

President's Message

Summer is a time to recharge and refresh, to invest time in the things that we enjoy, and to look ahead to the upcoming year. It's a time of growth in many ways! Some of us are watching gardens and flowers spring to life, others are traveling to new places for music or pleasure, all while we take advantage of the arts opportunities in our own communities.

We all come to SDMTA for different reasons. Some of us enjoy the learning opportunities available both through the state and nationally, while others value the professional standard that comes from earning NCTM status. Many of us take advantage of the performance activities available to our students at the local level, while some of us may prioritize state or national competitions. Whatever the reason we joined in the first place, we all continue to renew our membership because we value our organization.

An organization like SDMTA does not exist without the hard work of all of us. Each of our local associations needs volunteers to serve on the board, committees, and workgroups. Our events take a lot of effort to ensure their success. The same is true at the state level and beyond. I want to encourage all of us to consider what we value most as SDMTA members, and then to find a way to pitch in and help! Reach out to your local association president, or to someone on the state board, and find out how you can help us make SDMTA a great place to grow as musicians and teachers.

Dr. Mark Stevens, NCTM
SDMTA President

Announcing SDMTA's New Distinguished Performance Awards!

Beginning in 2024, there will be additional prizes available in our SDMTA competitions. This award, which includes a monetary prize, will recognize the best performances of works from a distinguished category of composers. This category, which will change on an annual basis, will be selected by SDMTA's board of directors. Competition categories for the first two years of this initiative have already been named:

- 2024: Works written by Women Composers
- 2025: Works written by Indigenous Composers

A maximum of three total awards in each instrument category (brass, piano, strings, voice, woodwinds) will be given each year, with one award per instrument category being given for each of the following age groups: junior (ages 10-13), senior (ages 14-18), and collegiate. Awards will only be given in SDMTA competitions, not MTNA competitions.

The recipient of each award will be selected by the category adjudicator. The adjudicator, at their discretion, may choose to not award a prize in any category or age group if they do not find that the performances of selected repertoire are worthy of recognition. The recipient can, but does not have to be, the winner of their age group and category. The monetary prize for each award varies by age group: \$20 (junior), \$25 (senior), and \$30 (collegiate).

SDMTA encourages all interested students and teachers to explore new composers and repertoire as we plan for our annual competitions in 2024 and beyond!

2024 Conference Update



BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY

November 7-9, 2024
Spearfish, SD

The 2024 SDMTA Conference will be held November 7-9 at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD. This year's conference will feature baritone Mark Billy as our conference guest artist. Mr. Billy enjoys a multifaceted career in recital, concert, and opera work, as well as teaching. He has a voice that "captivates and hearkens to the golden age of bel canto singing." As a singer of Native (Choctaw) ancestry, he is "passionate about the furthering of music education and Indigenous culture." You can read more about him at www.markbillybaritone.com.

I hope you will plan to join me at our conference this year for a weekend of concerts, workshops/lectures, competitions, and community. A full schedule will be announced in late Summer.



The 2025 MTNA National Conference will take place in Minneapolis from March 15-19. I hope many of us will take advantage of this location and attend! I learned so much attending the 2024 conference, and especially enjoyed Pedagogy Saturday. I have no doubt that this year's event will be worth the time and expense, and can't wait to see you there!