



# NEVADA Notes

Volume 10 Issue 3

## From the President . . .

### UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

#### Nevada Convention 2009

November 6-8, 2009  
Las Vegas, Nevada

More information to come.



Mary Straub  
State President

I hope this message finds everyone teaching a full schedule in spite of the economic struggles facing our entire nation. In difficult times such as these membership in MTNA is truly put to the test. When your teaching studio can offer the many extended programs to their students that our local as well as state MTNA organizations have to offer, those parents are going to think twice before "cutting" the household budget by stopping music lessons. Consider that MTNA membership provides monthly recitals, musicianship exams, Junior Festival, Jazz, Play-a Thons, as well as our Bolognini and Silverstate Competitions. The students who come to you for private lessons once a week can also participate in a special event every month if they so choose because you are part of a "thriving" music organization. With all the budget cuts in education, music programs in the schools are sure to suffer.

Those of us in the private sector need to take up that "slack" and MTNA is there to help all of us keep music education a vital part of the lives of our children.

I regret that I am not able to attend the Atlanta Conference because I am the Suzuki Program Director for the Nevada School of the Arts and our annual awards recital is that weekend. I am very pleased that we will be duly represented at the convention by Doris Chase and Mallie Reicken. Thank you ladies !!

Our 2009 State Convention will be in Reno at UNR on November 6,7, &8. We are in the planning stages and would like any recommendations for clinicians and as well as membership volunteers for sessions. We would like your recommendations for judges as well. The board met Febr 20<sup>th</sup> via phone conference (our next meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup>) and discussion was centered on keeping expenses to a minimum for this convention. All feedback from the membership on all the above convention details would greatly be appreciated. Please email me at [mary-straub@gmail.com](mailto:mary-straub@gmail.com) with conference suggestions as well as suggestions that would help our organization better serve its membership in any way. Let us know what special events are going on in your studio, we would love to share these with the membership.

In closing, I would like to congratulate three Nevada students that will represent us at the National Convention in Atlanta, Nikita Haduong, Jr. Strings, student of WeiWei Le and Darrin Endy and Sherry Kim, Sr. Duo Piano, students of Jie Bu. Best of luck to these teachers and students. Most of all I think we need to congratulate ourselves as being a part of an organization that sets a high standard of Excellency in music education for our youth who will become the citizens of "tomorrow" !!

**The Newsletter Is Going Online!**  
NMTA is joining our local chapters in moving to an online state newsletter, effective next issue. We know that some of you still like to receive the paper copy of the newsletter. If so, please email your request by April 30th to Pierce Emata at [pierce@emata.com](mailto:pierce@emata.com), or call 702-443-2327.

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Nevada Notes is circulated three times a year to all current NMTA members.  
Subscription is included in NMTA membership.  
Newsletter items should be sent to Angela McBride.



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## NEWS From National

**With all of our incredibly busy professional and personal lives, we often don't have the time to search the National MTNA website to see all of the new ways that our membership can provide value to us. Here are some recent as well as ongoing developments and tools that assist us in our teaching practices.**

## You Can Now Accept Credit Card Tuition Payments! MTNA Partners With NOVA Information Systems

MTNA has partnered with Nova Information Systems to make it easier for members to accept credit card payments in their studios. This optional program available to MTNA members, offers reduced application and nominal maintenance fees. A member can opt to establish an account to accept Visa and MasterCard, with an option for American Express and Discover.

Process all card types:

- 616-2211
  - Wide range of terminals
  - Online reporting
- Electronic Gift Cards expand your market, increase revenue
- and build customer loyalty with electronic efficiency
- NOVA is 100 percent responsible for front-end authorizations, back-end settlement and all customer support functions. NOVA provides one source for all payment processing needs.
- 24/7 customer support

Online service available via [www.MerchantConnect.com](http://www.MerchantConnect.com)  
Accepting credit cards allows studio owners ways to cut operating costs and improve efficiency, as they reduce the time and paperwork involved in deposits, collections, reconciliation and reporting. It also makes receiving payments faster, thus reducing delinquent payments, minimizing fraud and optimizing customer service.

To learn more about MTNA's partnership with NOVA and its services, call (800) 546-1831 or e-mail [merchantinquiry@novainfo.com](mailto:merchantinquiry@novainfo.com). Be sure to mention **MTNA promotion code 82039**.

