Seventy-Fifth Annual State Conference



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Music Teachers National Association

Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future

November 6-8, 2026

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Albuquerque

Conference Schedule

Friday, 11/6

12:00-3:00	Registration	Promenade East
1:00-2:45	Board meeting	Gomez Board Room
3:00-3:50	Presentation of Elizabeth Garland's 2021 commissioned composition *Precipice*	SW Ballroom
4:00-4:50	Thomas Shoebotham: "Before the Rhapsody: Gershwin's rise to fame"	SW Ballroom
5:30-6:45	Banquet: Teacher of the Year Award, presentation by Brian Shepard (MTNA's CEO) of 75th anniversary plaque, music by Falko Steinbach	Rancher's Lounge
7:00	Guest Artist Recital featuring Peter Takács, Thomas Shoebotham, and Sam Jacobs	SW Ballroom

Saturday, 11/7

8:00-11:00	Registration	Promenade East
7:15-8:45	Competition warm-up time	SW Ballroom, Garden Room
8:00-8:45	Lightning Talks by PMTNM members: • Dr. Lanjiabao Ge, NCTM: "Sight-Reading Tips" • Jacqueline Zander-Wall: "From the Community, For the Community… How to Start a Festival in Your Community" • Dr. Yoshiko Arahata: "The Dancing Pianist: How Movement Enriches Music Making" • Dr. Priscilla Hallberg: "Music Appreciation for Kids: A Path to Saving Our Orchestras" • Lawrence Blind: "Never Too Young to Read Between the Lines"	Rancher's Lounge
8:45-1:00	Warm-up room	Rancher's Lounge
9:00-11:00	MTNA Competition: Piano	SW Ballroom

9:00-10:08	MTNA Competition: Strings	Garden Room
10:15-10:55	MTNA Competition: Voice	Garden Room
11:15-12:50	Honors Auditions: Piano	SW Ballroom
11:10-12:15	Honors Auditions: Voice	Garden Room
12:20-12:37	Honors Auditions: Strings	Garden Room
9:00-9:45	Brian Shepard, CEO of MTNA meets with board members	Gomez Board Room
9:45-10:30	Brian Shepard meets with general membership	Gomez Board Room
10:30-11:30	Teachers' Corner: open discussion of lightning talks and other teaching topics	Gomez Board Room
11:30-11:45	Upcoming concerts at NM Philharmonic: Laurie Lopez	Gomez Board Room
1:00-1:30	Collegiate Presentations: • Ravijit Khalsa, UNM: "Music and Life of Santa Fe Galloway" Introduction by Professor Falko Steinbach • Mario Campos, NMSU: "The Sound of Independence: La Campana de la Independencia by Ernesto Elorduy"– Introduction by Dr. Yoshiko Arahata	Rancher's Lounge
1:30-2:20	Terri Reck:, Dalcroze class Introduction by Dr. Joseph Seth Zamora	SW Ballroom
2:30-3:30	Peter Takács: "The Mind of Beethoven: Recurring Ideas in the 32 Piano Sonatas"	SW Ballroom
3:30-4:30	Terri Reck: Music Bowl	Garden Room
4:00-5:30	Piano and string master class: Peter Takács and Thomas Shoebotham	SW Ballroom
5:30-6:45	Dinner on your own	
7:00	Winners' Concert	SW Ballroom

Sunday, 11/8

9:00-11:00	General membership meeting (Zoom option sent in an email)	Gomez Board Room

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MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

November 6, 2026

Dear Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico:

On behalf of the MTNA Board of Directors and National Staff, welcome to the New Mexico State Conference. Connecting with fellow teachers from across your state is one of the most meaningful benefits of MTNA membership. Conferences like this provide valuable opportunities to learn, share ideas, and build relationships that support your work as a music teaching professional. This year's PMTNM Conference is even more special as you celebrate 75 years of service to the profession. Congratulations!

At gatherings like this, the music teacher becomes the music student. Through sessions, conversations, and performances, you gain new ideas, fresh perspectives, and practical tools to bring back to your studio. The exchange of knowledge and encouragement among colleagues strengthens your teaching, benefits your students, and helps sustain the future of our profession. As you return to your local communities, we hope you will continue to think creatively of how to foster growth and engagement within your local professional network.

