



MAY 2025

Letter from the President, Lisa Schuler

Dear NDMTA Membership,

I often refer to this time of year as our “harvest time”. Our rural communities understand the meaning of this phrase. Harvest is the time when people reap what they sow. It’s a busy process! We as teachers have been “sowing” throughout the school year and we are now “reaping” what the students have learned through their performances. It is the time of year for recitals, school programs, regional and state contests, and graduation ceremonies. They all involve music! It’s our teaching harvest and I hope that you are thrilled with the production.



I've mentioned before how NDMTA members need each other for professional development and friendship. This showed itself last weekend when LAMTA and UVMTA worked together to bring in teacher, presenter and composer, Wynn-Anne Rossi to the communities of Langdon and Grafton. We couldn't have done it without each other, both with scheduling and finances. You'll learn more about these events later in this newsletter. Thank you, Upper Valley, for hosting Wynn-Anne so that LAMTA was able to host her as well!

Once the end of the year excitement is over, we can focus on a different type of excitement, the NDMTA State Conference! I hope you have read about our special guests, the schedule, and the recital information in our newsletters, Facebook page and website. I truly feel that this is going to be an exceptional conference and hope to see you in Minot on June 4th-6th. Remember that the conference concludes at noon on Friday, June 6th, so everyone can get back to their families and enjoy the summer weekend.

May you all have a wonderful summer,
Lisa Schuler

NDMTA Silent Auction

The NDMTA Silent Auction is back for the June conference in Minot! All proceeds go to help with travel grants given to MTNA competition winners. The grants assist students with travel expenses when competing. It is requested that donated items be new, good quality and affordable for piano teachers. Baskets of items are always fun; businesses may be interested in donating items and homemade items are always a treat. Members and Local Associations are encouraged to donate. Be prepared to list the approximate value of the item to help with a good starting amount for the auction. Thank you for supporting the MTNA Competitions!

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NDMTA Conference Schedule
June 4-6, 2025
Minot State University, Minot, ND

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

12:00 pm	Popplers Music Competitions Rehearsals MSU Hartnett Recital Hall
2:00 pm	Popplers Music Competition
4:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting, Location TBD
6:30-7:00 pm	Conference Registration
7:00 pm	Official Opening Concert MSU Ann Nicole Nelson Hall Popplers Music Competition Winners, Commissioned Composer Premier Concert MSU-MTNA Students Reception to Follow



www.ndmta.org

Thursday, June 5, 2025

8:30-9:00 am	Registration & Coffee
9:00 am	Session I – Dr. Sara Ernst, Hartnett Recital Hall <i>Finding the Perfect Pace: Tips for Teaching with Beginning Piano Methods</i>
10:00 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am	Session II - Dr. Sara Ernst, Hartnett Recital Hall <i>Engaging Intermediate Piano Repertoire of Modern American Composers</i>
12:00 pm	IMTF Luncheon, Julia Beck, presenter, Hartnett Hall Collaborative Space <i>Teaching Students with Hearing Loss: Adaptive Strategies for Individualized Learning & Engagement</i>
1:30 pm	Session III—Dr. Sara Ernst, Hartnett Recital Hall <i>Masterclass</i>
2:30 pm	Break
3:00 pm	Brian Shepard, MTNA CEO, speaking General Membership Meeting, Hartnett Recital Hall
4:00 pm	Break
5:30 pm	Awards Banquet, MSU Hartnett Hall Collaborative Space Brian Shepard, MTNA C.E.O., featured speaker
7:30 pm	SubZero Winds Recital, MSU Ann Nicole Nelson Hall Reception to follow at Northwest Arts Center

Friday, June 6, 2025

9:00 am	Session IV—Dr. Sara Ernst, Hartnett Recital Hall <i>Deep Learning: Strategies to Engage & Empower Music Students</i>
10:00 am	Coffee Break & Poster Session: MSU Hartnett Hall Aleshire Theatre Lobby
10:45 am	Session V—Julia Beck <i>Then vs. Now: The Evolution of Efficacious Teacher Behaviors in the Private Music Studio</i>
12:00 pm	Official Close of Conference

NDMTA Annual Conference

Registration Form

June 4-6, 2025

Minot State University, Minot, ND

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____
E-mail _____
NDMTA Member (circle): Yes No Local Association _____

Registration Fees:

Full Conference – member	\$125 _____
Full Conference – non-member	\$145 _____
Full Conference - First Time Attendee	\$65 _____
Full Conference - Student	\$50 _____
One Day Pass (member)	\$75 _____
One Day Pass (non-member)	\$85 _____

Online Processing Fee (DO NOT INCLUDE IF PAYING BY CHECK) \$4.00 _____

IMTF Luncheon & Program, June 5th \$20 per person _____

Banquet, June 5th \$30 per person _____

Let us know if you have any dietary needs _____

Late Registration Fee: (Postmarked after May 1) \$15 _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment Options:

1. Complete this registration form online and use PayPal to pay online at www.ndmta.org **OR**
2. Mail completed form and send check, payable to NDMTA before May 1 to:

Michelle Kallod

668 17th Ave E

West Fargo, ND 58078

Phone: 701-200-6274

Refunds: Registration fees are nonrefundable except for emergencies and illness. Should such a conflict arise, the registration fee, minus all food costs, will be refunded. Please contact Michelle Kallod (701) 200-6274 and send a written request to Michelle Kallod, 668 17th Ave. East, West Fargo, ND 58078.

