



# Newsletter

1 of 11 pages

Fort Worth Music Teachers Association

Volume 12 No.28

April 2023

## President's Column



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome Home! This was the prevailing theme of the MTNA National Conference in Reno, Nevada last month.

It was wonderful to be back together in person at a National Conference for the first time since 2019. Coming together with others in our profession who share the same desire to continue learning and working to achieve excellence really does feel like home.

In her book, "The Life Council," Laura Tremaine considers ten types of friends that every woman (or man!) needs. Included in her list is the "the fellow obsessive." She asserts that we need

people around us who are enthusiastic about the things we are enthusiastic about, and that's what MTNA can provide for us.

In Reno, we had excellent guest recitals, a keynote address by Lara Downes, multiple masterclasses to observe, and a plethora of outstanding sessions on a wide variety of topics. It was especially rewarding to see the TCU Collegiate Chapter present "The Happy Birthday Predicament: Teaching Functional Skills to Beginning and Intermediate Pianists" and also a poster session "Solfège as a Musical Language: Teaching Pianists to Audiate Through Solmization." I also enjoyed catching our past president, Dr. Evan Mitchell, present "Me, Myself, and Motivation: A

Student-Centered Approach to Developing Intrinsic Drive."

It was wonderful to see so many from our local area involved with MTNA at the national level. I was honored and humbled to be presented as an MTNA Foundation Fellow at the Gala during the conference. I am thankful to those who have encouraged and supported me in the various roles I've been able to serve in at the local, state and national levels. Without my "fellow obsessives" I would not be where I am in my teaching today.

Next, we look forward to the TMTA State Conference in June. I hope to see many of you in Waco!

Spring B. Seals, NCTM



Photos show members of TCU Collegiate Chapter, Spring Seals and Evan Mitchell at the 2023 MTNA National Conference, Reno, Nevada.

## FWMTA Calendar April – June 2023

### APRIL

- 15, 29 State and Local Piano Ensemble rehearsals, 9:00-11:00 am at Steinway Hall, 510 Commerce St., FW
- 29 Solo Competition Honors Recitals, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University
- 29 Masterclass registration deadline: submit a video via google drive and email to tanevna@yahoo.com

### MAY

- 6 Advanced Piano Masterclass with Dr. Michael Buhkman. 2-4 pm, Steinway Piano Gallery, Fort Worth “Meet the Composer”
- 13, 27 State and Local Piano Ensemble rehearsals, 9:00-11:00 am at Steinway Hall, 510 Commerce St., FW

### JUNE

- 3 State and Local Piano Ensemble rehearsals, 9:00-11:00 am at Steinway Hall, 510 Commerce St. FW
- 13 Honors Recital, 7:00 pm at Steinway Hall
- 15-18 TMTA Conference at the Waco Convention Center

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## Editor’s Column



Since its inception ninety years ago, the duly elected President of FWMTA has worked in close collaboration with a small group of members who form the Executive Board of our association. This small group of highly involved members who form the core of our association cannot function as an independent entity; the committee members headed by Chairpersons in leadership roles, assist in administering the numerous activities FWMTA offers students throughout the academic year.

FWMTA is affiliated with TMTA, which like our local organization depends on its members to further its goals. Volunteerism is the lifeblood of nonprofit organizations. It is astounding to learn that Volunteers hold all positions of leadership in TMTA; the exceptions are that of Office Manager and Database and Convention Manager. And TMTA is over 2000-member strong and the largest affiliate of MTNA! Our passion for music and imparting our knowledge are two vital

ingredients that bind us together as members of our organization. An age perspective places us members in groups that range from young, to middle age, to full maturity. This natural cycle within our organization should ideally bring members with little experience in serving, together with those members in leadership roles through the spirit of volunteerism. This creates the merging of age groups, expertise, and fellowship.

Volunteerism brings to the fore much more than we imagined or expected of ourselves. To volunteer your time toward furthering the goals of FWMTA is to do the ultimate for an association you believe serves your needs as a teacher.