As you think about continuing your professional growth and expanding your network, we invite you to join us for the 2027 MTNA National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, April 2–6. The conference will feature more than 100 informative sessions, inspiring master classes, and a vibrant exhibit hall showcasing the latest music, products, and innovations. The conference will open Friday evening with a concert by the Grammy Award winning choral ensemble Chanticleer, and acclaimed pianist Tom Borrow will round out the performances with a Monday evening recital. And, you won't want to miss the keynote by voice teacher and organizational strategist Michelle Markwart Deveaux on Sunday morning.

The 2027 MTNA National Conference promises to be an inspiring celebration of music, education, and community. Mark your calendar now and watch for more details at mtna.org.

Again, welcome to the New Mexico state conference. Please enjoy every moment of it.

Sincerely,

Kevin Chance

Kevin Chance, NCTM
President

Sincerely,

Brian Shepard

Brian Shepard
Chief Executive Officer

Professional Music Teachers of NEW MEXICO

November 6, 2026

Welcome to PMTNM's 75th anniversary conference! As we celebrate this milestone, we honor the past by remembering those who have dedicated so much time, love, and energy to our organization. In Promenade East you can view past people and events on our PMTNM exhibit table.

PMTNM was founded in 1951 by Byrdis W. Danfelser, our first president. Joan Hines created Honors Auditions, and later the Performance Evaluation Program (PEP) was established. MTNA competitions began in 1963. In your registration bag, you will find a short questionnaire. Please tell us what you most value about PMTNM, and what innovations you would like PMTNM to consider adding. Now we are shaping the next 75 years!

The weekend is packed with exciting events. Both MTNA and Honors competitions will take place on Saturday morning. Pianist Peter Takács and cellist Thomas Shoebotham will lecture on Beethoven and Gershwin respectively, perform an inspiring recital, and teach a stimulating master class. You'll also experience the enormous talent of our own members. Sam Jacobs will perform with Thomas Shoebotham. Elizabeth Garland will discuss her 2021 commissioned piece *Precipice,* written during the pandemic. Falko Steinbach will grace us with a piano performance at the banquet, where Jacqueline Zander-Wall will be honored as Teacher of the Year (TOTY). Five lightning talks will be presented by Lanjiabao Ge, Jacqueline Zander-Wall, Yoshiko Arahata, Priscilla Hallberg, and Larry Blind. Terri Reck will teach a Dalcroze class and run Music Bowl. Collegiate presenters Ravijit Khalsa (UNM) and Mario Campos (NMSU) will explore the music of two composers you may not know.

We are honored that MTNA's CEO Brian Shepard will be in attendance! Brian will present a plaque commemorating PMTNM's 75th anniversary and meet with members on Saturday.

Just as importantly, we will be together! The joy of our commonality, exchange of ideas, and mutual support is beyond any measurable value.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to all who helped make this conference possible: Sam Jacobs, Jeanne Grealish, Sharon Kunitz, our wonderful volunteers and sponsors (see page 29), the Crowne Hotel staff, and most of all, my amazing daughter Anna, who created this conference booklet, our new branding, and much more.

Collegially yours,

Laura Spitzer

Dr. Laura Spitzer
PMTNM President



Brian Shepard

MTNA CEO

For more than two decades, Brian Shepard has combined his passions for music, nonprofit leadership, and building meaningful connections in service to the arts community. A graduate of Miami University with degrees in marketing and music education, Brian joined Music Teachers National Association in 2003 and now serves as Chief Executive Officer.

A frequent speaker and advocate for music education, Brian believes in the power of community and enjoys bringing people together, fostering collaboration, and creating opportunities for connection across the profession. His commitment to service extends beyond MTNA through leadership roles with numerous nonprofit organizations, including the National Music Council and the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, where he currently serves as Board President.

An MTNA Foundation Fellow, Brian remains an active musician and can often be found performing as a pianist, vocalist, or choral conductor for church and community events. Brian also loves cats, Golden Girls, travel and spending time with friends and family.

