

March 16, 2018

Spring 2018 SDMTA Newsletter

President's Message



In case you have not already heard, MTNA will be employing a major change to the competitions starting with the 2018-2019 season: Divisional competitions will be held online, not on sites. This change is to accommodate several issues surrounding divisional competitions, such as cost, facilities and liability, volunteers, and weather. I'm sure this transition will be smooth and welcome to families and students living a very busy lifestyle.

At our most recent board meeting, we discussed the J. Earl Lee Foundation Fund, which has traditionally been used to support student travel to divisional competitions.

We are proposing that the funds now be used for cash prizes for our state competitors.

The board is in the process of formally drafting a proposal, which will require a statewide vote at local association meetings. As always, your feedback regarding this change is welcome!

Remember that most of our resources, including a soon-to-be-updated handbook, are available at www.sdmata.org and www.mtna.org. Please check out our South Dakota summer camp and festival opportunities at the end of this newsletter, along with other important news items. We are still accepting submissions for the 2018 composition commission, and some officer positions have opened for volunteers. Finally, check out our list of South Dakota competitors at the 2018 Nationals! Please wish them the best of luck!

- Symeon Waseen

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SDMTA Board Members

President: Symeon Waseen
symeon.waseen@bhsu.edu

1st Vice-President: Nancy Roberts
nancy.roberts@bhsu.edu

Immediate Past-President: Kay Fischer
kay.fischer1@abe.midco.net

Treasurer: Deb Kalsbeck
debkalsbeck@gmail.com

Secretary: Susan Keith Gray
susan.gray@usd.edu

2nd Vice-President (Membership):
Nancy Syring
keydiscovery@sio.midco.net

Certification: Susan Winters
suewint@sio.midco.net

Overall Competition Coordinator: Nancy Roberts
nancy.roberts@bhsu.edu

SDMTA Competition Site Chair: John Walker
john.walker@sdstate.edu

J. Earl Lee Foundation: Marcela Faflak
Marcela.Faflak@northern.edu

Webmaster: Christina Humpal
Christina S Humpal

Local Association Presidents:

Marcela Faflak, Aberdeen
marcela.faflak@northern.edu

Diana Christiansen, Brookings
howdi87@itctel.com

Beverly Bigge, Huron
bjbigge@hotmail.com

Symeon Waseen, Black Hills
symeon.waseen@bhsu.edu

Matthew Murphy, Sioux Falls
matthewmurphymusic@gmail.com

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SDMTA Officer Positions: Volunteers needed!

We have an officer vacancy that needs to be filled immediately: SDMTA Junior Piano coordinator. SDMTA members who would like to volunteer their services should contact Dr. Symeon Waseen at Symeon.waseen@bhsu.edu.

2018 Composer Commission

The South Dakota Music Teachers Association invites all composers living in the state of South Dakota to submit an intermediate level piece for cello and piano. The piece can be a single-movement work, or multi-movement work such as a suite, sonata, or sonatina. It shall be six to ten minutes in length. Compositions shall be submitted by May 5, 2018 for consideration. The winning composer will receive an honorarium of \$900 to be paid by SDMTA and MTNA and his/her composition will be performed at the SDMTA Annual Conference and Competitions in November 2018 and submitted to Music Teachers National Association for consideration for the National Distinguished Composer of the Year.

Please submit the composition and a recording (MIDI is acceptable) to:

Dr. Symeon Waseen
Black Hills State University
College of Liberal Arts
1200 University St. Unit 9097
Spearfish, SD 57799-9097
(605) 642-6241
symeon.waseen@bhsu.edu

Philosophy for the MTNA Commissioned Composer Program:

MTNA is dedicated to encouraging the creation of new works by American composers and annually assists its affiliated State Associations with the generation and performance of new music through the national Composer Commissioning program. A newly commissioned work receives its premiere performance at the convention of the State MTA responsible for that commission.

To further promote and recognize outstanding contributions to American music, MTNA annually has its State Affiliates submit their commissioned works to a panel of recognized composers for selection of the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year. The new work of the selected composer is presented in a concert performance at the next MTNA National Conference, and the composer is proclaimed the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year. The selected composer also receives a check for \$5,000.