FWMTA wishes to thank all those members who have opted to remain on the Board for a further full term. The two positions vacated at the end of this past two-year term were V.P. for Programs and Treasurer. Two new members have graciously volunteered to fill these two positions.

Numerous other members have also opted to continue their work as committee chairs and committee members – an action that displays a

gallant sense of giving to an organization they believe in and wish to support. Giving of our time benefits future youthful musicians being trained and influenced by us as educators. These same students will hopefully go on to be educators themselves and supporters of the Arts in communities beyond the confines of our state. Affirmative influences, without a doubt, stem from our actions as educators and volunteers.

As Editor of the Newsletter, I have endeavored to provide news of interest to FWMTA members over the past *thirteen* years. It is now time to invite a member who has a passion for writing and compiling a newsletter to step in. If you wish to assume this pleasant task, please contact Spring Seals (spring@parkerpiano.com) or the Editor (r.solomons@tcu.edu) at your earliest convenience. The Newsletter began its long journey numerous years ago; the continuity of this e-journal needs to remain unbroken.

Rosemary Solomons,  
Newsletter Editor

## The 2023-2025 Slate of FWMTA Board Members

The following newly elected members will serve on the Executive Board of FWMTA for the upcoming two-year term 2023 – 2025.

President	Spring Seals
Vice President for Programs	Adriana Morales
Vice-President for Membership	*Dr. Jae Kim;
Co-Vice Presidents for Student Activities	*Dr. MaryAnn Fritz and *Jennea Potter
Secretary	Erin Fisher
Treasurer	Keji Sanchez
Directors	*Dr. Jill Sprenger, *Reva Jean Beck and *Dr. Ilka Araujo

\*Members who have served multiple terms.

The current Board wishes to thank the Nominating Committee, MaryAnn Fritz, Chair, and Jennifer DeSantis and Rosemary Solomons for their untiring efforts in filling the positions of VP for Programs and Treasurer held over the last two-year term by Dr. Tanya Karyagina and Dr. Tak Yan Yeung respectively, both of whom gave generously of their time and talent.

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**Adriana Paola Morales**, who will serve as **FWMTA** Vice President for Programs from 2023 – 2025, is currently the director of Piano House Music Academy LLC in Fort Worth, the music director at Silver Creek United Methodist Church in Azle, and a Cliburn in the Classroom host, where she brings to life the “Cliburn in the Classroom” Programs to many schools in the DFW area. **Please see the February 2023 issue of the Newsletter for Ms. Morales’ complete bio information.**



**Keji Sanchez** will serve as **FWMTA** Treasurer from 2023 – 2025. She is an active solo and collaborative pianist and currently serves as an Adjunct Professor for Piano and Music Theory at Texas Wesleyan University and Tarrant County College and teaches at the Fort Worth Conservatory of Music, and her private MarKeji studio. Keji is completing her dissertation for the Doctoral of Musical Arts, Piano Performance, and Church Music degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where she also received her second Master of Music degree. Keji earned her first Master of Music degree in Music Theory from Mannes College the New School University (NYC) and a Bachelor of Music degree from China Conservatory in Beijing, China. She studied with Dr. Robert Smith, Dr. Jill Sprenger, Dr. Sunny Salls, Marilyn Groves, and Dr. Cristina Stanescu. She is a member of MTNA, FWMTA, and MCMTA.

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## FWMTA Celebrates the Class of 2023

Submitted by Dr. MaryAnn Fritz  
Chair, Senior Scholarship

Each year the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association awards scholarships to seniors who have demonstrated a dedication to musical endeavors through participation in Student Affiliate events, TMTA Theory Tests, Piano Guild auditions, National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Festival, the Fort Worth Solo

Contest, the Royal Conservatory of Music program, NATS and UIL competitions, choirs, orchestras, and various other activities.

The **Senior Scholarship** of \$300 is awarded to four graduating seniors. **Sunita Asgaonkar** (a student of Jennea Potter) attends Carroll Senior

High School in Southlake. Sunita is debating her major and choice of university.

