

ASMTA Board Meeting Minutes
State Conference at Arkansas Tech University
June 6, 2025 at Noon – Witherspoon Hall, 111

Dr. Mary Chung, President of ASMTA, presiding

Attendees: Sharon Ard, Leisa Arnett, Dr. Mary Chung, Dr. Lauren Schack Clark, Kristin Duckworth, Christine Franklin, Dr. Naoki Hakutani, Dennis Hay, Broc Hite, Dr. Christy Huskey, Shiloh Jones, Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi, Molly Klintworth, Dr. Marika Kyriakos, Beverly Kyriakos, Kay Lindley, Dr. Helen Marlais, Sherry Mashburn, Naoma McCartney, Lisa Miller, Treese Müller, Miroslava Panayotova, Aline Phillips, Linda Rogers, Sabrina Shivley, Dr. Tim Smith, Dr. Chris Thompson, Janine Tiner, Dr. Paul Whitley, Laura Wilkins

CALL TO ORDER

The ASMTA meeting began at 12:16 p.m. Dr. Tim Smith moved to commence, and Dr. Lauren Schack Clark seconded the motion.

President Mary Chung gave opening remarks thanking many members for their hard work.

- Dr. Helen Marlais, Visiting Artist/Presenter
- Dr. Christy Huskey, Presenter
- Dr. Naoki Hakutani, Conference Organizer and First Vice President
- Kristin Duckworth, Assistant to the Conference Organizer and Treasurer
- Dr. Paul Whitley, Past President
- Sharon Ard, Local Association Director
- Lisa Miller, Festivals
- Dr. Lauren Schack Clark, MTNA Competitions
- Theory Committee and Assistants, Dr. Paul Whitley, Dr. Marika Kyriakos, Dr. Lauren Schack Clark, Sharon Ard, Mark Smidt, and Aline Phillips

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a correction needed for the Zoom meeting minutes of the board in November of 2024: Sharon Ard was present at the meeting. Dr. Lauren Schack Clark moved to approve the minutes with the correction made. Dr. Paul Whitley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS

President, Dr. Mary Chung

The MTNA National Conference

The conference was incredibly exciting, impressive, and motivating. The Immediate Past President Peter Mack and new President Kevin Chance were both inspiring. There are many wonderful things happening with MTNA with a focus on bringing in innovative ideas. Many college professors don't have the support and involvement that exists in ASMTA.

First Vice President, Dr. Naoki Hakutani

The next conference will be at the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, June 5-6, 2026. Members were encouraged to volunteer institutions to host conferences if at all possible. It was requested that all make note of what may help to improve the experience of the conference. Dr. Hakutani promoted the fantastic pianist, Yoshiki Fujii, presenting the recital that evening with marvelous repertoire on the program.

Second Vice President, Xiting Yang

Dr. Naoki Hakutani spoke briefly on Xiting Yang's behalf. This is the first time putting the booklet together. Please proof and report if there is anything amiss.

Treasurer, Kristin Duckworth

Regions Bank Account #XXXXXX5614

\$20,837.90

Deposits	\$2,341.35	2025	Conference Registrations
	\$1,650.00		State Festival Registrations
	\$587.00		Membership Dues
	\$175.00		Booklet Ad
Total Deposits	\$4,753.35		
Expenses	\$1,750.07		2025 MTNA Conference – Mary Chung
	\$500.00		MTNA Collegiate Symposium – Kiri McMann
	\$529.02		Guest Artist Travel Expenses
	\$125.00		Petty Cash Withdrawal
	\$23.53		Name Tags

Total Expenses **\$2,927.62**

Transfer	\$15,000.00	Transfer to NEW Certificate of Deposit
	\$34,134.98	Balance as of November 17, 2024
	\$4,753.35	Deposits
	(\$2,927.62)	Expenses
	(\$15,000.00)	Transfer to new CD

\$20,960.71 Balance as of June 6, 2025

Certificate of Deposit #XXXXXX6788, Regions Bank

(renewed on 6/18/2024 for 18 months at 0.03%; previous rate was 0.03%)

\$15,665.80

\$15,663.47	Value as of November 17, 2024
\$1.17	Interest earned – December 17, 2024
\$1.16	Interest earned – March 17, 2024
\$15,665.80	Current Value (next interest payment date: June 17, 2025)

Certificate of Deposit #XXXXXX2881, Regions Bank
(created on 1/31/2025 for 7 months at 4.25%)

\$15,000.00 **Current Value**

\$15,370.27 Expected Value at Maturity on 8/31/25

Certification, Sharon Ard

Dr. Marika Kyriakos is the newest National Certified Teacher of Music of ASMTA. This was accomplished via employment verification. Genni Sutanto and Rilla Stone are working toward certification through Teacher Profile Projects. A recording of the South Arkansas Music Teachers Association (SAMTA) meeting regarding certification is available at the ASMTA website. Guests present were Helen Cao-Casano and Dr. Martha Thomas.

