ASMTA Board Meeting Minutes
State Conference at the University of Arkansas ~ Fayetteville
Friday, June 5, 2026 at Noon ~ Billingsley Music Building, 115

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, Trudy Kincade, Molly Klintworth, Dr. Marika Kyriakos, Beverly Kyriakos, Kay Lindley, Sherry Mashburn, Naoma McCartney, Lisa Miller, Treese Müller, Miroslava Panayotova, Alline Phillips, Linda Rogers, Sabrina Shivley, Dr. Tim Smith, Dr. Chris Thompson, Janine Tiner, Dr. Paul Whitley, Laura Wilkins, Dr. Xiting Yang

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting commenced at 12:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No corrections were needed for the meeting minutes of the board in January of 2026. Trudy Kincade moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Lauren Schack Clark seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS

President, Dr. Mary Chung

Dr. Chung reflected on her time as President, sharing how much she has enjoyed serving in the role. She noted that the experience provided valuable insight into the organization and a greater understanding of its operations. Dr. Chung reported that ASMTA received recognition from the national office for its accomplishments. Arkansas was the only state to experience membership growth this year and remains in a strong financial position. She also mentioned the organization's exceptional volunteer support, which is uncommon among state affiliates. In addition, Region 1 experienced a record number of participants.

As she concludes her term as President, Dr. Chung expressed her appreciation to the many individuals who contributed to the success of the organization and conference. She offered special thanks to Dr. Naoki Hakutani, incoming President; Kristin Duckworth, Treasurer; and Lisa Miller for her work coordinating the festivals. Dr. Chung wished the organization continued success in the years ahead.

First Vice President, Dr. Naoki Hakutani

Members were encouraged to visit the exhibits and take advantage of conference sales. No additional items were reported. Attendees were invited to share any concerns or feedback following the conference.

Second Vice President, Dr. Xiting Yang

Dr. Yang reported substantial savings on the conference program booklet, with printing costs reduced from approximately $500 to $130 through the use of University Services. No additional items were reported.

Treasurer, Kristin Duckworth

Prepared by Kristin Duckworth for ASMTA Board Meeting
May 31, 2026

Regions Bank Account #XXXXXX5614

	$23,301.87	
Deposits	$2,427.00	2026 Conference Registrations
	$1,725.00	State Festival Registrations
	$685.00	Membership Dues
	$564.53	Booklet Ads
Total Deposits	**$5,401.53**	
Expenses	$1,905.84	2026 MTNA Conference – Mary Chung
	$350.00	MTNA Gala Table
Total Expenses	**$2,255.84**	
	$20,156.18	Balance as of January 10, 2026
	$5,401.53	Deposits
	($2,255.84)	Expenses
	$23,301.87	**Balance as of May 31, 2026**

Certificate of Deposit #XXXXXX2881, Regions Bank (renewed on 4/30/2026 for 9 months at 3.44%)

$31,836.47	
$31,034.87	Value as of January 10, 2026
$801.60	Interest Earned – April 30, 2026
$31,836.47	**Balance as of May 31, 2026**

Certification, Sharon Ard

Sharon Ard noted continued revitalization of the Certification Program over the past few years. Two members are currently working toward certification. Collegiate membership remains accessible through payment of membership dues, with no additional requirements for participation.

Foundation, Sharon Ard

Mark Smidt was recognized as ASMTA's Foundation Fellow. In addition to support provided through ASMTA membership contributions, Paul Whitley contacted friends and family of Mark Smidt. In total, $1619. 37 was raised. Arkansas members also contributed outside of the Fellow fund. SAMTA received a $750 grant to support its Zoom Pro subscription. The organization also benefited from educational programming, including a master class presented by Chris Goldston.

Benefits at the national level include Rilla Stone who received a young professional grant for first time attendees to the national conference. MTNA's publications and resources highlight the many ways donations support meaningful programs and opportunities throughout the organization. Through thoughtful investment and responsible allocation of funds, contributions help meet important needs across the profession. This year, ASMTA benefited from these efforts through the MTNA Foundation Fund Grant for Local Affiliates awarded to SAMTA. Members were reminded all eligible members are encouraged to apply for teacher grants. Assistance and guidance regarding grants will remain available, even after Sharon Ard transitions out of the position.

Collaborative Performance, Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi

No formal report was presented. Members were invited to attend the College Faculty Forum scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

MTNA Competitions Chair, Lauren Schack Clark

Existing Collegiate Chapters are located at Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, and University of Arkansas - Little Rock. No collegiate reports were presented.

