

SEGUE

Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico Spring 2026

PMTNM is an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association



PMTNM Teacher of the Year 2026: Jacqueline Zander-Wall

Ms. Zander-Wall has a wealth of teaching experience that ranges from middle school through college, and private instruction to classes in voice, diction, popular music, cantata, and drama, in California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Mexico.

Jacque's private students have attended summer programs and undergraduate programs at Julliard, Eastman, Oberlin, Vanderbilt, NYU, USC, UCLA, Boston Conservatory, Indiana University, Princeton, New England Conservatory, Northwestern, Tanglewood, and Interlochen. Two of her students were MTNA's national first-place winners in 2008 and 2011, and five were national finalists in 2022, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2015. Presently, one of her students, a high school senior, has been accepted both to the New England Conservatory and San Francisco Conservatory.

Her education includes study with Elizabeth Mannion at UC Santa Barbara, where she earned her BA and MA in Music/Vocal Performance; Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Berlin; and Phyllis Curtin at Boston University, where she completed an Artist Diploma.

Jacqueline Zander-Wall is Founding Director of Vocal Artistry Song Festival of New Mexico, now in its seventeenth year, created with the mission to "aid students of singing and piano in the state of New Mexico." VAASF has presented performances involving 1,500 students of voice and piano. In addition, she serves as President of Albuquerque Music Teachers Association and was president of the Rio Grande chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) in 2010.

As a performer, she has a long list of opera credits; church affiliation in California, Massachusetts, and Germany; and has presented recitals worldwide.

Jacqueline Zander-Wall has enriched the musical life of New Mexicans since 2004. She has nurtured the talent of our children, helping them find their artistic voice and their place in the vast world of music.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Zander-Wall for being selected 2026 Teacher of the Year! We look forward to honoring her at the 2026 PMTNM conference.

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President's Message

Dear PMTNM Members,

I'm excited that Segue has resumed publication, and grateful to Cheryl Pachak-Brooks for her willingness to serve as newsletter editor and layout designer. Cheryl has extensive experience, having served in this role for several years in the past.

In March I attended the 2026 MTNA Conference, celebrating its 150th year, which was filled with great music and presentations. I've attached pdfs of some of my favorite sessions for you to explore if you wish.

Vice-President, Sam Jacobs and I have been hard at work planning PMTNM's 75th anniversary conference, to be held November 6-7 in Albuquerque (venue to be finalized). We have commitments from 4 guest artists to perform, teach, present, and judge during our two-day conference: pianists Peter Takács (retired from Oberlin College in 2024) and Daniel del Pino (Texas Tech University), cellist Jonathan Shoebottom (conductor, New Ballet in San Jose, CA), and soprano Yunah Lee (University of Arizona).

We are also delighted to feature our fellow PMTNM member Elizabeth Garland once more as Commissioned Composer. She was selected in 2021, but because of Covid there was no performance of her commissioned work. This will be our opportunity to hear her multi-movement suite and honor her publicly.

We are now soliciting ads for both Segue and for the convention program. If you would like to place an ad or help us find advertisers, please contact me for details: lsplitzer@nmsu.edu.

For the next issue of Segue, we encourage you to submit items of news or interest; for example, upcoming or past events, graduating students planning to pursue a music major, scholarships awarded to students, recommendations for interesting music-related videos or articles, innovations in your studio, musical humor, notes from a workshop or conference, etc. Submissions should be emailed directly to Cheryl Pachak-Brooks at: Cheryl.Pachak-Brooks@enmu.edu.

In appreciation of all you do to nurture New Mexico's children and culture,

Laura Spitzer
President, PMTNM
Professor Emerita, NMSU



A PMTNM Treasure: Honoring Jeanne Grealish

For decades, Jeanne Grealish has devoted her life to the art of music, the education of young musicians, and dedicated service to the profession. When Ruth Williamson submitted her resignation in the fall of 1995 after faithfully serving as PMTNM Executive Secretary/Treasurer since 1980, Jeanne answered the call to leadership. On July 1, 1996, she officially assumed the role and has served our organization with unwavering commitment ever since.

As the saying goes, “all good things must come to an end.” After nearly three decades of extraordinary dedication, Jeanne has submitted her letter of resignation, marking the close of an era for PMTNM. Her steadfast leadership, countless hours of service, and deep love for music have left a lasting impact on our organization and on the many teachers, students, and colleagues whose lives she has touched.

A celebrated mezzo-soprano, teacher, scholar, and advocate for music education, Grealish has built a career defined by artistic excellence and tireless dedication. She maintains a private voice studio in Albuquerque and is one of only two voice teachers in New Mexico recognized by the Music Teachers National Association as a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Her exceptional teaching record earned her the 2001 Teacher of the Year award from the Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico. In 2021 she received the MTNA Distinguished Service Award which is given annually to an MTNA member whose service to MTNA at the national level has been significant and long term.

Grealish’s educational journey took her from Meredith College, where she earned a B.A in voice and music education, to the New England Conservatory, where she earned both a master’s degree and an Artist Diploma in voice. Her studies later brought her to Vienna, where she trained at the Vienna Academy of Music and the Performing Arts and the Vienna State Opera for five years.

