Chloe Kim	Cho Hee Hwang
7TH GRADE		
1st Place	Sophia Harris	Cheryl Thornton
2nd Place	Noel Devries	Cheryl Thornton
9TH GRADE		
1st Place	Hermes Jiyou Han	Cho Hee Hwang
12TH GRADE		
1st Place	Alisa Kung	Lisa Elliott

VOICE ENSEMBLE

Category	Student	Teacher
4TH GRADE		
1st Place	Aria Lam & Hannah Wang	Julian Lam
7TH GRADE		
1st Place	Mia Harris & Sophia Harris	Cheryl Thornton
2nd Place	Noel Devries & Sophia Harris	Cheryl Thornton



2025 SILVER STATE COMPETITION



Finn Caoile

SOCIAL PIANO ADJUDICATOR

Finn Caoile acquired a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, under Dr. Timothy Hoft. He has been playing the piano since 2004, having participated in several local competitions and festivals in the past, such as the Charleston International Music Competition. He has also played in masterclasses for Dr. Jason Kwak and Victor Rosenbaum. Alongside the piano, he regularly plays harpsichord, flute, and piccolo with various school ensembles; he has also performed on double bass, alto saxophone, harmonica, and accordion. He currently works with various UNLV students as well as with ensembles around the Valley. In his free time, Finn creates visual art of various mediums, such as pencil, watercolour, acrylic paint, and paper (origami). He began pursuing a Master's Degree in Accompanying / Collaborative Piano at UNLV in Fall of 2024 and is expected to graduate in Spring of 2026.



Heinz Gilbert Denoyo

CLASSICAL PIANO ADJUDICATOR

Heinz Gilbert Denoyo is a *Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)* student in Piano Performance at the *University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)*, where he studies under *Dr. James Winn* and *Dr. Cicilia Yudha*. As a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), Heinz currently serves as the *UNR Voice Area - Opera pianist* and fulfills various collaborative and coaching needs within the School of Music. He completed his Master of Music degree at UNR in the Spring of 2024.

During his undergraduate years at the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines, Heinz received recognition in national and university-wide competitions, including the National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) in 2010, the UST Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition, and the Piano Teacher's Guild of the Philippines' Filipino and Romantic Competition.

Heinz's passion for music goes beyond performing; he is deeply committed to music education, having taught in various international institutions, including the International Academy for Intercultural Development (IAID) in Doha, Qatar; the Nagaland Conservatory of Music in India; and in his home country at the University of the Visayas and Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepción.

In addition to performing solo repertoire, Heinz enjoys playing chamber music and collaborating with ensembles and soloists.



Marlene Meagher

WOODWIND ADJUDICATOR

Marlene Meagher has been a music educator for over 40 years and holds a degree in Music Education from the University of Texas at El Paso, where she majored in flute and piano. She taught instrumental and general music in grades K-12, including more than 25 years as a band director in El Paso, Texas, where her ensembles earned numerous awards.

A former flutist with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, Mrs. Meagher now teaches private piano and wind instrument lessons to students of all ages, whose performances in recitals and competitions have received many honors and scholarships.

She is active as a clinician, mentor, and adjudicator, and is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, Music Teachers National Association, Nevada Music Teachers Association, and Las Vegas Music Teachers Association, where she serves as Jazz Festival Chair.



Athena Mertes

VOCAL ADJUDICATOR

Athena Mertes, Soprano, is one of the Valley's most celebrated sopranos, whose opera and concert credits include Marie (The Daughter of the Regiment), Mimi (La Bohème), Musetta (La Bohème), Despina (Così Fan Tutte), Gretel (Hansel and Gretel), Lucy (The Telephone), Zerlina (Don Giovanni), Gianetta (L'Elisir d'Amore), Morgana (Alcina), Pamina (Die Zauberflöte), Abigail (The Crucible), Nella (Gianni Schicchi), Waldvogel (Siegfried) and soprano soloist in Vivaldi's Gloria, Handel's Messiah, Brahms Requiem, Mozart Requiem, Beethoven's 9th and Honegger's King David. She has performed as a guest soloist with the Burbank Philharmonic, Las Vegas Philharmonic, Henderson Symphony, Opera Las Vegas, Vegas City Opera, Lexington Opera Outreach and the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society. Some of her recent credits include Sylvia in the World Premiere of Behold the Man, Zelda in the West Coast Premiere of Ghosts of Gatsby and Alice B. Toklas in the West Coast premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon and Royce Vavrek's 27, Lyse in the West Coast Premiere of Again and Again and Again with Opera Las Vegas and she portrayed Mimi in Vegas City Opera's La BoDead and Madame de Tourvel in The Dangerous Liaisons.