Hotel Reservations Hampton Inn and Suites Minot Airport, 1400 N Broadway, Minot, MN 58703, 701-838-1400. (the hotel was listed incorrectly in the February newsletter). Book by May 21 for NDMTA rate of \$99.00.

You can book directly from the ndmta.org website. Click on "conferences", then "NDMTA conference". Scroll down the page until you see "Conference Hotel". Click "for reservations", which will take you to the hotel reservation.



Popplers Music Competitions Application
Minot State University
Hartnett Recital Hall
Wednesday, June 4, 2025



Complete this form in pen or online <https://www.ndmta.org/competitions.php>

Entrant Information

Name _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____ Age as of June 1, 2025 _____
Name(s) of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____
Hometown Newspaper & Email _____

Student Fees (circle one) Elementary \$30.00 (ages 8-11)
Junior High \$35.00 (ages 12-14)
High School \$45.00 (ages 15-18)
Collegiate \$50.00 (ages 19-26)

Teacher Information

Name _____ Member of NDMTA? Yes/No _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____
Name of accompanist (if applicable) _____
Instrument (piano, woodwinds, brass, strings, vocal) _____

Repertoire for Competition Performance

This repertoire program must include title and number of each movement, tempo markings, the composer's full name, total performance time and period of music. Please type the complete program on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this application form.

Example: <u>Composition</u>	<u>Composer</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Period</u>
Sonata No 1 in g minor, BMV 1001	JS Bach	I. Adagio (4:17)	Baroque
		<u>IV Presto (2:48)</u>	
		Total 7:05	

Competition Agreement: It is the responsibility of the teacher and the entrant to abide by the rules listed in the NDMTA directory that are applicable to the Popplers Music Competitions. This form will be returned if there are any omissions or inaccuracies. The undersigned verify that the information submitted on this application form is complete and accurate and that the teacher paid state and national dues. All piano and vocal programs must be memorized.

Signature of Entrant _____
Signature of Teacher _____

Completed forms and check (payable to NDMTA) must be postmarked by May 15, 2025. Mail to:
Dianna Anderson
428 Homestead Rd. NW
Minot, ND 58703-8905

NDMTA Conference Presenter, Dr. Sara Ernst

Sara Ernst, PhD, NCTM, is Director of Piano Pedagogy and Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, appointed in fall 2023. She is co-editor in chief of the new magazine for children, *Piano Inspires Kids*, and editor of the *Proceedings of NCKP 2023*. Since 2020, Ernst has served as the Director of the Piano Conference: NCKP Program for the Frances Clark Center. Her past publications have included two online courses in teaching beginners and online piano teaching for the Frances Clark Center, and articles for the Royal Conservatory of Music teacher education courses. She recently completed her service to the South Carolina Music Teachers Association as President and Past President, also previously serving as VP of Conferences. Her former professional positions were at the University of South Carolina, Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, and the New School for Music Study in New Jersey. Ernst received her degrees from the University of Oklahoma, the University of Missouri, and Luther College.



IMTF Presenter, Julia Beck



Julia Beck is an American pianist with an avid interest in teaching and research. She is a current Ph.D. student in Piano Pedagogy at University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), where her research is centered in developing approaches for teaching

students with hearing loss, vibrotactile learning, and adaptive musical instruction. A native of Minot, North Dakota, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Minot State University studying music performance on violin and piano. This past spring, she received her Master of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from UNL. Her primary teachers at UNL have included Dr. Brenda Wristen, Dr. Mark Clinton, and Dr. Paul Barnes.

Julia has a personal interest in teaching students with hearing loss, and is passionate about fostering creative, diverse, and accessible teaching approaches in their small groups and private lessons. A musician with hearing loss herself, she strives to use her own experiences to

advance the curation of adaptive, accessible approaches to teaching and pedagogy. Her most recent presentation, "Teaching Piano Students with Hearing Loss", was presented at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP) 2023 and selected as the winner in its category.

Julia is also a cofounder of Dakota Piano Camp, an immersive piano experience established for elementary age children in small towns throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Established in 2022, the camp's goal is to provide students in rural and underserved areas musical opportunities that inspire, encourage, and support their engagement in music.

In the future, Julia hopes to use her experiences as a performer, researcher, and educator to not only advance teaching for music students with hearing loss, but also expand her work to include those with other sensory impairments or disabilities. When not engaged in teaching or research, you can find her reading, hiking, or playing organ at her local church.

NDMTA Commissioned Composer for 2026, Efraín Amaya

American conductor and composer Efraín Amaya was born in Venezuela, where he began his musical training. Continuing his studies in the United States, he earned two Bachelor's of music degrees in composition and piano from Indiana University, and a Master's degree in orchestral conducting from Rice University.