See Brian Shepard:

Presentation of 75th anniversary plaque at the banquet
Friday, Nov. 6, 5:30-6:45 pm, Rancher's Lounge

Brian Shepard meets with PMTNM board
Saturday, Nov. 7, 9:00-9:45 am, Gomez Board Room

Brian Shepard meets with PMTNM general membership
Saturday, Nov. 7, 9:45-10:30 am, Gomez Board Room

Fun fact!

Founded in 1876 by musician and publisher Theodore Presser alongside 62 of his colleagues in Ohio, MTNA is the oldest professional music teachers association in the US.



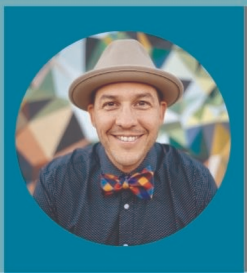
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Peter Takács

Pianist

Hailed as "a marvelous pianist" by the New York Times, Peter Takács has established himself as a distinguished performer, teacher, and lecturer. Winner of the William Kapell International Competition, he has appeared in recital, chamber music, and with orchestra in the United States, Europe, and Asia. He has performed at important summer festivals such as Tanglewood, Music Mountain, Chautauqua Institution, ARIA International, Schlern Music Festival in the Italian Alps, Tel Hai International Master Classes in Israel, and Sweden's Helsingborg Festival.

Takács has given master classes throughout the world and has been an adjudicator in many prestigious international competitions. In 2015-16, he inaugurated a new recital series entitled "Key Pianists", performing three all-Beethoven programs at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. His recording of the complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas was released on the Cambria label in July 2011 to critical acclaim, and was reissued in 2021. He is Professor Emeritus of Piano at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he taught from 1976 to 2024. In the Beethoven 250th anniversary year 2020, in recognition of Mr. Takács's achievements, Oberlin Conservatory received a generous gift to establish a Peter Takács/Beethoven Piano Sonata Prize, to be awarded annually to a piano student selected for outstanding Beethoven interpretation. His release of the complete Beethoven piano sonatas on the high-resolution platform nativeDSD was voted 2022 Album of the Year.

See Peter Takács:

Guest Artist Recital
Friday, Nov. 6, 7:00 pm, SW Ballroom

"The Mind of Beethoven: Recurring Ideas in the 32 Piano Sonatas"
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2:30-3:30 pm, SW Ballroom

Piano and string master class: Peter Takács and Thomas Shoebotham
Saturday, Nov. 7, 4:00-5:30 pm, SW Ballroom

Fun fact!

MTNA played an important role in creating international copyrights and officially recognizing the American composer.

Thomas Shoebotham

Cellist & conductor



American conductor Thomas Shoebotham has impressed both audiences and critics with his performances of a wide range of repertory, displaying strong musicality, versatility, and "masterful command of pacing, dynamics, and color."

Shoebotham is Principal Conductor for The New Ballet in San Jose, CA. From 2007-2018 he was Music Director of Palo Alto Philharmonic, creating compelling concerts featuring both traditional masterpieces and newer works by various current composers, including Chris Theofanidis, Lee Actor, and Jennifer Higdon. He has conducted numerous other orchestras in both the San Francisco Bay Area and elsewhere, including Peninsula Symphony, the San Francisco Concerto Orchestra, Albuquerque Phil, Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra, St. Peter's Chamber Orchestra, and Rio Grande Chamber Symphony.

Shoebotham has conducted performances with Opera San José (Les Pêcheurs de Perles), Lyric Theatre of San Jose (Iolanthe), The New Ballet (Swan Lake, The Nutcracker), West Bay Opera (The Last Tycoon), Emerald City Opera in Steamboat Springs (Le Nozze di Figaro), Berkeley Opera (Otello, Béatrice et Bénédict, Le Nozze di Figaro, Carmen, Cosí fan Tutte, and L'italiana in Algeri), Opera on Tap San Francisco (Le Nozze di Figaro), and Verismo Opera (Otello).