Collaborative Performance, Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi

Chamber Music Co-Chair, Dr. Lauren Schack Clark

Composer Commissioning, Miroslava Panayotova

There was a proposal sent via email to commission a piece by Dr. Mark Olivieri. Miroslava Panayotova heard him perform his own music at the College Music Society Conference in Chicago. His reviews are very fine and ASMTA has not commissioned a composer for three or four years. Panayotova spoke with him about possibly composing a piece for piano but inquired with the members who may have questions or suggestions. Dr. Olivieri had asked where the premier would take place since he would like to be present. Unfortunately, he has a conference to attend which conflicts with the ASMTA conference during the first week of June.

Dr. Mary Chung clarified that the commission involves \$750 from the chapter and \$750 from national. There would be the expense of bringing Dr. Olivieri to the conference and also the performers who would premier the piece. If the performers are local, nominal compensation has been provided. Dr. Tim Smith suggested that we consider how large a chamber group might be.

Dr. Naoki Hakutani moved to go forward with the proposal. Linda Rogers seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed for \$300 per performer with a cap of 5 musicians. The total of \$1,500 for the commission would be split between the chapter and national levels.

College Faculty Forum, Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi

Collegiate Chapters, Dr. Lauren Schack Clark

MTNA Collegiate Chapters:

University of Arkansas on UARK Collegiate Chapter Activities – Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi/Dr. Lauren Schack Clark

The UARK Collegiate Chapter meets on a regular basis, officially once each month, but much time is spent together outside meetings. Activities included a member-elected “Composer of the Month,” a Piano Open House discussion, and a Sacred Music Concert at Cooper Chapel.

National activities involved the presentation “Outside the Baroque Center: Exploring Music Beyond Central Europe” given by students, Callie Maurer and Gaby Gomez at the MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis. Callie also attended the MTNA Collegiate Symposium in Norman, OK in January.

Arkansas State University Collegiate Chapter Activities – Lauren Schack Clark

Student, Kiri McMann presented a poster session at both the MTNA Collegiate Symposium and the MTNA National Conference. She also presented at the current ASMTA conference virtually.

Opportunities for Graduating College Students, from our MTNA SC Division Director-Elect Michael Dean:

As students celebrate graduation and begin their careers, it’s key for MTNA leaders to know how MTNA supports them through this transition. Whether they will teach independently, at a university or in another setting, MTNA provides the connections and resources to help them succeed every step of the way.

- Collegiate Members transitioning to Active Members receive **50% off the national portion of Active dues** for the first year. Students moving out of the country receive 50% off International Membership dues. Graduating students may contact mtnanet@mtna.org to claim their 50% discount and apply it to their MTNA account.
- The **Local Association** is a professional teacher’s most vital connection to MTNA! If moving to a new state, direct graduates to the [State Portal](#) to find their State Association’s website by clicking on the map. Contact [Ryan Greene](#) for assistance in identifying the Local Association of a particular area.
- **MarySue Harris Studio Teacher Fellowships** provide funding for graduates who recently opened or plan to open a studio. These \$5,000 grants are presented annually to four recently graduated independent teachers. [Learn more and apply](#). Application deadline: November 5, 2025, at 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.

- **The Stecher & Horowitz Foundation—MTNA Grants and Awards** are presented annually to support outstanding young professionals in furthering their careers in music. All application deadlines: November 5, 2025, at 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.
 - o [\\$25,000 Gateway Prize](#) for Advancement in the Arts for pianists age 36 or younger.
 - o [\\$10,000 Career Grants](#) for pianists age 28 or younger (two grants will be awarded).
 - o [\\$10,000 Power of Innovation Award](#) for all instruments, age 36 or younger.
- **Get published!** The *MTNA e-Journal* is accepting abstracts from current music-related dissertations, theses and papers. Being featured in the *MTNA e-Journal* is a great way for students to share their work with a larger audience, plus a significant accomplishment they can add to their CV! [Submit here](#) to be considered. Deadline: May 31, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.

All the best,

Michael Dean
South Central Director-Elect

MTNA Competitions Chair, Lauren Schack Clark

Dr. Lauren Shack Clark shared that there was a change in the upcoming collegiate competitions. The voice and brass division applications would all be accomplished via video.