She is also the Chorus Master of the Opera Las Vegas Youth Chorus and the Director of Choirs at Thurman White Academy of the Performing Arts where she has over 350 students. In 2020, she received the Teacher of the Year Award from Magnet Schools of America and is also a National Board-Certified Teacher. In March of 2024, her Choir was featured at the American Choral Directors Association Regional Conference in Pasadena, California and in April of 2024, her contemporary a cappella group was featured at the National Magnet Schools of America Conference in New York City. In March of 2025, her Choir was featured at the American Choral Director's National Conference in Dallas, TX. Athena frequently serves as a guest conductor, adjudicator and clinician for local, state and regional events.



Benjamin Porter

STRING & CHAMBER ADJUDICATOR

Originally from Bothell, Washington, Benjamin Porter began playing the violin as a nine-year-old and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), having earned his Master of Music in 2024. A member of UNR's Nightingale String Quartet, he is also a student and Graduate

Teaching Assistant of Dr. Maureen Yuen. As an active professional orchestral musician, Porter has performed in the Bear Valley Music Festival Orchestra, Fresno Philharmonic, Reno Philharmonic, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Opera Modesto, Auburn Symphony, Susanville Symphony, and Firebird Light Opera, among others.

Porter was a violin fellow at the Lake George Music Festival in New York in summer 2024 and the National Music Festival in Maryland in summers 2024 and 2025. For the last three summers, he has enjoyed the opportunity to play chamber music, symphonic music, and operas at the Prague Summer Nights Young Artists Music Festival (PSN) in the Czech Republic, performing in Tabor, Kutna Hora, Jihlava, Plzeň, Vienna, and at the Rudolfinum, Estates Theatre, and Smetana Hall in Prague, with guest conductors including Marin Alsop, Laura Jackson, and Michelle Di Russo. Porter earned his Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy Analysis & Planning degrees from the University of California, Davis, and graduated from Inglemoor High School's International Baccalaureate Programme in Kenmore, Washington, having played in the Inglemoor Orchestra's 2015 performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Porter has previously studied with Geoff Johnson, Pamela Liu, Jolán Friedhoff, and UNR Professor Emerita Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio, and has performed masterclasses with renowned violinists including Robert McDuffle, Chad Hoopes, Rachell Ellen Wong, and Ernest Salem.



Nikola Scepovic

CLASSICAL PIANO ADJUDICATOR

Nikola Scepovic was born in 1990 in Kragujevac. He enrolled in the University of Arts in Belgrade's piano department studies as the top candidate, graduating at the age of 19, with maximum grades in piano performance courses with Prof. Aleksandar Serdar, Prof. Nevena Popovic and Prof. Milos Mihajlovic. Two years later, he completed his graduate "specialist of music." He holds a Diploma in Audio Engineering and Music Production from SAE Institute, where he studied under Prof. Darko Velickovski and Prof. Sasa Jankovic, as well as Musical Theatre courses in the class of the recognized Broadway director Douglas Hall.

His numerous solo and accompaniment concerts and performances include places such as the Belgrade City Assembly Great Hall, Kolarac Hall, Banski dvor in Banja Luka, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Russian Cultural Center (Veni Kultuurikeskus) in Tallinn, Estonia, the concert hall of the University South Florida, Steinway Gallery in Largo, Florida in the United States, Doc Rando, Artemus W. Ham Hall Art Walk lobby in Las Vegas, Nevada, and many others. In genres outside of classical music, performances include the "Rock Opera" with notable Yugoslavian rock band members musical at the celebration of the city of Kragujevac 2019, notable Exit festival 2013 in Novi Sad, as well as at the Bike Rock festival at Kalemegdan in Belgrade.

As for studio recording credits for engineering and producing, he collaborated with renowned artists and bands like Smoke n Soul for their album in 2013 as well as on the recording of the songs for the Rok Bulevar band's album for PGP of RTS, both made at the Pink Television Recording studio. Current engagement includes a Graduate Assistant's position while enrolled in the Doctor of Musical Arts program of the University of Nevada in Las Vegas under the

tutelage of notable pianist Dr. Mykola Suk. He attended seminars and masterclasses of many renowned pianists and piano pedagogues like John O' Connor (Ireland), Pascal Roge (France), Seann Duggan (United States of America), Albert Mamriev (Germany/Israel), Aleksandar Madzar (Belgium), Kemal Gekic (Croatia), Dorijan Leljak (Serbia) as well as many others.

