



NEVADA Notes

Upcoming Events

MTNA Competition, Oct. 26

Silver State Competition, Nov. 1-3

Note from the editor: This news-
letter goes out as pdf, which can **be
enlarged** for easier viewing. **There
are many photos in this edition,
which can be enlarged on the pdf
file if you wish.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- President’s Message.....1
- Past President’s Message.....2
- Photos of Conference.....3-7
- NMTA Conference.....7
- MTNA Competition.....8
- Day of Service.....9
- MusicLink.....10
- BIO of New Member.....11
- News from the North.....12
- Silver State Info.....12
- Short List of Board Members.....13
- ADDENDUM: Full list of Board

From Our Incoming President, Dr. Spencer Baker

Happy “Bach to School”, NMTA Teachers! NMTA held its State Conference at UNLV August 23-24th. We were excited to combine this with LVMTA’s Opening Social and host NNMTA members as well as our Southwest Division President, Cassandra Weleck.

This year, members and students presented a wonderful Baroque recital with an awards reception Friday evening. The conference sessions commenced on Saturday, with several outstanding presenters, collegiate lecture-recitals, keynote sessions, and a new collaborative coaching event.

This has been an eventful Summer. I am returning from my twelfth season in Italy with a music festival I perform there and work with an opera program where I serve on the faculty. Many of our teachers had students abroad in summer programs and hosted festivals and music camps here locally and nationally as well. Both students and teachers benefit immensely from these annual retreats and enjoy a lot of artistic rejuvenation for the upcoming season and school year.

Our NMTA board still met regularly over the Summer, working on the conference, and planning for a new fiscal year and budget. We are looking forward with anticipation to all the Fall events, competition, Silver State, and all the opportunities a new academic year brings.

At the State level, we are happy to announce two new board positions:

Chair of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Dr. Alexandria Le

Community Outreach Chair: Marie Lee, NMTA immediate past-President

We are working to bring more professional development opportunities to our teachers and support our leadership in attending conferences and summits, growing collegiate chapter membership, and have a goal of making our future sustainable with new membership and financial prudence and accountability.

From the NMTA board, we wish you all a healthy, successful year that is filled with friendship, collegiality, and musical growth!

NMTA State Conference Report

56th Annual Nevada Music Teachers Conference

Firstly, I want to take a moment to express my joy at the overwhelming response and participation we had at our “Bach to School” State NMTA Conference this past weekend. It was so inspiring to connect with so many of you, enjoy all the conversation with colleagues, meet our students and new members, and reconnect after all of our summer adventures.

Secondly, I would be remiss if I didn’t thank our conference committee and volunteers. They have all worked tirelessly to bring you an outstanding event, filled with exceptional content, enthusiastic presenters, exciting recitals, and generous hospitality.

We had a wonderful weekend and commenced our school year with positive energy, renewed enthusiasm, and a great exchange of ideas and information. The music, and friendship began with a lovely reception hosted for the LVMTA opening social. The general elections brought an outstanding slate of officers for the 2024-2026 State board. This is a such an incredible organization, because of all of you!

A highlight was the Baroque recital for our conference opening and reception. In my estimation, this was one of the best attended performances for NMTA to date. Bravo to all the performers and teachers who helped make this a huge success. I hope you take some time to view the photo collage and see what a fun evening it was.

A full day of sessions, presenters, masterclasses, lunch, NED notes, activities and collegiate lecture-recitals encompassed Saturday’s conference schedule. This was a first for the accompanying and ensemble event and we hope to keep building this in our events and studios throughout the year. Held in three buildings on the UNLV Campus, over two days, NMTA offered some of our most comprehensive programming and content ever!

What a great kickoff to the 2024-2025 academic year and welcome to our 2024-2026 NMTA State board. Thank you to all who labored so diligently. Everyone attending was thrilled to be there, connect, and enjoy this wonderful membership opportunity for professional development. Our music education community is rich with diverse perspectives, expertise and no shortage of passion. Thank you for your dedication to our craft and willingness to share it with our students and community.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Spencer Baker
Conference Committee Chair



When Winston Churchill became prime minister of Great Britain in May 1940, amid the storm and fury of the Second World War, he declared:

You ask, what is our policy?

I can say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny. That is our policy.

You ask, what is our aim?

I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be.

Our organization's stakes may not be at the level the world faced in Winston Churchill's times. Yet, I believe we at NMTA face our own, key challenges. Like Winston Churchill, we can state our policy and aim with similar clarity and purpose.