In addition to conducting, Shoebotham has taught and performed on the cello in the Bay Area for over 30 years. In past seasons he made solo appearances with the Oakland Civic Orchestra, Kensington Symphony, and Palo Alto Philharmonic, and gave solo and chamber music recitals in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, NM, IL, and NY. As an orchestral player, he has appeared with New Mexico Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, Sacramento Symphony, Fresno Phil, Symphony Silicon Valley, Illinois Phil, and numerous other professional ensembles.

See Thomas Shoebotham:

"Before the Rhapsody: Gershwin's rise to fame"
Friday, Nov. 6, 4:00-4:50 pm, SW Ballroom

Guest Artist Recital - Friday, Nov. 6, 7:00 pm, SW Ballroom

Piano and string master class: Peter Takács and Thomas Shoebotham
Saturday, Nov. 7, 4:00-5:30 pm, SW Ballroom



Sam Jacobs

Pianist

Sam Jacobs has served as Vice President of the Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico since November of 2025. He maintains a piano studio in Albuquerque, where he resides with his family. Mr. Jacobs co-founded the ensemble Southwest Chamber Players in 2015, and performs solo and collaborative concerts whenever the opportunity arises. A Massachusetts native, he settled in New Mexico in 2008. Mr. Jacobs' principal teachers were Peter Takács, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, and Jonathan Bass. Other teachers important in his development were Boris Slutsky, Jerome Lowenthal, and Alvin Chow. He holds a master's degree from the Cleveland Institute and a bachelor's degree from Oberlin Conservatory and College. In addition to music, Mr. Jacobs loves spending time with his family, reading, tango, chess, movies, hiking, and supporting the Red Sox, Celtics, and Patriots.

See Sam Jacobs:
Guest Artist Recital - Friday, Nov. 6, 7:00 pm, SW Ballroom

Falko Steinbach



Pianist

Falko Steinbach, Professor of Piano at UNM, performs and teaches at festivals in America, Asia and Europe. He studied piano performance at the Musikhochschule Köln and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, earning 4 music degrees in piano performance, pedagogy and theory, his highest being a "Konzertexamen." He has recorded 16 CDs, published "A Compendium of Piano Technique" and is a Steinway artist. Steinbach has composed more than 60 works, including 53 piano etudes, his opera "Berlin Suite", oratorio "Apocalypse" and piano concerto "Calamophyton." Numerous reviews, articles, awards, and 2 doctoral theses about his etudes reflect great respect and recognition for his artistic, humanitarian and pedagogic achievements.

See Falko Steinbach:
Banquet performance - Friday, Nov. 6, 5:30-6:45 pm, Rancher's Lounge

Professional Music Teachers of
NEW MEXICO

presents

Peter Takács, piano
Thomas Shoebotham, cello
Sam Jacobs, piano

In recital

Friday, November 6, 2026 • 7:00 pm • Crowne Plaza Hotel

Program

Five Pieces in Folk Style, Op. 102 — Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

I. Vanitas vanitatum: Mit Humor
II. Langsam
III. Nicht schnell, mit viel Ton zu spielen
IV. Nicht zu rasch
V. Stark und markiert

Thomas Shoebotham
Sam Jacobs

Andante with Variations in F Minor, Hob. XVII:6 — Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Three Intermezzi, Op. 117 — Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

I. Eb Major: Andante moderato
II. Bb Minor: Andante non troppo e con molta espressione
III. C# Minor: Andante con moto

Sonatine — Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

I. Modéré
II. Mouvement de menuet
III. Animé

Ballade No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52 — Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Peter Takács

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Jacqueline Zander-Wall

2026 Teacher of the Year



A proponent of new music, Jacqueline Zander-Wall has premiered works with Composers Forum in Moscow, L'art pour l'art in Frankfurt, Goethe Institute in Boston, Chaosma, Hugo Wolf Akademie in Stuttgart, Scala in Hamburg and Hamburg Opera Stabile. She has performed with Aspen and Skaneateles Music Festivals, Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival, Music in the Mountains, Britten-Pears Festival, Hugo Wolf Akademie, and Taos Chamber Music. Opera credits include leading roles with Boston Lyric Opera, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Chicago Opera Theater, Arizona Opera, Hamburg Opera, Duluth Superior Symphony, New Haven Symphony, and Opera Southwest.