As a collaborative pianist, he worked at the Allion Baltic festival, sharing skills with opera singers and professors like Monique McDonald (Metropolitan Opera New York), Tatiana Rubinskaya (Moscow National Opera), Gustavo Ahualli (Catholic University of America), Shudong Luo Braamse (Southeastern University) and many others, after attending the music school "Mokranjac" in Belgrade for vocal training with prof. Gordana Kesic and Dr. Vladimir Dinić. Recommendations and collaborations include Dr. Jose Valentino, prof. Kemal Gekic, Dr. Shudong Braamse and many others.



Nathan Tanouye

COMPOSITION ADJUDICATOR

An alumnus of UNLV, Nathan Tanouye holds a Bachelor of Music with dual concentration in Applied Trombone and Jazz Studies. He also holds a Master of Music in Trombone Performance from Texas Tech University.

Tanouye's musical endeavors are diverse, both as a trombonist and as a composer/arranger. As a freelance trombonist, he has worked with some of the biggest names in the business including Natalie Cole, Johnny Mathis, Tony Bennett, Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Andrea Bocelli, Bette Midler, Martin Nievera, Aretha Franklin, Barbra Streisand, Alicia Keys, Usher, Jennifer Hudson, Kelly Clarkson, Maren Morris, Kanye West, Journey, The Who, The Jonas Brothers, and Josh Groban to name a few. He spent nine years as Celine Dion's trombonist, which included multiple tours in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia, and he spent five years playing with Lady Gaga in her Jazz & Piano show at the Park MGM. He has played Principal Trombone with the Las Vegas Philharmonic since 1998 and is Trombonist, Composer & Arranger with Santa Fe & The Fat City Horns, the internationally recognized band which was presented with the Dean's Medal Award at the 2019 Hall of Fame ceremony at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

As a composer, he has written works in a diverse range of styles for numerous types of ensembles, ranging from flute and harp duo to full symphony orchestra. Notable commissions include Kokopelli's Dance (2005), 11 Colors (2009), Loki's Revenge (2010), and Desert Flight (2015). Tanouye has also done extensive work as an arranger and orchestrator for internationally acclaimed artists like Human Nature, Bette Midler, Celine Dion, Kanye West, and The Jonas Brothers. He also arranges plays trombone for the Jazz Vegas Orchestra, which also regularly features his compositions and arrangements.

Currently, Tanouye is Professor of Jazz and Commercial Music and Studio Trombone at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He continues to find inspiration playing, writing, and teaching music. He is a Shires Artist.

Silver State Competition NNMTA



NNMTA Silver State Winners 2025

Classical Solo 6 and under –

1st - Caleb Phung (Nataly Roznitovsky)

Social Solo 6 and under –

1st Kevin Huston (Theresa Schmauder)

Classical Solo 7-8 –

1st - Tie - Felix Atapine (Adela Park) and Rosie Foulk (Chad Twedt)

Social Solo 7-8 -

1st – Claire Brautigam (Christine Barden)

Ensemble 3rd Grade and under –

Lauren and Kathryn Adamson (Theresa Schmauder)

Ensemble 4th and 5th Grade

1st tie – Landry and Davis Watts and Charlotte and Parker Hall (Theresa Schmauder)

Classical Solo 9-10

Quin Mueller (Meg Falk)

Social Solo 9-10

1st – Ted Perry (Margarita Bryant)

Concerto 9-11

1st Tie - Ivy Riley (Theresa Schmauder) and Rob Huston (Theresa Schmauder)

Classical Solo 11-12

Evan Tsai (Tamara Saakyan)

Social Solo 11-12

Sophia Zabet (Margarita Bryant)

Ensemble Middle School –

1st – Maya and Lara Rajeh (Margarita Bryant)

NNMTA Silver State 2025 cont'd

Classical Solo Age 13-14

1st – Maya Rajeh (Margarita Bryant)

Social Solo Age 13-14

1st tie – Maya Rajeh and Lara Rajeh (Margarita Bryant)

Concerto Age 12-14

1st – Brooklyn Lytle (Theresa Schmauder)

Adult –

1st - Kristina Carden (Jiyang Chen)

Ensemble High School

1st – Ted and Alexis Perry (Margarita Bryant)

Classical Solo Age 15-16

1st – Theodore Twedt (Chad Twedt)

Social Solo Age 15-16

1st – Charlotte Carden ((Jiyang Chen)

Classical Solo Age 17-19

1st Tie – Kaitlyn Turner (Tamara Saakyan) and Nolan Hopkins (Christine Barden)

Nevada MTNA Competition 2025 - Final Results

Piano

Junior Piano

Result	Contestant	Teacher
Winner	Emily Chen	Timothy Hoft
Alternate	Jinwoo Moon	Yealee Kim
Honorable Mention	Brandon Evans	Alexandria Le
Honorable Mention	Stephan Xu	Long Ma
Honorable Mention	Ethan Almond	Timothy Hoft