You ask what is our policy?

I can say: It is to engage the public, sustain the profession, and inspire the member.

It is to keep the value of music in the front of public consciousness, to enable the necessary frameworks to allow music to advance, and to personalize within each of us, the transcendent catalyst that is music.

A blue rectangular graphic with three white bullet points. The text of the bullet points is: 'Engage the Public', 'Sustain the Profession', and 'Inspire the Member'. In the bottom right corner of the graphic is the circular logo of the National Music Teachers Association (NMTA). The logo features a lyre and the text 'NATIONAL MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION'.

You ask, what is our aim?

I can answer with the feel-good mantra of making beautiful music together.

Yes, I know this sounds like a cheesy, musical pickup line. Yet, I believe it.

I love music because there's U and I in it.



As a new teacher in my 20s, I joined NMTA, excited for my students to participate in their first festival. Unfortunately, there was a very difficult issue with my local association and I left. If an organization treated their students and teachers this way, then that wasn't an organization I wanted to be a part of. Eighteen years later, I was coaxed back into joining by our dear friend, Becky Gamett, who said, "Come back. NMTA has changed."

She was right. NMTA had changed and continues to change for the better.

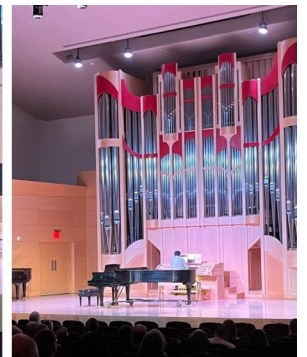
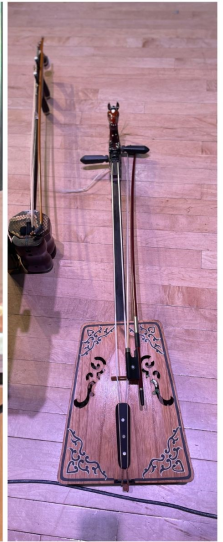
Thank you, teachers, for leading that change in your studios, your communities, and in the great state of Nevada.

With appreciation,

Marie Lee, NMTA immediate past president

PHOTOS FROM OUR RECENT NMTA CONFERENCE

Contributed by our new VP of Social Media, Tanya Hambourg





SCHEDULE

Friday, 8.23.24
6:30 PM
 Opening Social and Baroque Recital
 Reception and awards

Saturday, 8.24.24
9:30AM
 Registration, Continental Breakfast

10:00AM
 Conference Welcome: Kassandra Weleck,
 Southwest Division Director

10:30AM
 Collaboration Ensemble Event for multi-instrument
 students and teachers: Emma Pease-Byron
 Parental Guidance Suggested: Shelle Soelberg
 Technology for Teachers: David Skousen