After completing a master's degree from UC Santa Barbara, she received a Rotary Scholarship to study in Hamburg. Further fellowships include Boston University Opera Institute, Music Academy of the West, Ost West Musik Academie, Britten Pears School, Aspen Music Festival, and Utah Festival Opera. She studied with Elizabeth Mannion, Phyllis Curtin, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Jeanne Grealish.

Now in its eighteenth year, she founded the Vocal Artistry Art Song Festival of New Mexico to aid, inspire and encourage students of voice and piano. VAASF has presented performances involving 1,500 students of voice and piano. She also serves as President of Albuquerque Music Teachers Association and was president of the Rio Grande chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing in 2010. She is preparing the fifth annual AMTA Tzufeng Liu Student Chamber Music Concert on March 7, 2027.

She has served on the voice faculty at Phillips Exeter Academy, Phillips Academy, College of Santa Fe, and UNM. Ms. Zander-Wall's students have attended summer and undergraduate programs at Julliard, Eastman, Oberlin, Vanderbilt, Boston Conservatory, Princeton, Northwestern, Tanglewood, and Interlochen. Two of her students were MTNA's national first-place winners in 2008 and 2021, and five were national finalists in 2022, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2015. She is extremely honored to be acknowledged by her friends and colleagues at PMTNM.

See Jacqueline Zander-Wall:

Presentation of Teacher of the Year award at the banquet

Friday, Nov. 6, 5:30-6:45 pm, Rancher's Lounge

Lightning Talk: "From the Community, For the Community…How to Start a Festival in Your Community" - Saturday, Nov. 7, 8-8:45 am, Rancher's Lounge



Elizabeth Garland

2021 Commissioned Composer

Award-winning composer Elizabeth Garland was PMTNM's Commissioned Composer in 2021, but due to Covid, there was no performance. This year she will be properly honored with a viewing of her commissioned work, *Precipice*. *Precipice* is a film in four parts set to an original score for piano with shifting combinations of violin, cello, and drums. Written in response to the pandemic, the music unfolds through a series of vignettes portraying a world that became, all at once, profoundly fragile and deeply connected. The piece moves through isolation, separation, and loss, then turns toward revolution and the power of medicine, arriving at hope and togetherness. Intimate and expansive by turns, *Precipice* captures a shared moment in history when distance defined daily life, and reminds us what it means to find one another again.

Elizabeth Garland is a composer, pianist, educator, and interdisciplinary artist based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She studied orchestration at Berklee and under the mentorship of composers Michael Mauldin and Hollywood composer Philip Giffin. Her work spans film scoring, live performance, collaborative creation, sound installation, and experiential workshops exploring presence, creativity, and human connection. Garland's compositions have received international recognition, including First Prize in the International Unsigned Only Competition for her orchestral work, First Prize in the International Golden Key of Vienna Composition Competition, and First Prize in the International Piano Guild Composition Competition. She is a 2026 New Mexico Music Awards winner and a 2024 International Songwriting Competition finalist, and as a young pianist she won First Prize in the New Mexico Honors Competition. A 2026 TEDx speaker, she is also a two-time international best-selling author in the Power of Why series.

See Elizabeth Garland:

Presentation of Elizabeth Garland's
2021 commissioned composition *Precipice*
Friday, Nov. 6, 3:00 pm, SW Ballroom

Terri Reck

Dalcroze Eurythmics teacher



Terri Reck, a native New Mexican, studied harpsichord, piano and music history at UNM, where she received a bachelor's degree cum laude in music. She later studied continuo playing (figured bass) with Dr. Arthur Haas at the Eastman School of Music.

She has devoted her life to teaching music and performing on the harpsichord. She has performed in solo and ensemble concerts, with both modern and baroque instruments and has collaborated with the Santa Fe Symphony, the New Mexico Philharmonic, Albuquerque Chamber Soloists, Albuquerque Baroque Players, the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque, the Placitas Artist Series, and Church of Beethoven.