Local Associations 2024-2025 Reports

Little Rock: Music Teachers Association of Central Arkansas (MTACA) – Scott Carrell

Events Sponsored by MTACA

- Playathon: \$1,000 raised for the MTACA scholarship fund
- Composer Workshop: Visiting artist/composer, Melody Bober
- Piano Masterclass: Dr. Jung-Won Shin from Delta State University worked with several piano students in a masterclass setting
- Honors Recital: Outstanding students nominated by their teachers performed in a public recital

Student Successes

- Thomas Sinclair, student of MTACA member Dr. Naoki Hakutani, was a National Finalist in the Senior Piano competition

Monthly Meetings (members provided a variety of diverse topics)

- Accompanying for Ballet Class
- An Intermediate Student Success Story
- Integrating Skills for Elementary and Intermediate Students

- Musical Interpretation of *Poem's Savors* by Hua Lin
- The Life and Works of Cuban pianist Ernesto Lecuona
- Ideas for Instigating Effective Practicing
- A Study in Staccato

Northwest Arkansas Music Teachers Association (NAMTA) – Laura Wilkins

A full report is not available at this time, but NAMTA had a great year in Region I with 10 monthly educational programs for members. The state president attended and presented for one program. Of the 53 members, there was a record number of participants in the fall Sonata/Sonatina Festival and ASMTA Region I Festival. There were nearly 200 in each festival with 15 regional recitals. The website is up to date with a “find a teacher” capability for parents searching for a teacher. A hard copy of the yearbook is available with programs, teacher information, and bylaws.

South Central (Virtual): South Arkansas Music Teachers Association (SAMTA) – Sharon Ard

The SAMTA Online Chapter has 11 paid members with others who have attended. One activity was a book study on *The Mindful Musician* by Vanessa Cornett. The author graciously volunteered to meet with the chapter during the fall of 2025 to discuss and answer questions from any topics in the book. As mentioned in the Certification Report, an informational meeting regarding MTNA certification was hosted with guests, Helen Chao-Casano and Dr. Martha Thomas. A recording of the meeting is available on the ASMTA website. In addition, wonderful educational sessions were delivered by Dr. Sarah Rushing, Dr. Marina Bengoa-Roldan, Dr. Lauren Schack Clark, and Dr. Gjergji Gaqi.

SAMTA is the proud recipient of a MTNA Local Affiliate Grant made possible through the MTNA Foundation Fund. Zoom Pro will be purchased for a year for uninterrupted service. Watch for exciting events in the upcoming year and keep in mind that SAMTA is a virtual group. It is easy for anyone to join through the national website. Dues are \$10.

Officers:

- Sharon Ard, President
- Marina Bengoa-Roldan, Vice President
- Rilla Stone, Secretary-Treasurer

Northeast: Music Teachers Association of the Delta (MTAD) – Dr. Lauren Schack Clark

Aside from the Region II Festival on April 26, 2025, MTAD hosted two Sunday Sampler Concerts on October 13, 2024, and February 9, 2025. Students also participated in the Federation Festival and Honors Recitals February 22 and March 2, 2025, and the Piano Guild, May 15-17, 2025.

Festivals, Lisa Miller

The Region II Festival was a great success. \$3,000 has been sent to the treasurer. A more thorough report is forthcoming.

Historian, Linda Rogers

If you have pictures, programs or the like, please send!

Independent Music Teachers Forum, Lisa Miller

Membership, Shiloh Jones

Assistance is needed for new ideas to attract members. There are 131 members currently, which is down 2 from last year, but the chapter has 21 new members.

BUSINESS

President Mary Chung mentioned that we need to clean up the job descriptions of the board members on the website. Sharon Ard shared that some ASMTA forums no longer exist at the national level.

Dr. Chung announced an opportunity for celebrating the 150th anniversary of MTNA: making music together through various performances. Contact Dr. Chung for participation. Each region could hold its own celebration. The membership was in favor of presenting concerts/recitals within the regions. The venue has a piano and an organ. State membership is primarily pianists, but all musicians are welcome.

When asked for additional remarks, Beverly Kyriakos commented that a celebration is in order for Mary Chung's positive presidency. All agreed that President Mary Chung has been a wonderful, kind, hard-working and enthusiastic president. Her positivity has been much appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations are in order:

- SAMTA received the MTNA Local Affiliate Grant for 2025-2026.
- Dr. Xiting Yang hosted the inaugural Florence Price International Piano Competition and presented at the MTNA National Conference.
- Thomas Sinclair (student of Dr. Naoki Hakutani) and Geoffrey Sims (student of Dr. Brent Shires) were finalists for the MNTA competition.
- Kiri McMann (student of Dr. Lauren Schack Clark) presented at a poster session at the MTNA National Conference.

The J. D. Kelly Piano Competition and Festival at Arkansas State University will be on November 15, 2025. The deadline for applications is October 25, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Marika Kyriakos moved to adjourn. Dennis Hay seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marika Kyriakos", is written above the printed name.

Marika Kyriakos, Secretary