## **NEWS From National (continued)**

### **You Can Obtain Health and Professional Insurance through MTNA!**

**In these challenging times, one significant concern that many independent teachers have is obtaining affordable health as well as professional insurance. In 2007, MTNA National was accepted into the Trust for Insuring Educators, a large organization to assist the educational community with our unique insurance needs.**

Through the Trust for Insuring Educators (TIE) and Forest T. Jones & Company, MTNA is now offering comprehensive health care insurance along with a variety of other new insurance products for members. TIE is an organization established to bring together educational associations to secure competitive insurance plans and rates.

In addition to comprehensive health care, the following programs are available to MTNA members:

- Professional Liability
- Private Practice Professional Liability
- Group Term Life
- 10-Year Level Group Term Life
- Group Disability Income Protection
- Group Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- Identity Theft Protection
- Personal Auto
- Long Term Care Insurance Evaluation Service

Also the trust provides association insurance services, including:

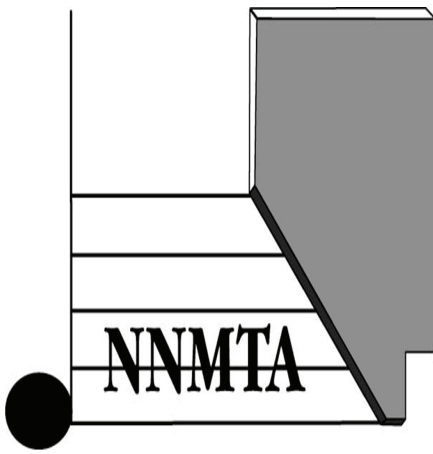
- Association Professional Liability
- Directors and Officers Liability
- Property/Casualty Coverage
- Convention Interruption Insurance

To find out more about the coverage available to MTNA members, visit [www.ftj.com](http://www.ftj.com) or contact the insurance administrators, Forrest T. Jones and Company at (800) 821-7303.

Availability of insurance varies from state to state.

### **General Liability Insurance for State and Local Chapters**

MTNA is pleased to offer general liability insurance coverage for every MTNA-affiliated state and local association. Every state and local association is covered under this policy for an unlimited number of events at no cost to any individual association. MTNA has agreed to pay the cost of this premium. For more information, visit [mtna.org](http://mtna.org)



# NNMTA Update

*Chad Twedt, NNMTA  
President*



Hello from up north! It has been a productive few months. Beginning with the fi-

nanacial report, UNR has billed us for the March festival at UNR last year as well as the MusikFest in November 2007, so that leaves us with \$5,299.83 in the checking account. Our other two savings accounts have \$1,459.38 and \$1,893.63.

The Special Events and Promotion Chair that I created at the end of last year has been filled. Thank you to Kathryn Mickey and Margarita Bryant for co-chairing this position. I created the position with the philosophy that any amount of promotion of our events is better than none at all. They will be focusing on promoting any events which are of public interest, such as student command performances, convention recitals, master classes, and teacher recitals. They will also act as organizers and coordinators for events such as master classes, workshops and recitals.

Christine Barden, our Membership Chair, has been fulfilling her position's newly-defined duties of recruitment and mentorship of new teachers very well – we already have a new member resulting from her efforts! Way to go Christine!

Our two festivals this year are approaching. Lower levels go in May, and Upper levels are coming up in March. This switch was made because May is the worst month of the entire year for high school students to have their "big" performance each year since that is also when AP exams take place, projects are due, and final exams approach. The NNMTA brainstormed and discussed extensively any possible factors that might render this date switching more damaging than relieving, and we concluded the only way to really know with any amount of certainty was to try it. We knew going into it that we would have less participation since upper level students would only have 10 months to pre-

pare instead of 12. It's starting to look like it will be about 60% participation compared to previous years. The upper festival has already run "in the red" every year since judge and trophy costs always outweigh student registration fees, so we're in for quite a cost this year. Fortunately, this will offset by the fact that the upper level festival did not even take place last year since nobody was available to run it – we will be no worse off than if we had run a "normal" upper festival both years.

The NNMTA is now utilizing Yahoo Groups to facilitate communication between members and sharing of documents. It is working out beautifully. Members communicate with each other instantly by sending e-mail to [nnmta@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nnmta@yahoogroups.com). PDF files can be uploaded to the files section, and an e-mail is automatically sent to the entire group with a convenient download link. Calendar dates can be set up with up to 2 reminders to automatically be sent to members, reminding them of registration deadlines, recitals, and other important dates as they approach. We also are using Yahoo Groups for the NNMTA Board ([nnmtaboard@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nnmtaboard@yahoogroups.com)). We have already utilized the polling feature to take votes on motions. Once a poll is concluded, the results are automatically e-mailed to the entire group.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chad Twedt, NNMTA President