After returning to Venezuela, Maestro Amaya became the Music Director & Conductor for one of "El Sistema" Youth Symphony Orchestras based in the "Núcleo La Rinconada" in Caracas. He then returned to the USA where he held the position of Resident Conductor and Artist Lecturer in Music Theory at Carnegie Mellon University from 1993 to 2009. He also served as Associate Conductor with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra from 1994 to 2007. In addition he has been the Music Director & Conductor to the Greensburg American Opera, the Three Rivers Young People's Orchestra, the Westmoreland Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Carnegie Mellon Summer Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, and the Carnegie Mellon Contemporary Ensemble. As a guest conductor Mr. Amaya has appeared with several orchestras in the USA, Venezuela, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico and Italy.

Mr. Amaya's compositions have been selected for performance at major international festivals, including the Seattle Symphony's Viva la Música Festival; the V Congreso Iberoamericano de Llíria, Spain, the Festival de Música de Santa Catarina in Brazil, the American Composers Orchestra Festival of Venezuelan Music at Weill Recital Hall in New York; the II Congreso Puertorriqueño de Creación Musical in San Juan among many others.

In 2004, Efraín Amaya received a Fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He was also a Meet The Composer Composer-in-

Residence with Gateway to the Arts, WQED-FM, Renaissance City Wind Music Society and Shaler School District from September of 2001 to September 2004. His opera *Clepsydra* premiered as part of the First Night celebrations in Pittsburgh as a collaborative multimedia performance for tape, live performers, and edited video projection, sponsored by the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh and the Heinz Endowment.

Recent commissions include *Caracolas*, a concerto for harpsichord and winds commissioned by the American Wind Symphony Orchestra; *Majarete* for two violins, commissioned by the Knoxville Symphony orchestra as part of the 2021 Knoxville Symphony 1x1 Commissioning Project; *Carousel* for eight cellos, commissioned by the Portland Youth Philharmonic as part of their Youth Orchestra Commissioning Initiative and premiered virtually on November 14, 2020. Robert Boudreau, conductor and founder of the American Wind Symphony Orchestra has also commissioned him *Marahuaka*, a concerto for 3 marimbas and Wind Symphony Orchestra; *Epona's Portal*, a concerto for bassoon and Wind Symphony Orchestra, a *Suite of Latin Dances* and *Jokilis y Gorilas* among three other arrangements of his pieces for the AWSO. Other recent works include *Archipiélagos* for Eb clarinet and piano, commissioned by Venezuelan virtuoso clarinetist Jorge Montilla; *Irmgard's Mementos*, a three movement piano solo work commissioned by Tanner Film and Art; *Chocolat* for solo bassoon commissioned and premiered by Jim R. Whipple. His cello concerto *Un Camino*, commissioned by renowned cellist Kim Cook with a grant from the Pennsylvania Arts Council, premiered in



Efraín Amaya,
photo by JustJames

(Amaya continued on page 11)

LAMTA and UVMTA host Wynn-Anne Rossi

By Lisa Schuler

On Friday, April 25th, teacher, composer, and presenter, Wynn-Anne Rossi, came to Langdon to work with the piano students of LAMTA. It was a Jazz Festival where students learned about jazz



and improvisation. After three jazz education rotations, and a pizza party with Wynn-Anne, the students performed in the "Jazzy Journeys with Wynn-Anne Rossi" recital. The engaging recital featured jazz music composed by Rossi. She had a PowerPoint to add

visuals and explained the history of jazz, commenting on each piece before it was performed. The students enjoyed a bingo game filled with Rossi facts that was played throughout the recital and they wore special T-shirts for the event.

On Saturday, April 26th, Wynn-Anne traveled to Grafton to be with the students of UVMTA. This event was called "Wynn-Anne Rossi Day". Students went to rotations playing games, playing in a group piano lab, and learning how to create at the piano with Rossi. After the rotations and lunch, some of the students presented a recital of Rossi music. Again, a fun bingo game was played with the students throughout the recital.



Above Photo of Teachers participating in Wynn-Anne Rossi Days
Left to Right: Mia Presteng, Janet Johanson, Cynthia Johnson, Wynn-Anne Rossi, Sheryl Kjelland, Jean Baird



MTNA Conference Highlights

Several NDMTA members attended the MTNA Conference in Minneapolis in March. Two NDMTA members, Mary Leaf Schneider and Amy Mercer, gave presentations. Anne Morris was honored as a 2025 Foundation Fellow and Beth Gigante Klingenstein was elected President Elect!



Mary Leaf Schneider,
presenting at MTNA



Beth Klingenstein,
MTNA President-Elect



Dr. Amy Mercer,
presenting at MTNA

Saving for Retirement 101: Financial Tips for Music Teachers

By Beth Gigante Klingenstein

Heather Smith and Deborah How

For the first time, the 2025 MTNA conference included sessions based on a *Retirement Track*. These presentations were not meant for older members, but rather all members. As was often stressed, the sooner a member thinks about retirement issues the better.