The upcoming 2027 MTNA National Conference will be held in St. Louis on April 2-6, providing a convenient opportunity for participation by Arkansas members, both collegiate and others. Collegiate members are encouraged to submit proposals for consideration at the MTNA National Conference and for the MTNA Collegiate Symposium which will be at UMKC on January 16-17, 2027.

Members and their students are urged to participate in the MTNA Competitions. The deadline is September 9, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. More piano participation is strongly encouraged. It was noted that in 2026, there were 13 competitors in Young Artist Woodwind. This continues to be a popular event. Brass and Voice competitions are conducted virtually at the national level, with seven finalists selected in each category to advance to the in-person finals at the National

Conference. Two or more finalists may be selected from the same state. Chamber Music competitions are also conducted virtually.

The complete State Winner list is below.

State Winner List

Place	Name	Instrument	Teacher(s)	Accompanist
Arkansas Junior Performance Piano - 2 entries				
Winner	Yosef Tam	Piano	Naoki Hakutani	
Alternate	Ryan Li	Piano	Naoki Hakutani	
Arkansas Senior Composition - 1 entry				
Representative	Lydia Wendell		Treese Muller	
Arkansas Senior Performance Piano - 3 entries				
Winner	Thomas Sinclair	Piano	Naoki Hakutani	
Alternate	Casia Keiser	Piano	Wei-Han Su	
Honorable mention	Erik Larsen	Piano	Xiting Yang	
Arkansas Senior Performance Woodwind - 2 entries				
Winner	Arissa Cholthitchanta	Clarinet	Nophachai Cholthitchanta	Kristin Harwell
Alternate Competing	Gabriel Garnier	Saxophone	Sarah Hetrick	Not yet determined
Arkansas Young Artist Performance Piano - 3 entries				
Winner	Calista Maurer	Piano	Xiting Yang	
Alternate	Xusen Lei	Piano	Xiting Yang	
Honorable mention	Brody Bennett	Piano	Lisa Auten	
Arkansas Young Artist Performance Woodwind - 9 entries				
Winner	Jillian Russell	Flute	Cristina Ballatori	Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi
Alternate	Tyler Trickey	Saxophone	Sarah Hetrick	TBD
Honorable mention	Shelby Kook	Saxophone	Sarah Hetrick	
	Charlie Tullis	Flute	Cristina Ballatori	Kristin Harwell

Festivals, Lisa Miller

Lisa Miller reported an increase in festival participation, with total enrollment reaching 352 students, approximately 30 more than the previous year. She noted that securing qualified judges, particularly those within a reasonable geographic distance, continues to be a challenge.
The festival program remained financially successful, generating approximately $3,300 in revenue this year, an increase from $3,000 the previous year.

Lisa Miller thanked the many teachers, judges, and volunteers whose efforts contributed to another successful festival season. Board members expressed appreciation for the continued growth of the program and its positive impact on students throughout the state.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS REPORT

South Arkansas Music Teachers Association – Sharon Ard (President)

SAMTA meets the second Friday of the month at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. We are a local association that serves as a meeting place for teachers who do not have a local MTNA affiliate in their immediate area and members who belong to other local associations. All are welcome.

Meetings this school year included:

- September – Conversations with Vanessa Cornett
- October – Masterclass with Chris Goldston with students of SAMTA members (MTNA Foundation Fund Affiliate Enrichment Grant)
- November – The Taubman Approach to Piano Technique
- January – Adapting Teaching Styles for ADHD and ASD students by Dr. Michelle Sulaiman
- February – Workshop on Creative Teaching Ideas with Susan Ogilvy (MTNA Foundation Fund Affiliate Enrichment Grant)
- March – Sightreading by Dr. Grace Ho
- April – From Keys to Memory: Teaching Students to Memorize with Confidence by Dr. Fanarelia Guererro

Special thanks to Rilla Stone, SAMTA secretary-treasurer, for putting together all the graphics you see on Facebook announcing our meetings. Thank you to Marina Bengoa-Roldan, SAMTA vice-president, for assisting with organizing guest speakers.

There are currently 14 members. Non-members and members of ASMTA also attend as guests at meetings, including some from out of state. In January, a collaboration with Arizona's Music Teachers Online celebrated the 150th anniversary of MTNA. Dr. Marina Bengoa did a presentation on Sevilla by Isaac Albeniz. Sharon Ard told the history of SAMTA.

In March, five SAMTA members attended the MTNA National Conference and four attended the first MTNA Meet and Greet for virtual affiliates.

In addition to the ASMTA region festival and the Chris Goldston Masterclass, some students and teachers have participated in NFMC Festivals, Guild Auditions and found a host of other opportunities to serve and perform.