She is a certified teacher of Dalcroze Eurythmics – a discovery-based approach that teaches music, rhythm and solfege through body movement - and teaches Dalcroze classes every Saturday at the UNM Music Prep School to students ages 4 and up. She has taught as a guest lecturer at UNM in Baroque Performance Practice and as a Dalcroze instructor in the Music Education department. Her students have continued their music study in colleges and universities in the United States and abroad through the doctoral level. She maintains a harpsichord and piano studio in the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque where she resides with her husband, pianist and piano technician Fred Sturm. Her career has spanned almost 50 years.

See Terri Reck:

Dalcroze class

Saturday, Nov. 7, 1:30-2:20 pm, SW Ballroom

Music Bowl

Saturday, Nov. 7, 3:30-4:30 pm, Garden Room

Fun fact!

The New Mexico Music Teachers Association was renamed Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico in 1998.

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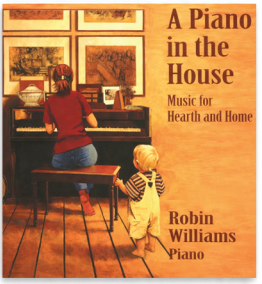
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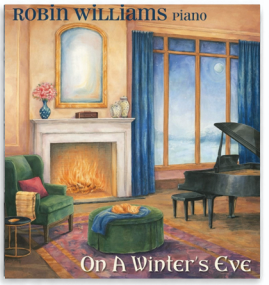
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Lightning Talks

Lawrence Blind



Never Too Young to Read Between the Lines

Lawrence Blind received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from Indiana University, and a Performers' Certificate at Eastman. He was the winner of the MTNA Collegiate Artist Competition and the Young Keyboard Artist Association International Piano Competition, and a semi-finalist in the William Kapell International Competition. His teaching career spans over four decades. He is a past President of PMTNM and AMTA and a former chair of MTNA NM competitions and district and state Honors Auditions. He was 2018 PMTNM Teacher of the Year and 2022 Royal Conservatory of Music Southwest Teacher of Distinction. His students have excelled in MTNA and PMTNM competitions, the Jackie McGehee Concerto Competition, and as recipients of national and regional gold medals in the RCM examination program. He is Director/Co-CEO of the New Mexico School of Music.



Lanjiabao Ge

Sight-Reading Tips

Dr. Lanjiabao Ge is an internationally active pianist whose performances have taken her to renowned venues including Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Steinway Piano Gallery. A prizewinner of multiple international piano competitions, she is recognized for her dynamic musicianship and versatility as a soloist and collaborative artist.

Dr. Ge has coached and performed over 30 opera productions, collaborating with singers and instrumentalists across diverse repertoire. She previously served as Coordinator of Collaborative Piano at Truman State University. An active private piano teacher, Dr. Ge works with students of all ages and levels, emphasizing healthy technique, musical independence, and expressive performance. She currently serves as Faculty of Piano and Collaborative Piano at Eastern New Mexico University. She holds degrees from the University of Florida, University of Miami, and Virginia Commonwealth University.



Priscilla Hallberg

Music Appreciation for Kids: A Path to Saving Our Orchestras

Priscilla Hallberg is a concert violinist and a 27-year veteran of the Boston Pops-Esplanade Orchestra, performing with Arthur Fiedler, John Williams and Keith Lockhart, with whom she made 20 national and international tours. Her teaching, performing and conducting career includes stints at the University of Northern Iowa, Holy Cross College (MA), Murray State University (KY), Washington State University, and directing the Central College Community Orchestra in Pella, Iowa, and the Academy Orchestra at the Medicine Hat College Conservatory in Alberta, Canada. Dr. Hallberg founded the String Academy of the Southwest in 2008, moved it to Albuquerque in 2019, and for it has created a concert series, "Strings and Friends," a home concert series, "Soirée" and a children's series, "Great Music for Young Ears." As part of that last initiative, she is authoring a digital music appreciation course for kids, and, funded by NM Arts, she has been performing concerts in the NM schools for the last seven years.