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South Dakotans to Attend and Compete at MTNA National Conference at Lake Buena Vista, Florida March 17-21



Good luck to **Derek Hwang** (Junior Performance Cello, taught by Peter Howard) and **Martha Murrane** (Young Artist Voice, taught by Laura Diddle) who won their divisional categories and will be representing South Dakota at the 2018 MTNA competitions! Deb Kalsbeck will be accompanying Martha on piano. Good luck to everyone!

Also congrats to **Benjamin O'Bryan** (taught by Paul Lombardi) for winning the Young Artist Composition divisional category, while **Dylan Larsen** (taught by Judith Schreck) received an honorable mention in the Senior Performance Voice category. Divisional competitors also include **John Alexander** (Jay Reeve), **Tanner Chilson** (Robert Vodnoy), **Noah Johnson** (Diane Ketel), **Ana Oliveira** (Alessandra Feris), **Nicole Pierson** (Luis Viquez), and **Brady Vandevort** (Travis Netzer).

<https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Conferences/Conferences.aspx>

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2018 Conference and Competitions Report

Please reserve **November 1-3** on your calendars for our annual SDMTA state conference and competitions to be held at **South Dakota State University in Brookings**. Our competitions will begin on Thursday, we will have Pedagogy Friday just for teachers and our Ages 10-18 piano competitions on Saturday. As in previous years, a specific competition schedule will be determined once we have our numbers of competitors. We are excited to feature two amazing guest artists:



Taiwanese-American twin sisters **Susan and Sarah Wang** are an internationally renowned piano duo team. Originally from the New York City area, they have appeared numerous times in concert in Weill Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Steinway Hall in New York City. Currently the sisters are living in Germany and actively

performing world-wide as a piano duo team as well as teaching and performing solo and chamber music.

Susan and Sarah are recent prizewinners in the prestigious ARD International Two Piano Competition in Munich 2010. The sisters won 2nd prize in the world-

renowned Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition in 2008. In addition, the sisters hold third prize in the Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Preis in Berlin in 2009, third place in the 4th International Piano Duos Competition in Bialystok, Poland in 2008, and second prize in the Ellis National Duo Competition in the United States.

Orchestral performances include the Bayerischer Rundfunk Orchestra in Munich as well as with the Munich Rundfunk Orchestra, the Norddeutscher Philharmonic Orchestra in Rostock, the Atlantic Classical Orchestra, the Florida Classical Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Michigan Symphony under Kenneth Kiesler.

The twin sisters were born and raised in Ridgewood, NJ. They began piano and violin studies at the age of seven. They studied piano with Dmitry Rachmanov at the Manhattan School of Music Preparatory Division.

Susan and Sarah both attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where they received their Bachelor degrees in piano performance under the tutelage of Professor Louis Nagel. In 2007 they each completed their Masters degree in piano solo at Manhattan School of Music with Dr. Marc Silverman.

The sisters successfully completed their Konzert Exam studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Rostock, Germany in 2012 with Professors Hans-Peter and Volker Stenzl. They currently hold teaching positions in public and private schools in Rostock, Schwerin and Berlin.

Susan and Sarah have given outreach performance programs in the states of California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York as well as in many cities in Germany. Find out more at <http://www.wangpianoduo.com/>.

2018 Call for Presentations

We are accepting proposals from SDMTA members to present at our 2018 State Conference. Email Dr. Symeon Waseen at Symeon.waseen@bhsu.edu for consideration. Please include biographical information and a one-paragraph summary of your topic.

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Thank you for your membership in MTNA!

I want to remind you that your **2018-2019 renewal statements** should be arriving in the mail.

You may renew your membership online by using your **membership number and zip code.**

Your membership card will be sent in the mail within a few weeks of your renewal. This is also an excellent time for you to **review your profile and make any necessary changes.**

SDMTA membership currently stands at 135 members. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to MTNA in 2018: Abby Belus (piano), Carissa Deming (piano/voice), Ashley Geist-Cusick (piano), Megan LeMaster (piano), Liz Ann Luke (piano/percussion), Jennifer Nelson (piano), Janine Papik (piano).