Heather Smith and Deborah How gave an excellent presentation on finances as they impact music teachers. They explained the different financial focus we have in our thirties, forties/fifties, and sixties/beyond. Four main pillars of financial wellness were covered: budgeting, debt reduction, savings and advisors. Their presentation included practical suggestions on how to budget, including the 50% (bills) – 30% (discretionary) - 20% (savings) budget method. They covered essential types of insurance, including having a separate insurance floater on our pianos/instruments as well as business insurance on our studios. Heather and Deborah gave us important information, all the while making the normally dry topic of finances sound fascinating.



Five Essential Business Questions to Never Stop Asking

By Beth Gigante Klingenstein

Panel: Deborah How, Heather Smith, Karen Thickstun, Jennifer Walschap

The five essential business questions that were covered (and that all of us should ask ourselves) are:

1. Am I compliant with local, state and federal regulations?
2. Am I optimizing my tax situation?
3. Am I adequately insured, with the right types of insurance?
4. Am I taking care of myself and living my best life?
5. Am I preparing for retirement?

The panelists gave far too much information in each question's answer to include here (in fact they didn't even have time to get to #5), but if you were unable to attend, these are still good questions for personal reflection.

I learned a great deal in this session, and once again, was glad I attended the MTNA conference!



MTNA Conference attendees from NDMTA.

Back row, Left to Right: Alice Pekarski, Joann Herman, Amy Mercer, Mia Presteng
Front row, Left to Right: Dianna Anderson, Lisa Schuler, Susan Clambey, Vangie Johnson-Parker, Anne Morris, Beth Gigante Klingenstein, Eileen Geske, Priscilla Keogh

Revealing Composer's Secrets by Mastering Classical Masterpieces through Color Analysis

By Anne Morris

In the MTNA National Conference session, "Revealing Composers' Secrets by Mastering Classical Masterpieces through Color Analysis" by Stephany Lauwrence Christianto, I was inspired by the session on color analysis in mastering classical masterpieces. Stephanie said that color analysis is a technique used to enhance visual memory by associating different colors with specific musical elements in a score. This approach is proven to help students understand the musical score through music reading, learning music quickly, and visual memorization. A teacher/student can use any combination of colors to implement color analysis, a convincing method that fosters flexibility and creativity in analyzing key musical elements that support music reading and memorization skills.

Badlands MTA Winners Recital

By Jean Gunther

The Badlands MTA sponsored a Winners' Recital on April 6, 2026 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Dickinson, ND. The recital honored students who earned Gold Cups at the NFMC Junior Festival held March 8, 2025 at Dickinson State University.

The Badlands MTA Chapter offers scholarships to students who would like to attend International Music Camp (IMC), which costs close to \$700. A free will donation was taken at the recital to help provide scholarships.

Winners' Recital Performers	
Levi Lowery, student of Priscilla Keogh Earned: 30 point Gold Cup in Piano Solo, Elementary II <i>Copper Canyon</i> Kevin Olson	Hannah Schettler, student of Mariah Wilz Earned: 15 point Gold Cup in Ukulele Solo, Advanced Class <i>Fur Elise</i> Beethoven, arr. Bill Hearn <i>Because</i> Brahms, arr. Jeff Peterson
Asher Bullinger, student of Sharon Gegelmann Earned: 15 point Gold Cup in Piano Solo, Primary II <i>The Shark</i> Catherine Rollin <i>Holiday Bells</i> Melody Bober	Lucy Ellerkamp, student of Sharon Gegelmann Earned: 15 point Gold Cup in Piano Solo, Primary III <i>Raindrops on the Window</i> Kevin Costley <i>Cowboy World</i> Lynda Lybeck-Robinson
Shaylynn Schmidt, student of Jennifer Goettle Earned: 15 point in Piano solo, Primary II <i>Pixie Pranks</i> Mary Leaf <i>Elephant Ride</i> Valerie Roth Roubos	John Schimetz, student of Priscilla Keogh Earned: 15 point Gold Cup in Piano Solo, Primary III <i>Mystical, Magical Unicorn</i> Catherine Rollin
Wyatt Grunden, student of Sharon Gegelmann Earned: 15 point Gold Cup in Piano Solo, Primary III <i>Shuffling Through Autumn Leaves</i> Kevin Costley <i>Alotta Staccata</i> Martha Sherrill Kelsey	Bergen Bullinger, student of Sharon Gegelmann Earned: 15 point Gold Cup in Piano Concerto, Junior III <i>Concertino in Dance Styles</i> Melody Bober mvt III
Leif Kahn, student of Priscilla Keogh Earned: 15 point Gold Cup in Piano Solo, Primary III <i>Swiss Music Box</i> Ferdinand Beyer	Caleb Goettle, student of Jennifer Goettle Earned: 30 point Gold Cup in Piano Solo, Elementary II <i>Mists of Kiltmanjaro</i> Kristen Allred <i>Sonatina</i> Muzio Clemente
Chloe Schmidt, student of Jennifer Goettle Earned: 30 point Gold Cup in Piano Hymn, Primary E <i>Joy, Joy, Joy</i> Traditional Gospel	Michael Mehrer, student of Sharon Gegelmann Earned: 30 point Gold Cup in Piano Concerto, Junior II <i>Concerto in G Major</i> Robert Vandal mvt III
Michael Mehrer, student of Sharon Gegelmann Earned: 45 point Gold Cup in Piano Solo, Moderately Difficult II <i>Little Leopard on the Swing</i> Aram Khachaturian	