## **NMTA Board Vacancy**

**We currently have a vacancy on the state board for the office of President-elect. This role is a fantastic opportunity to contribute and make a difference in our organization for both the short term and long term. Anyone interested may contact any NMTA board member, listed on Page 2 of this newsletter.**



## LVMTA Update

*Cheryl Thornton LVMTA President*

Since the last Nevada Music Teachers' Board meeting, LVMTA has seen some very good times and some sorrows, as well. Our annual Play-A-Thons held at the Galleria Mall and the Forum Shops at Caesar's Palace were both very successful events in December. The donations were considerable giving us the opportunity to contribute to the Blind Center for a piano tuning course for their members. In addition, we were able to donate money to our Vice-President of Membership, Mona Alcalá in the loss of her home due to a fire the week before Christmas. The LVMTA members came to Mona's rescue donating furniture, clothing, food, bedding, kitchen supplies, teaching supplies, pianos, toilet articles and music. I am truly grateful to be a member of an organization that continues to show an outpouring of love and compassion when one of its own is down. Thank you everyone! Mona is doing great!

Another sad note: we learned that long-time, very active member, Carol Trump passed away in December. Following her in death was Bob Riley of Family Music who passed away in January 2009. Bob worked tirelessly for LVMTA right up to the end as he had the pianos delivered to the malls for our Play-A-Thons the week before his last surgery. We are all grieving at the loss of our dear friends. Our condolences go out to their families and friends.

On January 24th, we held the Jazz Festival at UNLV. Yvonne Cloutier chaired the event, a new venue, assisted by Michele Johnson. This was an adjudicated event held at the Doc Rando Auditorium. Fifty-seven students performed solos, duets and one trio. The playing and singing was very high calibre with some students wearing costumes. It was fun, entertaining and very professional. The pieces were well-rehearsed and most memorized. Yvonne decorated posters in Mardi Gras colors with jazz themes. Thank you Yvonne and Michele. I expect this event to really grow.

In February, Mykola Suk from UNLV hosted another Piano Forum which was well-attended. Many stu-

dents participated who were readying for the Bolognini Competition. The Bolognini Competition was held February 13-15th at UNLV and was again very successful with many outstanding performances. Thanks to Hanah Shields who chaired this event. Her diligence and hard work made not only the competition, but the Winner's Recitals and Silent Auction go without a hitch. Thanks to all who donated items for the Silent Auction and who helped in the various capacities.

Pianist Nelita True will be in town during the week of April 13-15 to lecture at UNLV. We are looking forward to her lecture and master class with possibly several Bolognini Competition winners. The LVMTA Board has decided to investigate further a joint program with UNLV, a Chopin bicentennial celebration, in January or April 2010. Ophra Yerushalmi will present a lecture and a film she produced on Chopin.

Our upcoming events are NFMC Junior Festival-March 14th, the Musicianship Theory Exam-April 18th, and the Musicianship Technique and Repertoire Exam on May 2nd.

I am constantly amazed at just how hard the board members work on all these events. I spoke with Elaine Donaldson at the MTNA recently. She commented that LVMTA is one of the strongest organizations in the country. Thanks to our board and all our members for making this musically sound for all our students.

### Call for Seminar Presenters

**Do you have a great teaching idea you could share with our state's teachers during the Nevada State Convention in Reno in November?**

**Please submit a couple of paragraphs describing your seminar to Pierce Emata at [pierce@emata.com](mailto:pierce@emata.com). Please include your contact information.**

**Thank you!**

# Nevada MTNA Competition Results

November 8, 2008

## COMPOSITION : JUNIOR

WINNER Andrew Chellman Reno Teacher: Christine Barden

Honorable Mention Tussah Heera Las Vegas Teacher: Jorge Grossman

## COMPOSITION: SENIOR

WINNER David Rogers Reno Teacher: Sonnet Johnson

Honorable Mention Jae Young Ahn Las Vegas Teacher: Roger Bushell

## JUNIOR PIANO participants

Entrant # 1	Eri Nishihara	Reno	Teacher: Mayu Iida
Entrant # 2	Aida Badalian	Las Vegas	Teacher: Tamara Saakyan
Entrant # 3	Tussah Heera	Las Vegas	Teacher: Roger Bushell
Entrant # 4	Sharaon Fang	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu
Entrant # 5	Artem Aleksanyan	Las Vegas	Teacher: Ekaterina Melkamini
Entrant # 6	Richard Yee	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu

WINNER: Artem Aleksanyan ALTERNATE: Aida Badalian HONORABLE MENTION: None selected