Officers for 2026-2028

- Marina Bengoa-Roldan, President
- Rilla Stone, Vice President
- Genni Sutanto, Secretary Treasurer
- Sharon Ard, Immediate Past-President

Northwest Arkansas Music Teachers Association – Laura Wilkins (President)

Programs and activities over the semester at monthly meetings:

- Reading challenges and tools for success program presented by Young Educational Services
- Valentines "play in" at the Northwest Arkansas Mall. Many NAMTA students were performing that day
- Masterclass with Mark Smidt
- ASMTA Prep Recitals
- ASMTA Region 1 Festival with over 250 participants

- ASMTA Region 1 Honor Recitals (for winners)
- Year ended with 55 teacher members!

Planning session is in June for programs and activities planned during the upcoming year.

Officers for the next two years were elected:
- Treese Muller, President
- Shiloh Jones, Vice President
- Brenda Parker, Secretary
- Molly Klintworth, Treasurer

Membership, Shiloh Jones

No formal membership report was presented. Members were encouraged to continue inviting colleagues and students to join ASMTA.

A concern was noted regarding the membership listing process through NAMTA. Members were advised to select "Other" when indicating their region affiliation to ensure accurate classification.

Historian, Linda Rogers

Linda Rogers reminded members of the contest which took place during the pre-conference dinner. The winner was scheduled to be revealed during the evening's events.

Wellness, Mary Trotter

No formal report was presented. Members were encouraged to connect with Mary Trotter and learn more about the wellness initiatives and resources available through the organization.

Webmaster, Paul Whitley

No report was made.

BUSINESS

Level 11 for Region Festival and State Competition

The board discussed the development of official guidelines for Level 11 participation in the Region Festival and State Competition. It was noted that no official Level 11 category currently exists and that a temporary solution, utilizing Level 10 requirements, had been implemented the previous year.

Discussion included comparisons with neighboring states. While some states offer levels through Level 13, those additional levels may only apply to Theory (e.g. Oklahoma). Members clarified that Arkansas offers an equivalent number of levels, with Arkansas Level 11 corresponding to

Oklahoma Level 13 due to Arkansas's inclusion of Primary A and Primary B levels. It was also noted that Oklahoma does not maintain the same repertoire requirements as Arkansas.

Several suggestions were presented regarding repertoire requirements for Level 11. Dr. Paul Whitley proposed allowing students who have completed Levels 9 and 10 to perform repertoire deemed appropriate by their teacher. Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi suggested establishing guidelines to ensure stylistic contrast among selections. Additional discussion addressed the possibility of including etudes, such as the Transcendental Etudes, as acceptable repertoire.

Shiloh Jones suggested revising repertoire specifications at Level 9 and making Levels 10 and 11 more closely aligned. Lisa Miller supported the idea of allowing Level 11 repertoire to be selected from Levels 9 and 10. Mark Smidt expressed confidence in the teachers' ability to select appropriate repertoire for advanced students. Dr. Kashiwagi suggested compiling a list of previously performed Level 11 repertoire as a resource for teachers.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Trudy Kincade that Level 11 students complete the Level 11 Theory and Musicianship requirements and perform two repertoire selections: one chosen from the approved Level 9 or Level 10 repertoire lists and one additional selection chosen by the teacher. Kristin Duckworth proposed an amendment to the motion. The motion was held by Trudy Kincade, seconded by Laura Wilkins, and was carried.

Membership Cost for the Young Professional

The board discussed membership opportunities for recent graduates. It was noted that collegiate members would be eligible to receive one year of complimentary membership following graduation. The initiative is intended to encourage continued involvement in ASMTA and support the transition from collegiate to professional membership.

ASMTA Repertoire Titles: Historical Context and Sensitivity

Shiloh Jones led a discussion regarding repertoire titles containing historical terminology that may be considered outdated or culturally insensitive by contemporary standards. Examples cited included titles containing terms such as "Indian," "Gypsy," and "Oriental."

Members discussed the possibility of preserving original published titles while providing historical context through program notes or disclaimers. Dr. Chung reported that she would share *Disclaimer Options for Program Notes* with all members (included at the end of the minutes). This document was sent to Michael Dean, Director of the South Central Division, for consideration.

Dr. Chung invited comments from the membership. Trudy Kincade expressed support for the proposed disclaimer language. Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi suggested developing a disclaimer specifically for ASMTA's use and recommended consulting with the national organization before distributing the document more broadly to Arkansas members.

The discussion focused on balancing historical accuracy with cultural awareness and providing appropriate context for repertoire presented in ASMTA-sponsored events.