Senior Piano – Solo

Result	Contestant	Teacher
Winner	Claire Lin	Tamara Saakyan
Alternate	Dylan Chan	Timothy Hoft
Honorable Mention	Shuyi Zheng	Long Ma
Honorable Mention	Elly Zhu	Long Ma

Senior Piano – Duet

Result	Contestant	Teacher
Winner	Elly Zhu Aiden Bui	Long Ma
Alternate	Shuyi Zheng Aileen Duan	Long Ma

Strings

Junior Strings

Result	Contestant	Teacher
Winner	Yejoon Jung	Jeayoung Jo
Alternate	Winston Luh	Susan Kim
Honorable Mention	Rose Martin	Mary Straub

Senior Strings

Winner	Linfei Wang	Candice Behrman
Alternate	Brent-Jeremy Masilang	Ivan Ivanov

Young Artist Woodwinds

Result	Contestant	Teacher
Winner	Megan Kearny	Shawna Pennock
Alternate	Antonio Caracun Martinez	Lindsey O'Connor
Honorable Mention	William Auflik	Lindsey O'Connor
Honorable Mention	Olivia Remak	John McMurtry

Composition

Junior Composition

Result	Contestant	Teacher
Winner	Alexander Loosley	James Winn
Honorable Mention	Lorenzo Tiapon	Cindy Lee

Young Artist Composition

Result	Contestant	Teacher
Representative	William Auflik	Lindsey O'Connor

Nevada MTNA Competition 2025 Judge Bios

Piano



Del Parkinson is the keyboard chair and was recently designated as distinguished professor of piano at Boise State University. He was previously the keyboard chair at BYU-Idaho, where he taught piano. He holds a doctor of music degree from Indiana University and a postgraduate diploma from The Juilliard School. He was the recipient of a Fulbright-Hays grant for graduate study in London. Parkinson has performed in Europe, Asia, South America, and throughout the United States. His London debut recital was on the American bicentennial series, and his New York debut recital in Carnegie Recital Hall was sponsored by the Idaho Commission on the Arts. He has soloed with the Guadalajara Symphony, Indiana University Symphony, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Boise Philharmonic, and Utah Symphony. Parkinson is on the international roster of Steinway artists and is featured on four compact disc recordings. He is a recipient of the Idaho Commission on the Arts fellowship award and the Idaho Governor's Award for excellence in the arts.



Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM, is a certified teacher, performer, author, editor, and lecturer. She serves as Director of Piano Studies at Mesa Community College (MCC) in Mesa, Arizona, where she teaches private piano, group piano, piano pedagogy, and piano literature. With a comprehensive background in music education, she has spent over twenty years at MCC, taught as a faculty associate at the Arizona State University School of Music for thirteen years, and held a professorship at the Music College in Niš, Serbia, for six years. Radmila earned her DMA degree from Arizona State University and completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Belgrade, Serbia. She has appeared both as a soloist and as a collaborator with orchestras, instrumentalists, and choirs in various countries. Her performances have been featured on radio and television, and she is frequently invited to adjudicate piano competitions, national exams, and festivals. With a strong interest in exploring new topics, she has presented lectures and workshops on piano and music for more than twenty years. Her work has been published by VDM Verlag (Germany), Toccata Classics (London), FJH Music Company (USA), and Schott Music (Germany). In addition, she has written articles for Clavier Companion, American Music Teacher (AMT), and the EPTA Piano Bulletin (Netherlands). Radmila currently serves on the boards of the Arizona Music Teachers Association, the Music Teachers Online Association, and the Avanti Fund. In 2018, she received the Arizona State Honor Teacher Award. She resides in Mesa, Arizona, with her family.



Damaris Morales holds teaching and performance diplomas from the National Conservatory of Music of the Dominican Republic. She continued her studies at the Manhattan School of Music under the guidance of Arkady Aronov, before earning both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Miami with Rosalina Sackstein. Her advanced training includes postgraduate studies in Spain and masterclasses with renowned artists, including Nina Svetlanova and Rosalyn Tureck. With extensive experience as a soloist, accompanist, and chamber musician across the United States and Latin America, Mrs. Morales has appeared as a soloist with the Florida Chamber Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra of Santo Domingo. She is a sought-after adjudicator and clinician, presenting at numerous Music Teachers Association conventions nationwide. Ms. Morales is a dedicated advocate for musical preservation and education. For over a decade, she has focused on researching and performing the works of neglected women composers, leading to her creation of the lecture/recital series, Hidden, "The Secret Genius of Women Composers." She is also the Creator and Executive Producer of "Diapason, sounds of the worlds," a captivating music history television show. Furthermore, she founded DGEM (Diapason Global Education for Music), an organization committed to preserving folk music and making world-class music education accessible. Ms. Morales has held piano faculty positions at institutions including the University of Miami, the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, the College of Southern Nevada, and the Nevada School of the Arts. As the proprietor of a highly successful Las Vegas piano studio, she has guided students to win numerous local and international piano competitions. Her dedication to leadership in the arts is evident in her roles as Past President of the LVMTA, current President-Elect of the Nevada Music Teachers Association (NMTA), and her position as chair of the National Guild of Piano Teachers auditions in Southern Nevada.