11:30AM
 Baroque Instrument Petting Zoo: Dr. Jonathan Rhoc

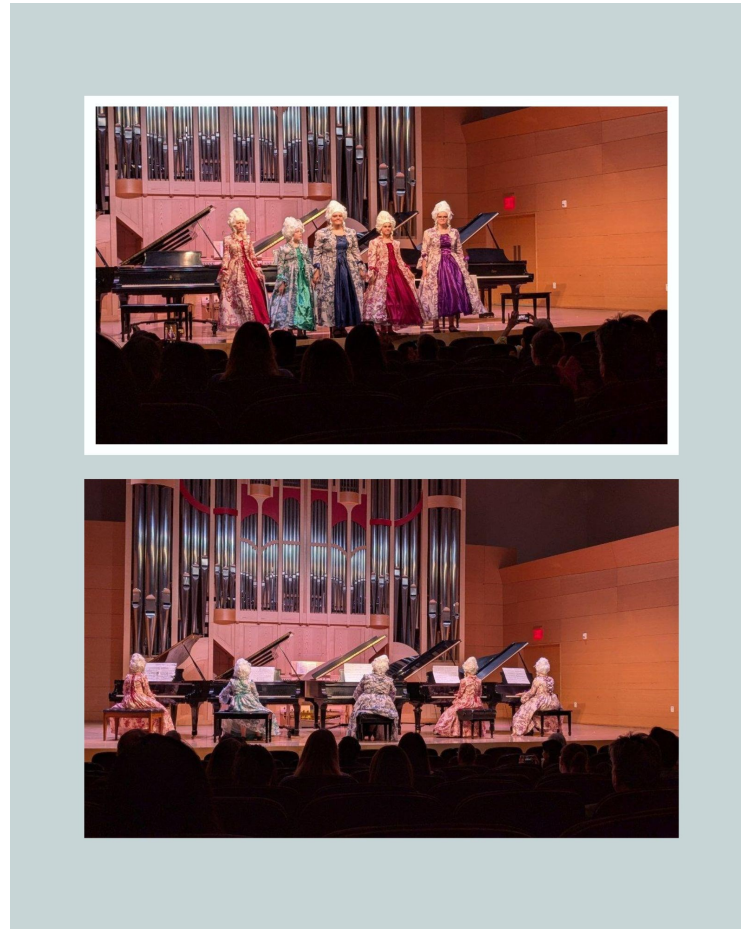
12:00PM
 Lunch and NED Notes

1:00PM
 Using Bach to improve Sight Reading: Dr. Timothy

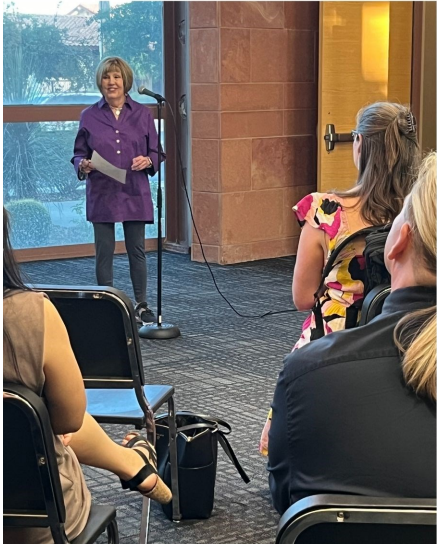
2:00PM
 Cross-Cultural Journey through Authentic Chinese
 Instruments: Mr. Hong Wang

3:00PM
 Extended Piano Techniques: Adea Badivuku
 Eight Memories in Watercolor, Yan Dun: Zhenyu Ya

4:00PM
 Fond Farewells









Adea Badivuku, President of the UNR MTNA, was one of the guest artists at the 2024 NMTA Conference at UNLV, where she presented her lecture recital and research on Piano Extended Techniques, participated in a poster session on Music Entrepreneurship, and took part in chamber ensemble coaching sessions.

music teachers national association

TEMPO

a virtual conference

april 25–26, 2025

mark your calendars

Masterclasses with MTNA Competition out-of-state judges

Saturday, October 26 at UNLV

Woodwinds 12:30pm

Strings 1:30pm

Piano 3:00pm

These will be recorded and shared on www.NVMTA.com for
later viewing if you can't attend in person



educate

empower

inspire

Professional Development



COMMUNITY DAY OF SERVICE

September 7 | 8am-Noon
Cornerstone Park
Free to Attend!

PRESENTED BY
 **JUST SERVE**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
HENDERSON

Henderson Community Day of Service

Saturday, September 7

8:00-9:00am breakfast at Cornerstone Park

9:00am-12:00n Service projects

Sign up to perform in a variety show at a Henderson senior center at the link below. Play a solo, duet, ensemble, sing, dance, do a magic trick, a family comedy routine. All acts are welcome!

Click [HERE](#) or the link below to sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeozcsV78vHnLDHw82D8jSprKz7pMrwPnjt9FrfoP28jCT32A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

GET INVOLVED

MUSICLINK FOUNDATION

BRINGING MUSIC LESSONS TO CHILDREN IN NEED IN NEVADA

www.musiclinkfoundation.org

Any child who has musical potential deserves the opportunity to nurture this talent to its full extent. Many children lack the chance to receive music lessons due to financial need. The MusicLink Foundation reaches out to low income families by linking these students with professional music teachers willing to reduce their fee to make the lessons more affordable for the child.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Students (18 yrs. of age or younger) who show an interest in taking music lessons, but cannot afford full fee lessons, are linked with qualified music teachers willing to reduce their fee by at least half to make the lessons more affordable. MusicLink teachers are able to take advantage of a variety of offers and discounts from our growing list of Business Partners as well as additional benefits directly from our foundation.

MusicLink teachers are qualified, professional teachers seeking to share their love of music with a deserving child. All MusicLink teachers are required to pass a criminal background check paid for by the foundation.

Students are nominated by music specialists, youth coordinators, choir directors, parents or anyone who has a knowledge of the musical potential of the child. Parents are asked to provide documentation to verify financial eligibility.