Back Row L to R: Hannah Schettler, Caleb Goettle, Chloe Schmidt, Bergen Bullinger, Michael Mehrer

Front Row L to R: John Schimetz, Lucy Ellerkamp, Shaylynn Schmidt, Levi Lowery, Asher Bullinger, Wyatt Grunden



More details on pages 4 & 5

Popplers Music Competitions
Minot State University,
Hartnett Hall
Wednesday, June 4, 2025
Entries close May 15, 2025

Time to Renew

Renew your MTNA membership by returning the form you received in the mail from MTNA or by logging in to www.mtna.org.

Be sure to check your mailing address and email for accuracy.

(“Amaya” continued from page 6)

August of 2013. Amaya’s two act opera *La Bisbetica*, commissioned and performed by International Opera Theater, premiered in August of 2010 in Italy; it was then invited to participate in the Bergamo International Festival of 2011 at Bergamo, Italy.

Maestro Amaya founded and was the Music Director of the Point Chamber Orchestra, which made its debut performance during the summer of 2006 with a tour of seven concerts in Italy, performing in venues such as the Fenice Theater in Venice, the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and the Parco della Musica in Rome. The Point Chamber Orchestra made a commercial CD released in 2009 with Albany Records label. It featured two of Mr. Amaya’s chamber operas: *Clepsydra: An Operatic Installation with 13 Performers* and *Phantasmagorilla? No! Phantasmagoria*, receiving excellent reviews by Pittsburgh Magazine (*wonderfully eloquent and substantial harmonies and drama*), the American Record Guide (*Amaya has created a sound-world that is aggressive, sad, colorfully floating clouds, vague and yet tonal – a magical atmosphere*) and Fanfare Magazine (*The music here is often intensely beautiful. Whereas in Phantasmagorilla one admires the sure hand of construction and, indeed, the wit, here one is transported to what might be termed higher realms*).

Mr. Amaya was invited and completed a residency at Yaddo, NY, during the summer of 2012 where he worked on his chamber opera *Constellations* that premiered in December of 2015, in Philadelphia. The recording of this world premi-

ere became his latest CD called “*Constellations*” and was released on December 15, 2020 with Albany Records label [TROY 1846]. Other recent CD releases include Jorge Montilla’s release in June of 2024 of his CD *Archipiélagos* including Mr. Amaya’s piece with the same name for Eb clarinet and piano written for Montilla with Samek Music [SKU: CC0083]. In June of 2023 the Dalí Quartet released their *Voces Latinas* CD with his piece *Angelica* with Centaur [CRC3923] and the Joueurs de Flûte Ensemble released their CD *Liberté* with Maestro Amaya’s *Pathways* with Sunrise International Entertainment Corporation. The Jano Duo with his piece *Pres-ent* for flute and cello in their CD *Dreaming in Color* released in August of 2017 with Albany Records label [TROY 1677]; virtuoso flutist Alexa Still CD release of an all Amaya flute music CD called “*Syzygy*” in January 2018 with the Oberlin Music Record label and Flutist Sara Hahn included *Pathways* in her CD *I Close My Eyes in Order to See* released in September of 2018.

Mr. Amaya was awarded the FY23 North Dakota Council for the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship grant for which he wrote a song cycle entitled *The Four Seasons in North Dakota* with lyrics by Susana Amundaraín which premiered with the Minot Symphony Orchestra in the Finale concert of their 2023-24 Season. Mr. Amaya is an Associate Professor at Minot State University and the Music Director for the Minot Symphony Orchestra since the 2015-16 Season.

You may visit Mr. Amaya’s Web page at: www.efrainamaya.com

Our NDMTA Foundation Fellow Nominee for 2026... Michelle Kallod!

Michelle Kallod has been teaching piano lessons to students ages four through adult for the past 28 years. For the last several years, her studio has hovered in the 50-75 student range. An avid learner, she continues to enhance her teaching by attending MTNA, NCKP, NDMTA conferences and webinars. She earned a minor in Music and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology - a degree which she uses every day.



Michelle currently serves as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor of NDMTA and has also served as Secretary. She also co-chairs the local Festival for the Federation of Music Clubs. She has been accompanying groups since the age of 12 and is currently the accompanist for the Fargo-Moorhead Master Chorale. She has also accompanied for collegiate students at NDSU, for the National Choir Directors Association, North Dakota All State Choirs, several area high schools, pit orchestras and churches.

When she is not teaching or accompanying, she enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, catering, backpacking, kayaking and gardening.