**Dat Dao** (a student of Reva Jean Beck) is a student at Martin High School in Arlington. Dat plans to attend either UTA or TCU and is considering his options of majors.

**Erika Feller** (a student of Ilka Araujo) is a senior at the Harmony School of Innovation in Fort Worth. Erika plans to major in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Texas in Austin.

**Matthew Lobo** (a student of Jennifer DeSantis) will graduate from Fort Worth Country Day School. Matthew is considering his options for schools.

The **Memorial Scholarship** of \$400 is awarded to two seniors who will be majoring in music. **Isabella Jovanovic** (a student of Jill Sprenger) will graduate from Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth. She plans to

major in music education at the University of Miami or the University of North Texas.

**Kelsey Miguel** (a student of Jill Sprenger) is a senior at the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts. She plans to double major in music (voice concentration) and pre-med psychology at TCU.

The **Community Service Award** is given to a Fort Worth high school student engaged in community service through the medium of music. This **Community Service Award** of \$500 goes to **Christopher Ridad**, a student

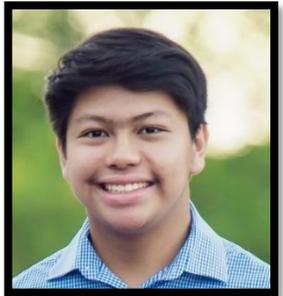
at the Harmony School of Innovation – Fort Worth. Chris is well-known to FWMTA, as he also happens to be a student of Jennifer DeSantis. Chris plans to major in psychology at Northwestern University.

As a part of the scholarship application, students are required to write an essay discussing their experience in music and its role in their lives. Here are excerpts from the essays of the 2023 scholarship recipients. Enjoy getting to know these bright lights



**Sunita Asgaonkar, Senior Scholarship:** “I have always loved music and started playing the piano at age 5. I participated in numerous contests and festivals, including Guild. I never looked forward to Guild, because it made me so nervous to play multiple pieces in front of a judge. But it taught me how to manage my nerves and overcome my fears. I learned so much through preparing for these contests, from how rewarding dedicating yourself to something is to the importance of practice. Music has always been an important part of my life ever since I can remember. It has given me so many skills and relationships that have been crucial to who I am today and what I will do in the future.”

**Student of Jennea Potter**



**Dat Dao, Senior Scholarship:** “Music has taken over almost every aspect of my life from childhood to the present, whether it be through piano, orchestra, or choir. Spanning the years, there has been a consistent joy that music brings, due to its ability to touch the soul. Music has no limitations on who it can speak to, creating an avenue of expression like no other. In both performing and listening to music, I’ve not only learned how to express myself but more importantly, how to understand people and their perspectives through their execution of music. This unfiltered form of communication is what makes music an invaluable part of my life.”

**Student of Reva Jean Beck**



**Erika Feller, Senior Scholarship:** “As I danced across the stage, I couldn’t help but be moved by the music as the melody swept me to my feet and transported me to a whole other world. From that moment forward, my life has been engulfed in music. From the age of 4, I danced ballet and continued throughout middle and high school. Eventually, I became a volunteer pianist for the Ballet Center of Fort Worth. And now, as I stumble across a piano while performing mundane tasks, I can’t help but play the delicate ivory keys as an ode to my passion. Music will continue to sweep me off my feet and transport me to unimaginable places for the rest of my life.”

**Student of Ilka Araujo**



**Matthew Lobo, Senior Scholarship:** “Music has long been a pillar of my life. I am told that as an infant I visibly responded to my favorite songs. At the age of 4, I began to study piano. I progressed from learning notes to playing chords. I learned how to bring out the melody while supporting it with a complex structure. Piano festivals provided me with goals to work toward. Over the years, I have learned how to break down complex tasks, memorize, create beautiful sounds, and develop resilience. I am grateful for the world of music that the study of the piano has given me. The lessons I have learned will stay with me and carry me through.”