[SIGN UP TO BE A MUSICLINK TEACHER HERE](http://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/tchrinfo.php)

www.musiclinkfoundation.org/tchrinfo.php

New Members Information

—Allison Olson, Membership Chair

Dr. Zheni Atanasova is a pianist and vocalist who currently resides in Las Vegas, Nevada. Originally from Bulgaria, Dr. Atanasova has had the opportunity to perform solo and chamber music in Europe and the United States. She was honored to receive an invitation to play all-Chopin program in a concert with special guest, the Polish ambassador to Bulgaria. Among her most recent accomplishments in the United States was her participation in the Billboard Latin Music Awards. She was also delighted to be invited to perform at a concert with guest of honor Caroline Kennedy, a former US ambassador.

As a pianist with diverse interests, Dr. Atanasova has explored the vast opportunities offered in the world of dance as well. She has worked with the Ballet Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she has also earned her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Piano Performance. On her musical journey, Dr. Atanasova has performed numerous recitals and collaborated with great names in classical music as well as in pop culture.

As a pianist who suffered a professionally inflicted injury in 2011, Dr. Atanasova was inspired to publish a book focused on piano and wellness as she realizes the importance of healthy technique and movement and aspires to spread knowledge and awareness on this topic. She also desires to inspire those who seek innovative, exciting, and challenging works to expand their repertoire and incorporate pieces from the one-handed realm.

The title of the book is: “One-Handed Piano Compositions and Injury Awareness, History, Study of Selected Works and Mindful Practice.” It was published by Lexington Books an Imprint of Rowman & Littlefield. Truly dedicated to music and performance, Dr. Atanasova feels equally comfortable playing and singing on the classical and pop stage, in academic atmosphere, and among contemporary artists.

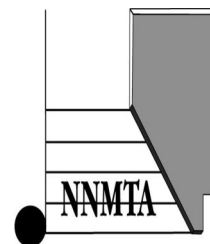
Here is a link to her academic book if you are interested in looking into it or if you would like to share information about it:

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793619341/One-Handed-Piano-Compositions-and-Injury-Awareness-History-Study-of-Selected-Works-and-Mindful-Practice>

Her academic book is available worldwide. Educational institutions featuring her book are Universities such as Yale, Columbia, Manhattan School of Music, UC Berkeley, Indiana University, and plethora of other prestigious universities in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, United Arab Emirates, Botswana, Australia.



Local Chapter Updates



From NNMTA President, [Dr. Bryan Chuan](#)

It is a pleasure to serve as your new NNMTA president, and I hope I can provide some unique insights and wisdom for the next two years. We are still looking for someone to fill the NNMTA President Elect position. If you are willing to set aside some time to volunteer and fill the position, please let me know.

Summer is almost over, and I know we are all gearing up for a big ramp-up with our teaching schedules. There are just a few events coming up on the horizon: Our Members Appreciation Brunch on Friday, Sept. 6th, and our Teachers' Recital on September 21st at Steinway Gallery.

THE NEVADA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SILVER STATE COMPETITION

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024
IN LAS VEGAS AT CLARK HIGH SCHOOL

Piano Classical Solo, Piano Social Solo, String Solo, Woodwind Solo, Voice Solo,
Piano Concerto, Composition Entry Fee:

\$45/MEMBERS, \$55/NON-MEMBERS
PER STUDENT, PER CATEGORY

Piano Classical Ensemble, Piano Social Ensemble, Chamber Music Entry Fee:

\$25/MEMBERS, \$35/NON-MEMBERS
PER STUDENT, PER CATEGORY

REGISTRATION DATE: Friday, Sept. 27 - Friday, Oct. 4, 2024

See Competition Rules and Register at nvmta.com

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

President:

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

Treasurer:

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

Suzanne Clayton, Las Vegas

dsclayson@gmail.com

Competition Chair

Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye, Henderson

bonnietanouye@gmail.com

Competition Co-chair

Zhenyu Yang, Las Vegas

zhenyuyang94@gmail.com

Certification Chair:

Laurie Swain, Las Vegas

lspiano@cox.net

LVMTA President:

Julian Lam

UNRMTA President

Adea Badavuku, Reno

adeabadivuku95@gmail.com

UNLVMTA President

Zhenyu Yang, Las Vegas

zhenyuyang94@gmail.com

NNMTA President:

Dr. Bryan Chuan

bchuan@unr.edu

NNMTA Representative

Amy Jahn, Reno

amyjahn@charter.net

Newsletter Editor:

Karen Sampson Hudson, Reno

karena.hudson@gmail.com

Hospitality Chair

Suzanne Clayton, Las Vegas

dsclayson@gmail.com