## SENIOR PIANO participants

Entrant # 1	Annabelle Nichols	Las Vegas	Teacher: Pierce Emata
Entrant # 2	Steven Kim	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu
Entrant # 3	Sherry Kim	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu
Entrant # 4	Jae Young Ahn	Sparks	Teacher: Sonnet Johnson
Entrant # 6	Brandon Kiss	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu
Entrant # 7	(cancelled)		
Entrant # 8	Sami Kishi	Las Vegas	Teacher: Pierce Emata
Entrant # 9	(cancelled)		

WINNER: Sherry Kim ALTERNATE: Joshua Infiesto HONORABLE MENTION: Jae Ahn, Brandon Kiss

## SENIOR PIANO DUET: participants

Entrant # 1	Jennie Chung/Diane Marquez	Las Vegas	Teacher: Michelle Le
Entrant # 2	Sherry Kim/Daren Endy	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu

WINNER: Sherry Kim/Daren Endy

ALTERNATE: Jennie Chung/Diane Marquez Teacher: Michelle Le

## PIANO JUDGES:

Dr. Jeffrey Shumway, Professor of Piano, Brigham Young University, UT  
 Mr. Gary Amano, Professor of Piano, Utah State University, UT  
 Dr. Loran Olsen, Professor Emeritus, Washington State University, WA

# Nevada MTNA Competition Results

November 8, 2008

## JUNIOR STRING participants

Entrant # 1	Darrin Chao	Henderson	Teacher: Mary Straub
Entrant # 2	Catherine Patton	Las Vegas	Teacher: Shakeh Ghoukasian
Entrant # 3	Hannah Galanty	Las Vegas	Teacher: Mary Straub
Entrant # 4	Caolinn Mejza H	enderson	Teacher: Shakey Ghoukasian
Entrant # 5	Derric Pang	Las Vegas	Teacher: Mary Straub
Entrant # 6	Michael Kwok	Las Vegas	Teacher: Mary Straub
Entrant # 7	Nikita Haduong	Henderson	Teacher: Wei Wei Le

WINNER: Nikita Haduong ALTERNATE: Darrin Chao Honorable Mention: Hannah Galanty

## SENIOR STRINGS participants

Entrant No. 1	Andrew Haduong	Las Vegas	Teacher: Wei Wei Le
Entrant No. 2	Matthew Tsai	Las Vegas	Teacher: Shakeh Ghoukasian
Entrant No. 3	Tammy Hung	Las Vegas	Teacher: Mary Straub
Entrant No. 4	Caitlin Stokes	Las Vegas	Teacher: Mary Straub
Entrant No. 5	Linda Duan	Las Vegas	Teacher: Rebecca Ramsey
Entrant No. 6	Shana Kim	Las Vegas	Teacher: Andrew Smith
Entrant No. 7	Jason Gee	Las Vegas	Teacher: Mary Straub
Entrant No. 8	Michael Burkhardt	Las Vegas	Teacher: Mary Straub

WINNER: Shana Kim ALTERNATE: Caitlan Stokes Honorable Mention: Andrew Haduong  
Michael Burkhardt, Linda Duan

## STRING JUDGES: Senior

Monte Belknap, Professor of Music, Brigham Young University, UT  
Julie Bevan, Professor of Music, Brigham Young University, UT  
Barbara Barber, editor and author of string methods, CO

## STRING JUDGES: Junior

Laraine Kaizer, Violinist with Las Vegas Philharmonic, NV  
Andrew Smith, Professor of Music, UNLV, NV  
Taras Krysa, Professor of Music, UNLV, NV

# Nevada MTNA Competition Results

November 8, 2008

## SENIOR VOICE participants

Entrant No 1 Eric Sepulveda

Las Vegas

Teacher: LaDonna Young

Entrant No 2 Kylee Slee

Las Vegas

Teacher: Heather Knowles Korn

WINNER : Eric Sepulveda

Teacher: LaDonna Young

ALTERNATE: Kylee Slee

Teacher: Heather Knowles Korn

**VOICE JUDGE:** Dr. Alfonse Anderson, Professor of Voice, UNLV

## Nevada Representatives to SW Division Competition

YOUNG ARTIST VOICE

Brielle Lichten

Reno

Teacher: Dr. Katharine DeBoer

**Competition Update:** by Meredyth Lewis

As the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President for this term, I will be busy learning 'the ropes' of organizing and running the NMTA State Competitions. Please read the 2009-2010 Competition Guidelines in the April/ May edition of the *American Music Teacher*. The online registration deadline will be announced in the Guidelines, as well as a few changes regarding mostly time limits and accompanist fees. **Please also note that the piano concerto requirement for the Senior and Young Artist levels has been discontinued.**

From our **SW Division Competitions Chair, Nancy Tedford**, are the results of those NV students who placed in the SW Division Competition that took place this January 9-11 in Tucson, AZ.