**Student of Jennifer DeSantis**



**Isabella Jovanovic, Memorial Scholarship:** “Throughout my whole life, music has always been a constant. My mom, a piano teacher, enrolled me in piano lessons at the age of 5, and at school, I did everything in my power to be a part of the musicals and choir. In high school, I took AP Music Theory and went through the All-State Choir process with some of my closest friends. I did not realize how much I took these experiences for granted until Covid hit. There were no more face-to-face piano lessons, choir rehearsals, or even small recitals. Once I saw a world without music in it, I knew mine would have to include it. Finally, when I went to TMEA with my choir director, I realized what I wanted to do for the rest of my life – teach music. Through teaching, I hope to pass on my love and passion for music to future generations.”

**Student of Jill Sprenger**



**Kelsey Miguel, Memorial Scholarship:** “Music has provided me a means to share a part of myself through not only beautifully written words but beautifully written melodies and harmonies, as well. Through music, my confidence and sense of community have grown and continue to provide me with a way to grow and evolve as a human being in all aspects of life, not just artistically, but personally as well. Some examples include being taught the value of patience, discipline, honesty, transparency, and vulnerability. Music is formally defined as something that ‘[is] combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony, and [the] expression of emotion.’ I have personally experienced how music can further cultivate human connection, as well as highlight the beauty of individuality. Every day I feel how music is changing me for the better, and that’s not something I am willing to give up.”

**Student of Jill Sprenger**



**Christopher Ridad, Community Service Award:** “Sharing my music to serve the community has been an integral part of my life throughout middle school and high school, but it is not the only way that I have helped make my community a better place. The community service project that I have developed is called the Community Closet. In collaboration with other service organizations at my school, the Community Closet is designed to help disadvantaged students at my school. It provides non-perishable food, hygiene products, school supplies, and clothing for those students in need. My passion to serve the community will not stop after high school. I want to continue sharing music with other people and also mentor children so they can carry on that same passion for music and community service. Music is more than just something to master; it’s an enchanting art form and can reach across the world and fill every person with giddy joy.”

**Student of Jennifer DeSantis**

## Graduating Seniors



**Grace Zaucha**

Grace began playing piano nine years ago in Naples, Italy when she fell in love with the instrument after hearing the music of Chopin for the first time. After almost 3 years of study in Naples, she began piano lessons at TCU Music Preparatory. Since then, she has received recognition in the FWMTA Jazz and Fall Festivals, as well as the Solo Competition and TMTA Theory Test. Grace will be graduating *summa cum laude* from Nolan High School, where she is an Amon Carter Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society among other organizations. Grace enjoys sharing her music with others and has recently discovered a love of accompanying opera singers, which she hopes to continue in college outside of her major. She also hopes to

inspire others to learn an instrument by continuing to perform while at the University of Notre Dame, where she will pursue a major in Accounting, with minors in French and Italian on a pre-law track.

**Student of Lori Christ**



**Samuel Asprilla**

My musical interests began with a children's boat toy; I wanted to imitate the music it played, so I went over to our old upright and played what couldn't even be called a vague resemblance of the sounds the boat had produced. As a result, not of my childish incompetence but of my peaked interests, my parents offered to find me a piano teacher. Not long after, I was seated for my first lesson with Mrs. Rosemary Solomons, where I would continue to learn classical and jazz piano and theory for the next eleven years. As I continued to improve, I would play for numerous jazz festivals and participate in competitions. One such composition was the Slaughter Family Arts Awards: I was generously granted \$500 for a classical performance in 2020 and was named a finalist last year, 2022. Later, my experience and love of playing the piano would encourage me to pick up the alto saxophone at school. We performed at football

games, both home and away, and performed numerous jazz scores before live audiences. I even began to experiment with jazz improvisation on both instruments, which has been difficult yet exciting. Performances aside, I was provided with a valuable education in music theory that would ultimately prompt me to take AP Music Theory in my junior year and pass the AP exam. Not only did I develop a keen interest in composition but felt what it was like to be surrounded by students of similar interests. As of right now, I'm hoping to enroll in a similar class at the University of Texas at Arlington. There, I will be majoring in mechanical engineering and hopefully, a minor in jazz studies. All in all, my piano lessons with Mrs. Solomons have forever impacted my life. The ability to play and master an instrument is truly a blessing, and I'm beyond grateful for the hundreds of lessons I've taken over the years and how it has shaped me as a person. I'm certain my parents are similarly grateful as well for the ability I now have as a pianist.