Yoshiko Arahata

The Dancing Pianist: How Movement Enriches Music Making



Yamaha Artist Yoshiko Arahata, D.M.A., is a versatile pianist, improvisor, composer, and educator. Grounded in solo, concerto, and collaborative music, her artistic practice blends classical music with jazz and contemporary genres, dance, theater, and visual arts. Arahata was named a fellow of the Gilmore International Piano Festival and has performed across the US, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. She recently performed and taught at Internationales Klavierfest Lindlar, College Music Society International Conference (Colombia), Conservatorio de la Rosas Morelia, and at over ten US universities. Arahata is Assistant Professor of Piano and Collaborative Piano at NMSU, developing a brand-new collaborative piano curriculum. Previously, she was a visiting professor at Indiana University Bloomington and founded "The Pianist's Guide to Dance Accompaniment" at Eastman, where she received her doctorate. Her award-winning composition for "Odyssea," a dance-on-film production by QuickSilver Dance, was featured in Toronto, Edinburgh, UK, and NY.

Jacqueline Zander-Wall



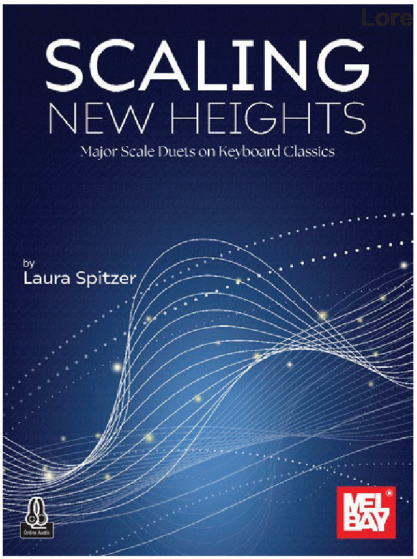
From the Community, For the Community...How to Start a Festival in Your Community

A proponent of new music, Jacqueline Zander-Wall has premiered works with the Composers Forum in Moscow, L'art pour l'art in Frankfurt, the Goethe Institute in Boston, Chaosma, Hugo Wolf Akademie in Stuttgart, Scala in Hamburg and the Hamburg Opera Stabile. She has performed with numerous music festivals, including the Aspen Music Festival, Skaneateles Music Festival, Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival, Music in the Mountains, Britten-Pears Festival, Hugo Wolf Akademie, and Taos Chamber Music. Opera credits include leading roles with Boston Lyric Opera, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Chicago Opera Theater, Arizona Opera, Hamburg Opera, Duluth Superior Symphony, New Haven Symphony, and Opera Southwest. Full bio on page 14.

See Jacqueline Zander-Wall:

Presentation of Teacher of the Year award at the banquet
Friday, Nov. 6, 5:30-6:45 pm, Rancher's Lounge

Lightning Talk: "From the Community, For the Community...How to Start a Festival in Your Community" - Saturday, Nov. 7, 8-8:45 am, Rancher's Lounge



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by Laura Spitzer

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- Raindrop Prelude
- The Happy Farmer
- and many more!

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MEL BAY®

Collegiate Presenters



Ravijit Khalsa

Music and Life of Santa Fe Galloway

Ravijit Khalsa is an interdisciplinary, undergraduate pianist from New Mexico. He has always been fascinated and immersed with music since a young age, fiddling with keyboards for as long as he can remember. He was inspired to become a jazz pianist after listening to records by Keith Jarett and Herbie Hancock. He began taking lessons at age 14. Since joining the University of New Mexico, Ravijit has fallen in love with classical music under the guidance of Professor Falko Steinbach. He plays piano for UNM jazz bands and has collaborated with fellow pianists and other instrumentalists in playing chamber music. He has played in a Masterclass given by internationally renowned pianist Michelle Cann and was invited to perform at the 2025 and 2026 Lindlar International Piano Festivals in Germany. He is currently completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Piano Performance at the University of New Mexico.