New ASMTA officers will be voted on Saturday, June 7, 2026

A slate of officers will be sent to all members (see full LEADERSHIP listing following the minutes).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations

- Mark Smidt – Foundation Fellow
- Rilla Stone – Grant Recipient
- Gennie Sutano and Marika Kyriakos – National Certification
- Increased Arkansas Membership

Repertoire Directory/Repertoire Request (Laura Wilkins and Janine Tiner)
https://forms.gle/MnxdsTpVdFUGdA9v7

Scholarship

The Christine Wang Scholarship has remained unawarded for the past three years. ASMTA hopes to recognize a deserving recipient next year and encourages members to consider eligible students.

Important Dates

- MTNA National Conference: April 2 – 6, 2027 in St. Louis, MO
- MTNA State Competition: November 7, 2026 at the University of Central Arkansas
- J. D. Kelly Piano Competition and Festival: November 14, 2026 at Arkansas State University
- UCA Piano Festival: April, 2027 at University of Central Arkansas
- Florence Price International Piano Competition: University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (conflicts with the MTNA state competition, November 6 – 7, 2026)

Words of Gratitude

Miroslava Panayotova expressed appreciation for the support received for the composition commission and noted that the commission's report would be presented later in musical form. Appreciation was extended to all Region Chairs for their dedication and outstanding work throughout the year. Special recognition was given to Linda Rogers as she concludes her service as Historian. Members expressed gratitude for her many contributions to the organization for more than 50 years, including the pre-conference social gathering at her home. Tomoko Kashiwagi expressed appreciation to Mary Chung for her leadership as President, noting her efforts to personally connect with members throughout the state and foster greater engagement within the organization.

ADJOURNMENT

Paul Whitley moved to adjourn, and Lisa Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marika Kyriakos, Secretary

LEADERSHIP

Officers 2026-2028

President, Naoki Hakutani
First Vice President, Xiting Yang
Second Vice-President, Laura Wilkins
Secretary, Marika Kyriakos
Treasurer, Kristin Duckworth
Independent Music Teachers Forum, Lisa Miller
Membership, Shiloh Jones
MTNA Foundation Fund, Mark Smidt

Elected Board Members

Region A: Alline Phillips
Region B: Kristin Smith
Region C: Chris Thompson
Region D: Lowella Jean Cherry
Region E: Trudy Kincade
Region F: Leisa Arnett
Region G: Sharon Ard

Standing Committees

Certification, Sharon Ard
Collaborative Performance, Tomoko Kashiwagi
Chamber Music Co-Chair, Lauren Schack Clark
Composer Commissioning, Miroslava Panayotova
College Faculty Forum, Tomoko Kashiwagi
Collegiate Chapters, Lauren Schack Clark
Festivals, Lisa Miller
Historian, Broc Hite
Local Associations
MTNA Competitions Chair, Lauren Schack Clark

MTNA Composition Competitions, Gjergji Gaqi
MTNA Junior Competitions, Lauren Schack Clark
MTNA Senior Competitions, Lauren Schack Clark
MTNA Young Artist Competitions, Lauren Schack Clark
MTNA Chamber Music Competitions, Lauren Schack Clark
State Auditions, Lauren Schack Clark & Chris Thompson
Teacher of the Year, Chris Thompson
Publicity, Laura Wilkins
Wellness, Mary Trotter
Webmaster, Paul Whitley & Alline Fulton Phillips
Arts Advocacy & Awareness, Naoki Hakutani

DISCLAIMER OPTIONS for Program Notes
(to be sent to all members by President, Dr. Mary Chung)

#1 Some musical works performed today retain original titles that reflect the historical period in which they were composed. These titles may include language that is no longer considered appropriate or respectful. Our association acknowledges this context and affirms our commitment to inclusivity, respect, and continued learning in music education.

#2 Certain works in today's program are presented under their original published titles, which reflect the cultural norms of their time. We recognize that some of this language may be considered outdated or offensive by today's standards. Our association is committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful musical community and encourages thoughtful discussion and awareness as we continue to grow and learn.

#3 Music education often involves engaging with works from many historical periods. Some pieces in this program retain original titles that reflect outdated cultural perspectives. While we continue to evaluate and update our repertoire resources, these works are presented for their musical value, with an understanding that language and awareness evolve over time.

#4 This program includes works listed under their original titles, some of which reflect language or cultural views that are no longer appropriate. Our association acknowledges this history and is actively working toward more inclusive repertoire practices, while honoring the musical and educational value of these compositions.

OPTIONAL STATEMENT FOR HANDBOOKS AND REPERTOIRE DIRECTORY:
Titles are listed as originally published for identification purposes. Teachers are encouraged to provide historical context and use inclusive language when discussing these works with students.