**Student of Rosemary Solomons**

# Teaching Beginning Students: Nurturing a Love for Music

By Tak Yan Yeung



*Dr. Tak Yan Yeung teaches as Adjunct Instructor at the University of Dallas and Tarrant County College Northwest. He also owns and operates Yeung's Piano Time and serves as Organist at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. He is the founder of Concerts on Harwood. Tak Yan is Treasurer of the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association.*

As music teachers, we often find teaching young beginning students both rewarding and challenging. We introduce children to music using a novel instrument. While many children are curious enough at the beginning to feel excited about the prospect of being able to play the piano later, continuing piano learning requires patience, dedication, and commitment from both the children and their parents. Teachers play an important role in their student's musical journey by guiding and encouraging them. When we start young beginning students, we want to set them up for long-term success by prioritizing our goals in our teaching.

To me, the most important goal of teaching beginning students is to nurture a love for music through learning an instrument. Making a student love music is the biggest success that a teacher can have. Through working with a young child on music regularly, a teacher should help the child discover and appreciate the intrinsic beauty of music. When working with a student, the teacher should always emphasize that playing an instrument is a musical activity. After all the note-reading games, rhythm exercises, and repertoire learning, the students should know that it is music that they are learning. The ultimate success of piano lessons is for children to grow up loving music,

enjoying playing the piano, and having music as their lifelong companion.

## Listening to music

How, then, do we instill a love for music in our students? Teachers should encourage students to listen to and share music. Listening to music helps children **develop a musical inner ear and an early interest in music**. Developing a child's musical inner ear when learning to play the piano is as important as constantly listening to a new language that a person is learning. One needs to immerse oneself in an environment, aural or phonetic, to learn music or a language well. When students listen to music regularly, they understand that playing the piano is about expressing and communicating the beauty and emotions of music. Piano lessons and practice would be productive when students have a world of musical sounds in their minds. In my case, listening to music helped me make sense of piano playing when I was a child. The piano has been the medium for me to play the music that I love. Even today, there is no bigger joy than hearing my favorite music sound under my fingers.

The DFW is home to an abundance of opportunities to listen to classical music. Numerous professional orchestras – the Dallas Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Richardson Symphony, Plano Symphony, and Las

Colinas Symphony, to name just a few – perform frequent and regular concerts. The Cliburn holds piano concert series continuously. Opera lovers have easy access to performances by the Dallas Opera and Fort Worth Opera on both sides of the Metroplex. For a more convenient option to have children listen to classical music daily, we can tune into the radio station FM 101.1 (or online at [www.wrr101.com](http://www.wrr101.com)) which plays classical music throughout the day. Listening to music on the radio is something that children can do every day, and often multiple times a day. Parents can simply leave the radio on when having breakfast and dinner and when children are in the car. It is one of the best and easiest ways to have children immersed in a musical environment. Just a little time spent listening to music daily goes a long way in their music learning and building their interest in music.

## Sharing Music

Performing for people is another thing that a teacher should encourage students to do. Even with young beginning students, playing for other people should be an integral part of the curriculum of piano lessons. They will grow to understand that **playing the piano is about sharing the joy of music with other people**. Students will have a sense of fulfillment when they witness people enjoying the music

Continued from page 7  
that they perform. The rewarding experience of bringing joy to other people through music motivates students to play the piano in the long term because they see the meaning of music learning.