### Junior Strings:

Winner: Nikita Haduong / teacher: Weiwei Le

### Junior Piano:

Alternate: Artem Aleksanyan / teacher: Ekaterina Melkamini

### Senior Strings:

Honorable Mention: Shana Kim / teacher: Andrew Smith

### Senior Piano:

Alternate: Sherry Kim / teacher: Jie Bu

### Senior Piano Duet:

Winner: Sherry Kim and Daren Endy / teacher: Jie Bu

### Senior Voice:

Honorable Mention: Eric Sepulveda / teacher: LaDonna Young

### Young Artist Voice:

Alternate: Brielle Lichten / teacher: Dr. Katherine DeBoer







TO: State Presidents and all competition officials  
 FROM: Linda Stump, MTNA Director of Competitions

The following changes have been made in the competition guidelines for the 2009-2010 competition year. The Board of Directors approved these changes at their December, 2008, meeting.

Since some of the changes are quite substantial, we would like for state presidents and competition officials to pass this information along to all teachers.

**2009-2010 Competition Changes:**

1. Junior Brass competition has been discontinued.
2. **The piano concerto requirement for the Senior and Young Artist levels has been discontinued.**
3. The performance times have been modified to fit the performance requirements:
  - a. **Junior:** all students will have twenty (20) minutes of performance time.
  - b. **Senior:**  
 State level: twenty-five (25) minutes for brass, piano, piano duet, string, woodwind. Voice will have twenty (20) minutes.  
 Division/national levels: thirty (30) minutes for brass, piano, piano duet, string, woodwind. Voice will have twenty (20) minutes.
  - c. **Young Artist:**  
 State level: thirty (30) minutes for all categories.  
 Division/national levels: forty (40) minutes for brass, piano, string, woodwind.  
 Voice will have thirty-five (35) minutes.
  - d. **Chamber Music:**  
 State level: thirty (30) minutes  
 Division/national levels: forty (40) minutes
4. Accompanist fees have also been adjusted:
 

**Junior:** \$80 for forty-five (45) minutes rehearsal and performance (no change)

**Senior Instrumental:** \$150 for sixty (60) minutes rehearsal and performance  
**Senior Voice:** \$90 for forty (40) minutes rehearsal and performance

**Young Artist Instrumental:** \$175 for sixty (60) minutes rehearsal and performance  
**Young Artist Instrumental:** \$200 for ninety (90) minutes rehearsal and performance  
**Young Artist Voice:** \$175 for sixty (60) minutes rehearsal and performance

Please contact me if you have further questions.

Linda Stump, NCTM  
 MTNA Director of Competitions  
 (719) 633-4820

# Membership Update

## **Rita Schaefer, 1st Vice President, Membership and MTNA Foundation**

We just welcomed 17 new members who joined our association between 12/08 and 02/09.

As of Feb.20<sup>th</sup> of 2009 we have a total of 195 current members including 9 new members, who I'll personally contact, welcome and write member spotlights for our next local and state newsletter.

This month of February I've been in good working contact with a couple of UNLV teachers who will join us shortly.

One of the November 2008 items was to have our Association's Posters for public events. It was discussed with local treasurer Michelle Johnson, she confirmed covering the expense. Posters will be ready mid March.

I extend my appreciation to Cheryl Thornton and Angela McBride filling in on membership responsibilities for our friend and colleague Mona Alcalá during her recent hardship event. I also want to take an opportunity to say that I stood in amazement and was profoundly empowered to see the manner in which Mona's event brought us together in our love and support to her as well as Mona's and her family's strength and optimism during their recovery.

My special thanks to Leslie Bishop and Christine Barden who **have** and **are** willing to spend their time on helping me work on membership in our state.

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## Did You Know?

### **MTNA Discussion Boards Now Online!**

The MTNA discussion boards are an important way of cultivating ideas among members. Want to participate? Here's how:

1. Sign up (click login below and then the register button) or log in
  2. You should always sign in before visiting the discussion boards. When you first come to the MTNA site, login and you then you can participate in any discussions.
  3. Post or reply! Then check back to see what others think.
  4. To learn more and participate, visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org), then click on the Programs link then Forums.
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# NMTA

NEVADA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association*

## Upcoming Events

November 7-9, 2008

State Convention (Las Vegas, NV)

March 28-April 1, 2009

MTNA Conference  
Atlanta, Georgia



NMTA Newsletter  
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- President's Message
- NNMTA, LVMTA Updates

### Inside this Issue:

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