Strings



For nearly four decades, cellist Christopher Costanza has enjoyed a varied and exciting career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. A winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions and a recipient of a prestigious Solo Recitalists Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Mr. Costanza has performed to wide critical acclaim throughout the U.S., Canada, South America, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, and Europe. "Mr. Costanza demonstrated an unaffected, graceful approach to phrasing, a rugged, fearless technique, and, when necessary, an energetic headlong approach," proclaimed the *New York Times*. And, from the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, praise for a recent performance of Bach's Unaccompanied Suites: "Costanza revealed himself to be a thoughtful interpreter as well as a technician of no small skill. Tempos were brisk but never rushed, and dynamics were carefully measured. In the Courante, Costanza demonstrated a nice continuity of bowing, while the Sarabande became in his hands an introspective but eloquent song. He used the lightest of touches in the subsequent Minuets and brought an infectious rhythmic impulse to the concluding Gigue." Mr. Costanza, a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, actively toured as the cellist of the St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ) from 2003-2023, performing over one hundred concerts annually throughout North America and in Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, and New Zealand. Beginning with the 2023-2024 concert season, Mr. Costanza began to refocus his performance activities on solo performances and varied chamber music collaborations, including cycles of the complete Bach Unaccompanied Cello Suites at the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, at Stanford University, and other locations; the complete Britten Cello Suites presented as a cycle; a collaboration with the Stanford Chamber Chorale on tour in Hawaii; solo and chamber music performances at multiple California Bay Area venues; and a concerto tour of France with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Costanza recently has embraced additional opportunities to express his musical passions, through pre-concert lectures, informal concert/lecture presentations, and program note writing. Mr. Costanza is a full-time Artist in Residence at Stanford University, where he teaches cello and chamber music, serves as the Associate Director of Music for the Stanford Medical Humanities and Arts program, and performs concerts and gives lectures across campus. A strong proponent of contemporary music, Mr. Costanza has worked extensively with the world's most notable composers, such as John Adams, Jonathan Berger, Osvaldo Golijov, Mark Applebaum, Pierre Boulez, Roberto Sierra, R. Murray Schafer, William Bolcom, and John Corigliano. As a student, he had the honor of studying Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time under the guidance of the composer. Mr. Costanza's discography includes chamber music and solo recordings on the Nonesuch, EMI/Angel, Naxos, Innova, Albany, and Summit labels. In 2006, he received a Grammy nomination for his recording of chamber works for winds and strings by Mozart. In 2012, Mr. Costanza recorded the Six Suites for Solo Cello by J.S. Bach at the beautiful Banff Centre in Canada; those recordings, along with his extensive commentary, are available for streaming on costanzacello.com. In August 2019, the SLSQ released its recording of all six Op. 20 String Quartets of Haydn, and in the summer of 2023, the new recording label Phenotypic released the final two SLSQ recordings: two of the Op. 76 quartets by Haydn, and the Korngold Piano Quintet with pianist Stephen Prutsman. Mr. Costanza is frequently heard on radio broadcasts worldwide, including the CBC in Canada, NPR in the United States, and on various European broadcasting networks. He is privileged to perform on an early 18th-century Venetian cello, part of the Harry R. Lange Collection of Musical Instruments and Bows at Stanford. In addition to his varied musical interests, Mr. Costanza is an avid runner and hiker. A train enthusiast, he enjoys riding and exploring the passenger railways of the world. He is fascinated by architecture and seeks out innovative architectural offerings in his travels. At home in California, he is passionate about cooking, focusing his attention on new and creative dishes that take advantage of the abundance of remarkable organic local produce.



Jacquelyn Schwandt enjoys a varied career as a teacher, chamber musician, orchestral musician and recitalist. She currently serves as Professor of Viola at Northern Arizona University, Associate Director of the Kitt School of Music at NAU, Principal Viola with the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra, and on the string faculty of the NAU Curry Summer Music Camp. She has taught at music camps and master classes both domestically and abroad, including the Black Hills String Retreat, Arizona Suzuki Institutes, the Arizona Chamber Music Experience, the Chaparral Chamber Music Workshop, and completed recital tours to Taiwan and Spain. She has been a featured soloist with several orchestras including the Flagstaff Symphony, the Newport Symphony in Oregon, and the Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra in Denver, Colorado, where the Denver Post praised her "smooth, warm tone." Dr. Schwandt holds degrees from the University of Oregon (DMA), Wichita State University (MM), and Southern Methodist University (BM).