Student recitals are popular and ideal occasions for students to perform and bring music to others. Not only do they get to play for people, but they can also listen to other students perform. Listening to another student playing at a similar level is encouraging because they see that there are other students at the same stage of musical development. Watching a more advanced pianist perform inspires young students as they can see themselves reaching a higher level through years of learning and dedication. The various festivals offered by the local Music Teachers Association or music schools are other good opportunities. Comments and suggestions from judges who usually are music teachers can provide

valuable insights and important directions for the students' learning. Other than the more formal performance occasions mentioned above, children often find it rewarding to play the piano for family members in their own homes. Parents taking the time to listen to and appreciate their children's playing is the best support that they can give to the children. In addition, by being their children's audience regularly, parents can learn about the progress of piano lessons; more importantly, showing involvement in their piano learning gives them the motivation to practice. Many young students tell me that they want to learn a piece of music so that they play it for mom and dad later! Children love it when they know that they have an audience who appreciates the music that they are playing.

### Conclusion

Creating an environment where parents and teachers develop an interest in music and encourage

musical activities is essential to successful music learning. For piano lessons to be effective in the long term, we need to ensure a high level of parent-teacher collaboration from the beginning. Teachers give instructions, encouragement, and constructive criticism in piano lessons and provide performance opportunities. Parent's involvement is needed for children to listen to music at home or go to concerts regularly; listening to and appreciating children playing the piano at home also requires parents to spend time with their music-making. Students relate to piano playing more easily when they know that playing the piano is part of the holistic experience of music learning, instead of a standalone activity. When parents and teachers work together to help students understand that playing the piano is about making music and appreciating their music-making, students are on the path to developing a love for music in their music learning.

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## News Briefs



**Congratulations to Zoe McKenzie** (House), who was the first-place winner in the Best Performance of Béla Bartók at the Online International Music Competition held in March 2023 by the GCC Organization and dedicated to the 142<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the birth of Bela Bartok. Zoe graduated from Texas Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Piano Performance & Pedagogy in December 2022.

While at Texas Wesleyan, Zoe studied piano performance and pedagogy under Dr. Ilka Araujo. During that time, Zoe received many prizes and scholarships including third place at the International Collaborative Piano Competition in Puerto Rico (2021), performing the music of Gabriel Fauré and José Gabriel Núñez Romberg, and second & third places at the SAI Inter-American Music Competition (2021 and 2023), performing the music of Paul Bowles and Heitor Villa-Lobos respectively. Zoe was selected to perform at the TWU President's Honors Concert three times and was invited to perform in several other events including Wesleyan at the Modern and the Fort Worth Women's Club (2021 and 2022).

Currently, Zoe works as a piano and music theory instructor for the Fort Worth Conservatory of Music & Fine Arts. She also teaches and manages her private studio in Fort Worth and serves as the Monthly Open Recital Chair and as a Fall Festival Committee Member for the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association. Zoe married Timothy McKenzie on March 4, 2023.



**Home-schooled seventh grader, Alex Marquez**, a student of Dr. John Solomons, will compete in the semi-final round of the **Performance Contest at the TMTA Conference** in June 2023 in Waco, Texas.



### **Ilka Araujo Awarded Steinway & Sons Top Teacher Award**

Dr. Ilka Araujo, FWMTA Board member; Chair of the Music Department at Texas Wesleyan University, and Professor of Music History, Piano, and Piano Pedagogy, recently received the 2022 Steinway & Sons Top Teacher Award. The award is a formal recognition of a music educator's passion, artistry, and commitment to students and is awarded to the top educators in their field around the world. Dr. Araujo earned this award in 2017 as well.

Her love and passion for teaching, devotion to her students, as well as the belief that there is always a place for everyone when given a chance, have made her one of the most sought-after piano teachers in the DFW area.

The picture shows Dr. Araujo with Thomas Ragazzino at Steinway & Sons Gallery in Fort Worth who nominated her to the New York Steinway Factory which led to her being awarded the prize a second time.