You may give online via the MTNA website (be sure to request your donation to go directly to Michelle Kallod as Foundation Fellow nominee), or you can mail a check to MTNA. Please be sure to write Michelle Kallod in the memo section of your check.

MTNA website <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/>

or send your check to:

Jennifer Thomason
MTNA Executive Assistant
600 Vine St Ste 1710
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Upcoming Events

2025 Popplers Music Competition	June 4	Minot, ND
2025 NDMTA Conference	June 4-6	Minot, ND
2025 NDMTA Competitions	October 18	VCSU, Valley City, ND
2026 MTNA Conference	March 21-26	Chicago, IL

Updating the NDMTA Constitution & Bylaws

By Kathleen Johnson

The NDMTA rules of order are maintained by the Constitution and by the Bylaws. A constitution is the structural rules by which an organization operates, and bylaws are the rules that govern how an organization operates. At the February NDMTA Board Meeting, the Board reviewed needed changes to the NDMTA Constitution and Bylaws to bring them up to date to reflect changes that had occurred since the last updating. Any Constitution changes have to be approved by the general membership at the Annual Meeting during the 2025 Conference in June. Changes in the Bylaws are approved by the NDMTA Board and don't need general membership approval.

In this Newsletter, the changes are being published so that members can be informed. The changes are reflected by crossing out of the previous version and the updated version is in red. So that one might easily find the changes, the Section in which the change occurs in is also in red. Some changes are simple editing, some are rewording – especially the language of using Executive Board when NDMTA Board is what was meant. They are distinctly different boards according to the Constitution. In the bylaws, to keep in sync with the MTNA, "student" was changed to "collegiate" throughout, senior membership was added and in Article II – Revocation of Membership, the language in Section 1 was replaced by the language that is used in the MTNA Bylaws, a suggestion that came from MTNA.

As mentioned above, the changes in the Constitution need approval by the general membership at the Annual Meeting in June and are to be published 4 weeks in advance of the meeting. The changes in the Bylaws are already approved by the NDMTA Board and do not need to be voted on by the general membership, according to the Constitution. They are printed here so that members are informed of the changes.

North Dakota Music Teachers Association Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I- NAME

The name of this organization is North Dakota Music Teachers Association.

ARTICLE II- OBJECT

Section 1. The mission of the Association is the continuing improvement of music teachers and the advancements of musical ^{knowledge} and education through discussion, investigation, publications, meetings, clinics, workshops, competition, and concerts.

Section 2. This is a non-profit organization. ~~and~~ **No** part of the net earnings may benefit any private member or individual.

Section 3. In event of the dissolution of this organization, any funds remaining in the treasury after the payment of any outstanding debts shall be contributed to the Music Teachers National Association Foundation.

Section 4. The organization is 100% affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership classifications in the Association are: Active, **Senior**, Collegiate/Student, and Honorary.

Section 2. Membership privileges and dues are prescribed by the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 3. Membership in the Association may be terminated by the member or revoked by the Association as prescribed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV- OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Association are the President, the Vice President (President-Elect), the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The authority and duties of each officer are defined in the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 2. All officers are elected by a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting.

Section 3. All officers are elected for a term of two years. The Vice President (President-Elect), is elected in even-numbered years and takes office with the new President. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected in odd numbered years. No officer shall succeed herself/himself more than once unless approved by a quorum of the general membership

in attendance at the state conference.

- Section 4. A vacancy in any office, except that of President, shall be filled by the President in consultation with the Executive Board and be subject to the approval of the NDMTA Board. A President-Elect selected in this manner cannot assume the office of President without being elected to that office.

ARTICLE V- EXECUTIVE/NDMTA BOARDS

- Section 1.** The Executive Board consists of the elected officers. The NDMTA Board consist(s) of elected officers, the immediate past-president, presidents of local associations, and other committee chairs as appointed by the President.
- Section 2. The NDMTA Board shall determine policies of the Association-within the limits of the Constitution and Bylaws. It shall actively pursue the mission of the Association and shall have discretion in the disbursement of all funds of the Association. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of Association business as shall be deemed advisable and may, in the execution of the powers granted, appoint such agents as it may consider necessary.

ARTICLE VI- FISCAL YEAR

- Section 1. The fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30, which coincides with the MTNA fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII- MEETINGS

- Section 1.** There shall be an annual meeting of the Association, time and place to be determined by the NDMTA Board. Notice of such meeting shall appear in the official Association publication at least thirty (30) days prior to the time appointed. At this meeting, ~~T(t)~~ **he** President shall permit the general membership to bring forward items for consideration.
- Section 2.** Special meetings of the Executive Board **or NDMTA Board** may be called by the President, or upon joint request of not less than a majority of the Executive Board.
- Section 3. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association or any special rules of order the Association may adopt.
- Section 4. The President may appoint a parliamentarian to provide opinion during various meetings.

ARTICLE VIII- QUORUM

- Section 1.** Nine members, of whom at least two must be officers, constitute a quorum of the ~~Executive~~ **NDMTA** Board.
- Section 2. Two members of the Executive Board plus 50% of the active members registered at the annual meeting shall constitute a quorum for business meetings of the Association.