The Ukrainian-born, American conductor Taras Krysa is establishing a reputation for innovative and thoughtful music-making throughout the United States and Europe. In addition to serving as the Director of Orchestras at UNLV, Mr. Krysa serves as the Music Director of Las Vegas Sinfonietta and just finished his tenure as the Music Director of Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra. Taras Krysa guest conducted orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, New World Symphony, Netherlands Symphony Orchestra, St. Petersburg Symphony, Moscow Soloists, Slovak Sinfonietta, Spoleto Festival USA Chamber Orchestra, Kiev Chamber Orchestra, the Lublin Philharmonic Orchestra, Las Vegas Philharmonic and many others. In addition, Mr. Krysa led the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra and the Slovak Sinfonietta Chamber Orchestra on several European and Asian tours. Mr. Krysa recently concluded his ninth season as the Artistic and Music Director of the Henderson Symphony Orchestra in Nevada. Under his leadership, the ensemble has seen its audience expand tenfold and its concerts recognized as a treasured part of the cultural life of the greater Las Vegas community. Mr. Krysa actively promotes new music and has made three critically acclaimed recordings for the Brilliant Classics label. An accomplished violinist, Taras Krysa was a member of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the New World Symphony Orchestra and continues to maintain an active career performing chamber music. Taras Krysa was born in Kiev into a dynasty of professional musicians. His father, Oleh Krysa, is a prominent concert violinist. His mother, Tatiana Tchekina, was a concert pianist, and his grandfather, Pavel Tchekin, was a tenor at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. Mr. Krysa attended the Gnesin School of Music in Moscow before emigrating with his family to the United States in 1989 where he continued his studies in conducting and violin at Indiana University and Northwestern University with Victor Yampolsky, Sylvya Rosenberg and Nelli Shkolnikova. Mr. Krysa was recipient of fellowship the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen Music Festival, where he studied with Jorma Panula and David Zinman.

Woodwinds



Helen Goode-Castro has performed regularly with many symphony orchestras throughout Southern California and Europe. Notably the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Pacific Symphony, Pasadena Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, Long Beach Opera, The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and Santa Barbara Symphony. She is a member of the California Philharmonic Orchestra. While in Europe, Ms. Goode-Castro performed with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and The Sud-Bayerische Philharmonie. As a soloist she recorded the *Tone Poem for Clarinet* by Charles Fernandez with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London. She performed *Brooklyn Bridge* by Michael Daugherty with the Vanderbilt Wind Symphony and again with the Los Angeles Winds in Austria. She performed *Black Dog* by Scott McAllister with the BCCM Wind Symphony on tour in Seoul, South Korea. She also performed, *Concerto #2* by Oscar Navarro with the BCCM Wind

Symphony on their UK tour. As an active studio musician, she has performed on many film and tv productions. Most recently she performed on the hit series, *Only Murders in The Building*. Ms. Goode-Castro holds degrees in performance from the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, The Royal College of Music, London and an MFA from UCLA where she studied with Gary Gray. She began studies on a DMA at the University of Southern California and her teachers there included Yehuda Gilad, Michele Zukovsky and David Howard. In addition to performing, Ms. Goode-Castro is an active educator. She is currently on the woodwind faculty at the BCCM. She is very proud of her students and their many accomplishments.