## **FWMTA 2023 Solo Competition**

From its inception, the FWMTA annual Solo Competition held in the Spring was exclusively for pianists of all levels and open to regional associations, teachers, and their students. In recent years, FWMTA added divisions for Strings and Voice to the existing Piano division taking the contest to a new level. Piano, Strings, and Voice students are free to perform a repertoire of their choosing, according to the requirements for each division and age category. Competitors selected as Recitalists will perform one of their competition pieces, as selected by the judges, in an Honors Recital, where trophies and medals are presented at the public concert.

The Solo Competition which took place on Saturday, April 22, 2023, produced some interesting figures which should be of interest to all teachers. The figures show that students of all ages and school grades enjoy playing an instrument or being trained as vocalists. **254 Pianists, 30 String Instrumentalists, and 14 Vocalists** competed in this very popular contest held by the FWMTA. This event which attempted to bring out the best in these 298 young performers would not have taken place without the patience and encouragement of the **66 dedicated participating Teachers** from the following cities: Keller, Fort Worth,

North Richland Hills, Southlake, Aledo, Benbrook, Flower Mound, Weatherford, McKinney, Coppell, Euless, Trophy Club, Arlington, Mansfield, Colleyville, Frisco, Carrollton, Allen, Plano, Richardson, Little Elm, and Roanoke.

The judges adjudicating the competitors in the three divisions were Dr. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, Dr. Dongni Xie, Ms. Sarah Alexander, Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Dr. Dmitry Ulasiuk, Dr. Hando Nahkur, Dr. Ji-Eun Yum, Dr. Alex McDonald, Ms. Samantha Bennett, and Mr. Scott Tilley

FWMTA thanks Solo Competition Co-Chairpersons, \*Sara Doan and \*Anne Smith and committee members \*Ilka Araujo, Adriana Morales, Christina Petrandio, \*Patricia Tsai, and Shoujen Ruth Liu for their time and untiring efforts in organizing this much-awaited annual event. The Solo Competition has and continues to serve as a fitting conclusion to all the events FWMTA provides students and teachers throughout the academic year.

**\*Teachers who have served multiple terms.**

Rosemary Solomons, Editor

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## **Open Student Recitals**

By **\*Zoe McKenzie (House)**

**Recital Chair**

As the 2022-2023 series of Open Recitals comes to a close, it is nice to reflect on the growth we have seen this year in the variety of pieces, students, and teachers represented. Students as young as Pre-K up to adults have made regular appearances throughout the months. It has also been wonderful to watch the progress of students throughout the year, as they increase in skill and confidence! And an increase in interest in ensemble playing showed itself through works for piano and violin and duo piano that were frequently performed. The open student recitals continue to be a great resource for teachers in the Fort Worth area, providing a space for students to prepare for competitions and recitals, or just build confidence

\*Has served multiple terms

## FWCO's Young Musicians Concerto Competition Winner



Eleventh grader **Stephen Chang** will be the soloist in a performance of Bela Bartok's Viola Concerto by the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra directed by Music Director Kurt Sprenger on May 13, 2023, at Birchman Baptist Church, Fort Worth. FWCO's Young Musicians Concerto Competition winner Stephen Chang is in 11th grade and is currently homeschooled. He studies viola with Ronald Houston and also plays piano and violin on the side. He has been a finalist at many competitions, including the North Texas Young Artists Competition, Collin County Concerto Competition, Juanita Miller Concerto Competition, and the Lynn Harrell Concerto Competition. Recently, he has won first place at the Dallas Symphonic Festival for the Senior Sonata division as well as first place for the Lewisville Lake Symphony Concerto Competition. He has been named principal violist in TMEA Region 31 for 4 years and has made the Texas All-State orchestra for 3 years. He is currently co-principal of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra. Outside of classical music, he enjoys competitive speech and debate, speedcubing, listening to K-pop, and eating good food.

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## FWMTA Executive Board Members 2022-2023

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Spring Seals, NCTM

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Dr. Evan Mitchell

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\*Reva Jean Beck,

\*Dr. Ilka Araujo

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Reva Jean Beck, NCTM

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

\*Rosemary Solomons

### **NEWSLETTER GRAPHICS**

T. L. Helmick (non-member)

\*indicates multiple terms in office