ARTICLE IX- PUBLICATION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

- Section 1.** The NDMTA Constitution and Bylaws shall be ~~printed~~ **published** and distributed to the membership annually.

ARTICLE X- LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Section 1. Members in local areas may join together to form Local Associations of this State Association. Every member of these local associations must be a member in good standing of the state and national association. Such local associations may carry on activities of benefit to the members in that area, subject to the approval of the state Executive Board.

ARTICLE XI- AMENDMENTS

- Section 1.** This constitution may be amended upon the recommendation of the ~~Executive~~

NDMTA Board at any annual business meeting by a majority vote of the active members present and voting, written notice of the proposed amendments having been submitted to the membership at least four weeks in advance of the meeting. All amendments must be harmonious with the National Constitution. If amendments are adopted, a corrected copy of the State Constitution should be submitted to MTNA Headquarters.

North Dakota Music Teachers Association **~BYLAWS~**

ARTICLE 1--- MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Active memberships are open to all individuals professionally engaged in any field of musical activity. Such membership provides the privileges of participation in the activities of the Association, attendance at meetings, holding office, and voting. All active members must also be active members of the Music Teachers National Association, which membership provides the privileges of participation in the activities of the Association, attendance at meetings upon payment of the registration fee, holding office, voting, and receiving a subscription to the American Music Teacher. MTNA strongly encourages its members to adopt the Code of Ethics as their personal model of professional conduct.*
- Section 2. ~~Student~~ Collegiate membership shall be open to all full-time college students currently involved in music study, who are also members of an affiliated state association and a collegiate chapter if available. ~~Student~~ Collegiate members shall be entitled to attend programs of the Association upon payment of the registration fee and to receive the official Association publication, but shall not have the right to vote, hold office, apply for national certification, or enter students into MTNA competitions. ~~Student~~ Collegiate members may enter students in the NODAK NDMTA non advancing competitions.*
- Section 3. Senior membership is available to members 70 years of age and older with no restrictions. Senior members may vote, hold positions on local and state boards, enter students into MTNA and NDMTA competitions and participate in NDMTA events.*
- Section 3.4. Honorary Membership may be conferred on those who have rendered outstanding service in the field of music. Honorary membership on the local level must be conferred by the Local Association; honorary membership on the state level must be conferred by NDMTA (decided by the Executive NDMTA Board); honorary membership on the national level must be conferred by MTNA. Dues, or the absence of dues, will be decided at each level.*
- ~~Section 5:- Student chapters, per college and/or college may be formed by affiliated associations. A student of music is defined as a person who is currently involved in music study or is a participant in a music organization. Such a student is not required to be a music major.~~*

ARTICLE II--- REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. ~~No person who has been convicted of a crime involving the sexual or other abuse of a person shall be a member of NDMTA. Any accusation that a member of the NDMTA has been convicted of a crime involving sexual or other abuse of a person shall be reported to the President of NDMTA, who shall immediately report the accusation to the President of MTNA, who shall appoint a three person committee to ascertain the validity of conviction. If the committee substantiates that a person~~*

~~has been convicted of a crime involving sexual or other abuse of a person, the President shall immediately terminate the membership and the certification of that person. Any action authorized by the MTNA President in this resolution may be appealed to the Board of Directors of MTNA. Any membership terminated under this section shall be reinstated upon the filing with the MTNA President of a certified copy of the judgment reversing the conviction~~

Membership in MTNA/NDMTA is a privilege and not a right. Termination of membership for non-payment of dues within the time prescribed in Section 2 of Article IV is automatic and not subject to the procedures stated herein. Other than for non-payment of dues, the NDMTA Board, by a two-thirds vote, may terminate a membership if the Board determines that termination is in the best interest of NDMTA as expressed in the Code of Ethics. The NDMTA Board shall only consider and vote upon the proposed termination of a membership after the member has been advised of alleged reason for termination and been provided an opportunity to present information to the NDMTA Board on their behalf. If membership is terminated, the individual may appeal for reconsideration of that decision to the NDMTA Board. The NDMTA Board will determine whether to uphold the membership termination by a majority vote. In the event of a membership termination, a dues refund will not be given.

ARTICLE III--- MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Section 1. The membership for all membership categories except that of ~~student~~ Collegiate membership shall coincide with the fiscal year July 1 to June 30. The ~~student~~ Collegiate membership year shall be October 1 to September 30.

ARTICLE IV--- DUES

Section 1. North Dakota annual dues for all membership classifications must be paid with the National dues. The state dues will be reviewed and approved annually by the Executive NDMTA Board, and the recommendation presented to the membership for approval at the annual meeting or by (e)mail ballot.

Section 2. Membership dues are due by July 1. Members not paying before Oct. 15 will not be in the directory. Members are not in good standing until dues are paid for the current fiscal year and are therefore not eligible for membership privileges such as entering students in competitions or association sponsored programs or attending association meetings.

ARTICLE V---DUTIES OF THE OFFICES

Section 1. An officer's term commences immediately after the adjournment of the annual meeting in which she/he is elected. The termination of office for all retiring officers and committee chairs coincides with the above.