Meet a Member: Dr. Katie Smirnova, violin



Dr. Katie Smirnova, co-founder and Artistic Director of the Rushmore Music Festival, has received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Violin Performance from the Stony Brook University under the mentorship of Hagai Shaham and Philip Setzer of the Emerson String Quartet.

An avid teacher, Dr. Smirnova currently holds an adjunct faculty position at the Black Hills State University. She has previously served on faculty for undergraduate chamber music at Stony Brook University while also maintaining a full private studio for over 6 years. Highly interested in early child psychology and the early music learning process, she has studied pedagogy with Rebecca Henry at the Peabody Institute, taken multiple courses in Dalcroze Eurythmics at the Lucy Moses School, and completed a two-year long-term Suzuki teacher training certification at the School for Strings in New York City.

Katie has enjoyed collaborating with various arts organizations such as the Moscow Ballet, Bel Cantanti Opera Company, Stony Brook Chamber Ensemble, and Groupmuse. In addition to performing in various chamber ensembles throughout the United States, Katie places a strong value on community outreach events benefiting local food shelters, veterans hospitals, senior centers, libraries, and house charities, among others.

Katie has previously received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Violin Performance from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, where she studied with Victor Danchenko. Prior to attending Peabody, Katie attended Juilliard Pre-College as a student of Ann Setzer.

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South Dakota Summer Music Camps

NSU Jazz Camp, July 18 - 21, 2018

NSU Voice Camp, July 18 - 21, 2018

Rushmore National Music Camp: Junior High Week, July 29 - August 3, 2018

Visit <https://www.northern.edu/academics/school-fine-arts/fine-arts-clinics-camps-and-workshops> for information regarding Northern State University Fine Arts Clinics, Camps, and Workshops.

All State Music Camp

www.sdstate.edu/music/all-state-music-camp

Call the South Dakota State University School of Performing Arts at 605-688-5187

June 11–15, 2018 (Mon–Fri)

Spend a week of musical fun and learning at All-State Music Camp at SDSU. Music students who have completed the seventh grade or above are encouraged to register for this fun week of making music, making friends, and a wide variety of musical learning.

All school musicians who have completed the seventh grade or above may apply for admission. All students must be recommended by their school music teachers.

Classes at ASMC:

Audition/Contest Preparation, Beginning Band, Careers in Music, Chamber Music/Small Ensembles, Choirs, Computer Technology, Improvisation Class, Piano Camp, Private Lessons, Theory/Composition, Vocal Techniques.

Housing and Meals:

Campers stay in SDSU residence halls under the supervision of competent well-trained counselors. Excellent meals, prepared under the supervision of university dietitians, are served in university dining halls.

USD Summer Music Camp 2018, July 8-13

Summer Music Camp is a six day experience of learning and music-making open to students who have completed grades 5-12. Activities include vocal and instrumental ensembles as well as a variety of other musical activities. Opportunities for private lessons in a specific instrument or voice are also available (all band and orchestra instruments and piano). The piano area of camp at the intermediate level or higher includes masterclasses and seminars on piano repertoire, technique, skills and more.

Please see the web page link for information concerning costs and facilities and to apply. Early bird registration deadline is June 26.

Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/USD-Summer-Music-Camp-143696002314493/>

Web page link <http://www.usd.edu/fine-arts/music/summer-music-camp>



JULY 1 - 16, 2018

**BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY
SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA**

ABOUT US

The Summer Programs of the Rushmore Music Festival offer intermediate and advanced students a concentrated, individualized study with our internationally renowned faculty. With dedicated time for practice and rehearsals, students are immersed in an environment that is focused on musical growth, expression, and communication. We welcome students as young as 10 years old through undergraduate studies.

MUSIC ACADEMY

VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, PIANO, & COMPOSITION

- Four 1-hour private lessons
- Four 1-hour chamber music coachings
- Music theory & Dalcroze classes
- Masterclasses
- Student performances
- RMF Chamber Music Competition

- * Computer Notation classes
- * Record with Faculty Artists
- * Premiere new composition

* **Composition students only**



Not sure if our program is right for you? Call us at **605.646.3146** or email **RushmoreMusicFestival@gmail.com**

WWW.RUSHMOREMUSICFESTIVAL.ORG

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 5, 2018
ALL OTHER APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 6, 2018**