April Clayton's performances have taken her around the world. She has been Flute Faculty at the Orpheus Academy in Vienna, the Varna International Music Academy, the Utah Symphony's Haitian Orchestra Institute, the Seminários Internacionais de Musica at the Federal University of Bahia in Brazil, Principal Flute for the Holder's Season Festival Orchestra in Barbados, and chamber musician at the Wells Cathedral Concert Series, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and Aberystwyth Music Festival. From 2006-2018, she taught and performed in Paris alongside members of the faculty of Juilliard, the Paris Conservatory and Ecole Normale de Musique, and other elite schools through the European American Musical Alliance Summer Program and Da Capo Paris Flute Program. She has additionally performed in London, Birmingham, Zurich, Riva del Garda, Granada, Leipzig, Moscow, Vancouver, Puebla, Reykjavik, New York City, throughout South Korea and the United States. For 22 years, Dr. Clayton was Professor of Flute at Brigham Young University, where she received tenure at age 31. In 2010, she was the recipient of the coveted Brigham Young University Young Faculty Award. This made her one of only two music faculty members to have received this honor in its decades-long history. Ms. Clayton is a Burkart Flutes Artist and member of American Mensa. Accolades for Ms. Clayton's solo performances from the New York Concert Review, Fanfare, American Record Guide, and Flute Talk magazine describe her playing as "stunning," "dazzling," "impeccable," "[played] with total conviction," "outstanding," "thoroughly polished," "beguiling," "superb," "elegant," and "delectable." She was featured in a 2009 cover story by Flute Talk magazine as a leading flutist of her generation. Ms. Clayton presented her 2003 debut solo recital in New York's Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as a winner of the Artists' International Competition. Numerous National Flute Association performances have included a "Saturday Headliners Concert" and a "Generation X All-Stars" recital with five of her top peers. She has been concerto soloist with several orchestras in Utah, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and Colorado. She has recorded solo, chamber, and orchestral works on many record labels including Bridge, Crystal, Urtext Digital Classics, and Tantara. A dedicated performer of new music, Ms. Clayton has participated in numerous world premieres and collaborated with a long list of composers. Ms. Clayton received a Full Fellowship to the Aspen Music Festival as flutist with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble. She has performed in the Summergarten Concert Series at the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan, as well as Lincoln Center's Focus! Festival for New Music. She received two "Best Performance" awards for her renditions of newly-commissioned solos from the National Flute Association. She also performs her own compositions for flute. Ms. Clayton was a National Merit Scholar at Oberlin College and Conservatory, studying flute performance and mathematics. At The Juilliard School, she was a Starr Doctoral Fellow and the youngest student to have been admitted to the D.M.A. program.



Coreen Levin is an active freelance musician and maintains a private teaching studio. Her students have gone on to become university professors, military musicians, public school music teachers, and private instructors. Ms. Levin holds the English horn and second oboe position with Symphony of the Redwoods in Ft. Bragg, CA. She also is regularly called in to substitute with Santa Cruz Symphony, Monterey Symphony, and the Las Vegas Philharmonic. She served on active duty for twenty-four years as an oboist in the United States Air Force band career field. Prior to joining the U.S. Air Force, Ms. Levin held the solo English horn position with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra in Pennsylvania. She also toured with the Mantovani Orchestra throughout the U.S., Canada, Japan, and South Korea. Ms. Levin has been a member of the American Federation of Musicians since 1987. Ms. Levin earned a



Bachelor of Music degree in oboe performance from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She also holds a Master of Music degree and a Professional Studies Certificate from the Esther Boyer College of Music, Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She served as adjunct faculty at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. In addition to her oboe and English horn career, Ms. Levin is the piano technician for College of Southern Nevada.