Section 2. The President presides at meetings of the Association, calls and presides at meetings of the Executive Board, appoints all standing and special committees and committee chairs as needed, and performs all other duties implied by his/her title. The President may receive a budgeted expense allowance for travel and expenses related to the attendance at the MTNA and/or NDMTA Conferences.

Section 3. The Vice President (President-Elect) assumes all duties of the President in the absence of that officer. The Vice President shall perform additional duties as assigned by the President. The Vice President may receive a budgeted expense allowance for travel and expenses related to the attendance at the MTNA and/or NDMTA Conferences.

Section 4. The Secretary keeps the minutes of all business meetings of the Association and of all meetings of the Executive Board and NDMTA Board, sees that the minutes are in legal form and properly preserved, and carries such other duties as assigned by the Executive Board or NDMTA Board. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, the Secretary assumes all duties of the President.

Section 5. The Treasurer is responsible for the maintenance of proper financial records and for the preparation of an annual report for the Executive NDMTA Board and for the annual business meeting. The treasurer's books will be audited annually. Internal audits may be conducted except when the Treasurer leaves office, in which case an external audit is required. The treasurer, in consultation with the president, will prepare and present a budget prior to the end of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VI--- AFFILIATED LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

*Section 1. Any city, town, or district music teachers association may petition to the Executive Board for affiliation in NDMTA by providing evidence that the following requirements have been fulfilled:
That two copies of the Local Association governing document(s) (e.g. Constitution, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the Secretary and that they are consistent with those of NDMTA.
That its fiscal and membership year coincide with that of NDMTA.*

Section 2. Upon determining that a petitioning local music teachers association has fulfilled the requirements of Section 1 of this Article, the NDMTA Board shall approve the petition.

Section 3. In referring to its affiliation, each Local Association shall use the phrase "Affiliated with the North Dakota Music Teachers Association." This specified phrase shall be included in the constitutions of all affiliated Local Associations.

Section 4. Each local Association shall guarantee on the basis of submitted membership rosters that one hundred percent (100%) of its members who meet the requirements of MTNA Active Membership, ~~and one hundred percent (100%) of its Student members, who meet the requirement of MTNA Student Membership~~ are members in good standing of MTNA.

*Section 5. Annual renewal of a Local Association shall be made without reconsideration by NDMTA provided:
That the affiliate has not formally notified NDMTA that it wishes to discontinue affiliation.
That all changes in the Constitution and Bylaws of the affiliated local Association have been filed with NDMTA, that they are consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of NDMTA, and have been approved by NDMTA.
That all provisions of Sections 1 and 4 of this Article continue to be fulfilled.*

ARTICLE VII---STANDING COMMITTEES

*Section 1. **CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE.** Membership shall consist of at least three certified teachers, appointed by the NDMTA President, representing different areas of the state if possible. The President shall designate one of the members as Chair, who shall lead the work of the committee, which is charged with managing the ND State Certification and Service to the Profession programs.*

*Section 2. **RALLY COMMITTEE.** Membership shall consist of a Chair and additional*

members selected by the chair as needed.

Section 3. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** *The membership shall consist of three members (appointed annually by the President) who will present the slate of officers for vote at the annual meeting of the Association. In the event that there is only one nominee for an office, the president may recommend election by general consent.*

ARTICLE VIII---AMENDMENTS

Section 1. *These bylaws may be amended ~~by the Executive Board~~, by a majority vote of the Executive **NDMTA** Board **with** a quorum being present and voting, the proposed amendments having been submitted to the board members at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.*

Section 2. *After any amendment to the constitution or bylaws of the State Association, a new, corrected constitution must be filed with the MTNA Vice President, who checks to see if it is harmonious with the MTNA constitution.*

~Code of Ethics~

The North Dakota Music Teachers Association recommends, but does not require, that teachers within the state follow the MTNA Code of Ethics. The principles and aspirations found in the MTNA Code of Ethics are not conditions of NDMTA membership, but are goals and ideals that each NDMTA member should strive to make an essential part of his or her professional commitment to students, to colleagues, and to society.

COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS – The teacher shall conduct the relationship with students and families in a professional manner.

The teacher shall respect the personal integrity and privacy of students unless the law requires disclosure.

The teacher shall clearly communicate the expectations of the studio.

The teacher shall encourage, guide and develop the musical potential of each student.

The teacher shall treat each student with dignity and respect, without discrimination of any kind.

The teacher shall respect the student's right to obtain instruction from the teacher of his/her choice.

COMMITMENT TO COLLEAGUES - The teacher shall maintain a professional attitude and shall act with integrity in regard to colleagues in the profession.

The teacher shall respect the reputation of colleagues and shall refrain from making false or malicious statements about colleagues.

The teacher shall refrain from disclosing sensitive information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.

The teacher shall participate in the student's change of teachers with as much communication as possible between parties, while being sensitive to the privacy rights of the student and families.

COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY - The teacher shall maintain the highest standard of professional conduct and personal integrity.

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