Mario Campos

The Sound of Independence: La Campana de la Independencia by Ernesto Elorduy

Mario Campos, a native of Torreón, Coahuila, México, has maintained an active career as a solo and collaborative pianist in the US and México. He has appeared as a soloist with an orchestra at the Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. His collaborative experiences include duos with vocalists and instrumentalists, chamber music, Academia de Música Antigua de Zacatecas, and the Encuentro Internacional de Musica de Camara in San Luis Potosi. In 2025 he won a second prize in the Collaborative Piano Division of the Vocal Artistry Art Song Festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Campos completed his Bachelor of Music degree under the guidance of Dr. Alejandro Barrañón at the Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas. He is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Piano Performance at NMSU, where he studies with Dr. Yoshiko Arahata as a full-time Graduate Piano Assistant, having previously studied with Dr. Jung-Won Shin.

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Website

New Officers



Angel Rauch

Treasurer

Angel Rauch is our new treasurer. She is a high-achieving Comptroller with 36 years of experience in diverse accounting disciplines. Currently she lives in Santa Fe and works at Landseer Management as the Corporate Accountant/Co-Controller.

Joseph Seth Zamora

Executive Secretary

Our new executive secretary, Dr. Joseph Seth Zamora, holds a DMA and MM in Piano Performance from UT Austin. He is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at NMSU and Music Director at Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces.



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Interested? Email Laura Spitzer at lspitzer@nmsu.edu.

Local Chapters

Albuquerque Music Teachers Association

AMTA is a large organization of almost 50 members, offering several annual student programs, including:

- Honors Auditions
- MTNA Competitions
- Performance Evaluation Program (PEP)
- Tzufeng Liu Student Chamber Music Concert
- Vocal Artistry Art Song Festival
- Student Spring Recital

President: Jacqueline Zander-Wall
Vice President: Tatyana Bayliyeva
Treasurer: Elvira Guillen
PEP Auditions: Allyssa Pehrson
Past President: Astrid Groth, NCTM

For more info visit:
albuquerquemusicteachers.org

Northern New Mexico Music Teachers Association

NNMMTA covers the Santa Fe/Los Alamos/White Rock/Espanola/Taos/Las Vegas area. The organization offers several annual student programs, including:

- Honors Auditions
- MTNA Competitions
- Performance Evaluation Program (PEP)
- Sonata Contest
- Halloween Masquerade Musicale
- Spring Musicales

For more info visit:
nnmmta.weebly.com

President: Janna Warren
Treasurer: Wendy Ge
Webmaster: Elizabeth C. Axford
Halloween & Spring Musicales in Los Alamos: Aejin Chang

Music Teachers of Eastern New Mexico

The Music Teachers of Eastern New Mexico, a non-profit organization, was established in fall 2025 and continues to grow as a vibrant new affiliate serving music teachers in rural areas across the region. Because MTENM members are geographically dispersed, the organization primarily meets online for meetings and presentations, while also gathering in person for special events and activities throughout the year.

President: Ferrell Roberts, NCTM
Vice President: Marina Bengoa Roldán, NCTM
Secretary: Mike Lively
Treasurer: Cheryl Pachak-Brooks, NCTM

MTNA Collegiate Chapter of the University of New Mexico

The MTNA Collegiate Chapter of UNM, advised by Professor Falko Steinbach, was chartered in 2025. Accomplishments include setting up a professional pianist meet and greet for aspiring piano students at UNM, volunteering at the 2025 and 2026 PMTNM Conferences and the 2026 MTNA National Conference.



Stay connected

Make sure you are receiving emails and notices from lspitzer@nmsu.edu and mtna.org. Check your spam folder for any missed messages.

Visit our new website and follow us on Facebook for news and updates.

www.pmtnm.net

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Fun fact!

MTNA is credited with helping to establish an international pitch scale in 1883.

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AMTA

Northern New Mexico Music Teachers Association

Thank you for the tea and branded coasters!

Thank you for the anniversary cake!

Special thanks to:

Anna Spitzer

Tatyana Bayliyeva

Melinda Moore

Joseph Seth Zamora

Brian Shepard & the MTNA team

Andrew Gillispie, RPT

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Fun facts!

There are currently 16,000-17,000 MTNA members and more than 500 local and state affiliates.

State MTNA winners will compete next in the Southwest Division with Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah.

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Congratulations to the winners and participants in the MTNA Competitions and Honors Auditions!

Bravo to all music teachers for keeping music education vital and flourishing in our state, and thank you parents for supporting your children's musical journey!



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