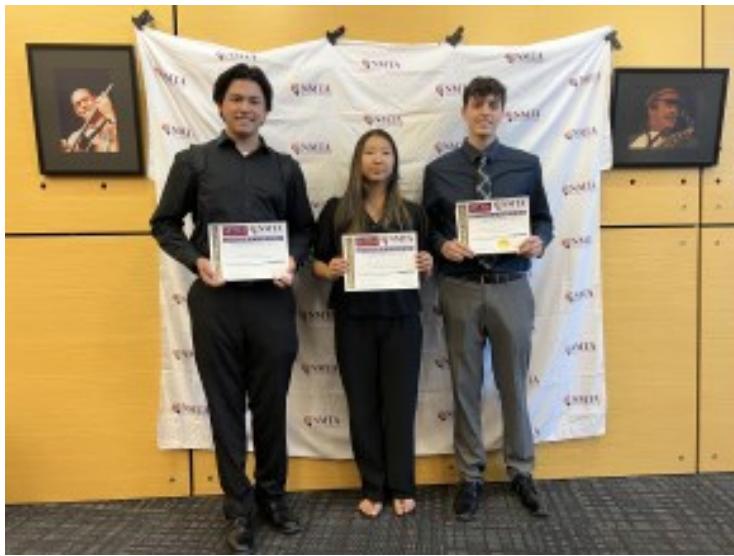


Composition

Takuma Itoh is a composer whose work bridges music, community, and the environment. Recently, Itoh has been instrumental in creating a trilogy of innovative education programs in Hawai‘i: Symphony of the Hawaiian Birds (2018), the Symphony of the Hawai‘i Forests (2023), and the Symphony of the Hawai‘i Seas (2025) which have brought tens of thousands of young students to experience new orchestral compositions with animations to raise awareness of Hawai‘i’s unique ecosystems and our connection to its lands and seas. Itoh is the 2024 Kaulunani Artist in Residence, developing an Arbor Day 2025 performance using reclaimed and salvaged woods as instruments that honor the trees of Honolulu. Other recent highlights include American Postcards: Picture Brides (Hawai‘i 1908–1924), which used photographs collected by historian Barbara Kawakami to tell the story of the first Japanese women immigrants to Hawai‘i; Wave-lengths for Hub New Music; Faded Aura for Hub New Music and shakuhachi player Kojiro Umezaki, performed throughout Japan on tour with the Asia American New Music Institute and more recently by the South Bend Symphony Orchestra; and Koholā Sings, a harp solo written for Yolanda Kondonassis and later expanded into a harp concerto performed with the Blue Water Chamber Orchestra in Cleveland. Itoh has been the recipient of the New Music USA Creator Fund, Barlow Endowment General Commission, Music Alive: New Partnerships grant with the Tucson Symphony, the Chamber Music America Classical Commission, the ASCAP/CBDNA Frederick Fennell Prize, six ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards, and the Leo Kaplan Award. Itoh is Professor of Music at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa where he has taught since 2012. He holds degrees from Cornell University, University of Michigan, and Rice University.

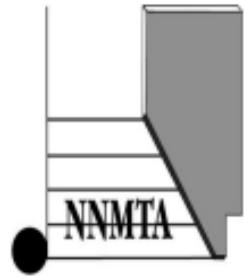
Photos from MTNA Competition 2025







LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES



Dear Colleagues,

Time truly flies; it is hard to believe it is already December! As the year closes, here is a summary of our recent events and accomplishments:

September

We kicked off the academic year with our first student recital. Sonnet Johnson's students presented another outstanding concert.

October

The highlight of the month was our annual Halloween recital. Due to the high number of performers, we hosted two separate concerts! As organizer Amy Jahn noted on Facebook, we had a great turnout for the annual Halloween Costume Recitals this past Saturday. Everyone had fun, and the students played well!

November

- Continuing Education: Following tradition, on November 7th, NNMTA held a Continuing Education session with Dr. Brandon Bascom from Fresno, California. He presented a must-attend session on "Practice Preparation for Polished Performances: What Every Student Needs to Know Before the Adjudication." Teachers with students in competitions or evaluations were encouraged to attend. Thank you, Sonnet Johnson, for organizing this event.

- Silver State Competition: Our Silver State Chair, Theresa Schmauder, led another successful event with more than 80 students participating. Thanks to the volunteer efforts and delicious food contributions from our members, the day of intense performance seemed to pass quickly.

We also extend our gratitude to Lamis Pritchard, the owner of the Steinway Piano Gallery, for providing coffee and fruit.

Upcoming: Annual Play-A-Thon Fundraiser

Our annual fundraiser, the Play-A-Thon, will be held at the Reno Public Market from December 12th to 14th. Although we will not be permitted to return to this venue next year, we are optimistic that the next location will continue our success. Highlights of this year's endeavor include the registry of raffle items on Amazon. Thanks to our Membership Chair, Elaine Courtney, for helping organize this year's event.

From all of us in Northern Nevada, we wish you a safe and merry holiday season!

Sincerely,

Sally



Local Chapter Updates

Dear LVMTA members,

Thank you very much to all the judges and chairs for the Silver State Competition. All of the participants and performers were wonderful and made the event successful and great. On behalf of LVMTA, we wish you all Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Cheers,

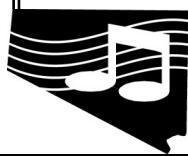
Julian Lam



Merry Christmas!

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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Dr. Spencer Baker, Las Vegas

Spencerbaker.piano@gmail.com

President-Elect

Damaris Morales

Damaris@damarismorales.com

Immediate Past President

Marie Lee, Henderson

Marielee.42ml@gmail.com

1st VP/Membership &
MTNA Foundation:

Allison Olson, Las Vegas

olsonfamily5k@cox.net

Secretary

Emma Pease-Byron, Las Vegas

emma.peasebyron@gmail.com

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David Skouson, Las Vegas

skouson@cox.net

Silver State Chair

Michelle Lee, Las Vegas

michellelee1@hotmail.com

String Chair

Gregory Maldonado, Las Vegas

maldogm@nv.ccsd.net

Piano Chair

Cindy Lee, Las Vegas

klavierjh@gmail.com

Competition Chair

Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye, Henderson

bonnietanouye@gmail.com

Competition Co-chair

Cindy Lee, Las Vegas

Klavierjh@gmail.com

Certification Chair:

Laurie Swain, Las Vegas

ispiano@cox.net

LVMTA President:

Julian.Lam

UNLVMTA President

Zhenyu Yang, Las Vegas

zhenyuyang94@gmail.com

NNMTA President:

Dr. Sally Wei

drsallywei@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:

Karen Sampson Hudson, Reno

karena.hudson@gmail.com

Hospitality Chair

Cheryl Thornton, Las Vegas

cherylthorntonstudio@gmail.com