As a performer, Grealish earned international acclaim for her operatic, oratorio, and recital performances. Renowned particularly for her interpretations of Mahler and Wagner, she performed throughout Europe and America in such major musical centers as Vienna, Zurich, Boston, New York, Washington, and Chicago. Her repertoire included 26 operatic roles and 37 oratorio roles, along with numerous solo works for mezzo-soprano and orchestra.

Her appearances at prestigious festivals—including Tanglewood, Chautauqua, Brevard, and the Vienna Festival of Music—further established her reputation as a distinguished artist. As a recitalist, she toured nationally and internationally with pianist Jane Snow, appearing at celebrated venues such as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Yale University’s Sprague Hall, the National Gallery of Art, and the Library at Lincoln Center. Critics praised her deeply expressive artistry, with one reviewer writing that her performances made “the whole rich musical heritage of 19th century Europe fresh and delightful.”



Jeanne’s 90th birthday celebration.

Among Grealish's many honors are the Frank Huntington Beebe Award, the Schoen-René Opera Prize, a Fulbright Fellowship in Musicology, and a Rockefeller Award for performance.

Yet perhaps her greatest legacy lies in teaching and mentorship. Grealish has taught at the University of New Mexico, conducted master classes at colleges and universities across the country, and contributed significant scholarship through musicological research and translation work. She also helped expand access to music education through her work with the New Mexico Symphony as Coordinator of Grants and Tours and as co-founder of Opera Unlimited, an educational outreach program for children.

Reflecting on her life in music, Grealish often speaks not of accolades, but of passion and purpose. Although her first ambition was medicine, fate led her to music instead—a path she ultimately embraced wholeheartedly. "I'd rather die of passion than of boredom," she quotes Vincent van Gogh, a sentiment that has clearly guided her remarkable journey.

For Grealish, teaching became a form of music therapy in itself: helping students develop confidence, joy, and lifelong participation in music-making. She has long believed that while few students pursue professional careers, every student can find fulfillment and belonging through music.

Her decades of volunteer leadership within MTNA and PMTNM reflect that same spirit of generosity and commitment. Whether serving PMTNM, coordinating the MTNA Young Artist Performance Competitions, even when two-thirds of the 650 applications come in during the last few hours before the deadline, or supporting the MTNA Foundation, Grealish views service not as an obligation, but as a privilege.

The past has taught that not everything in life is pleasant, but from every ache, hurt, disappointment there can be a healing. Life is not perfect. We humans are not perfect, yet somehow we learn to accept our own imperfections. In doing so we learn to accept those in others - a prerequisite for good teaching.

From every *down* there will be, must be, an *up*.

- Jeanne Grealish

"Helping in the tiniest way continues to be an investment of time with tremendous rewards," she wrote.

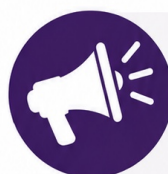
Jeanne Grealish's life embodies artistry, scholarship, mentorship, and service. Through her teaching, performances, leadership, and advocacy, she has profoundly shaped the musical lives of countless students and colleagues. In the words she so fittingly quotes from Edgar O'Shaughnessy, she truly is one of the "music-makers" and "dreamers of dreams" who have helped move and shape the world through music.

Jeanne, we are truly grateful for the many years you have devoted to PMTNM and wish you well in "retirement." You are a treasure!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MUSIC.

PMTNM is seeking dedicated volunteers to join our team!



ADVERTISING MANAGER

Promote PMTNM events and initiatives through creative marketing and communication.



ARCHIVES

Preserve our history by organizing and maintaining important PMTNM documents and records.



AWARENESS & ADVOCACY

Raise awareness of music education and advocate for music teachers and students across New Mexico.

Your time. Your talents.
A LASTING IMPACT.



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

pmtnm.org | Join us in supporting music education in New Mexico.

President's Report - Laura Spitzer

Activities

- * Represented PMTNM at the MTNA Leadership Summit September 5-7, 2025
- * Represented PMTNM at the MTNA Conference in Chicago March 21-24, 2026
- * Filled most of the empty committee chair/officer positions and sent updated list to MTNA.
- * Cheryl Pachak-Brooks has agreed to be editor/layout designer of *Segue*: it resumes (digitally) in May.
- * Initiated discussion and planning for a handbook revision
- * With VP Sam Jacobs, secured commitments from four guest artists to perform, teach, present, and judge during our two-day conference November 6-7, 2026.
- * Drafted a convention schedule
- * Drafted a convention budget
- * Formed a convention committee
- * Began soliciting donations and booklet ads
- * Drafted a marketing plan to advertise the convention
- * Contacted possible conference venues.

Did you know...

MTNA has developed a vast collection of business resources to meet the ever-changing demands that music teachers face. In addition to access to a comprehensive resource library, MTNA members receive the MTNA Business Digest, an online curated publication of current business resources.

Membership

- * PMTNM has 79 members
- * 45 active members (57%)
- * 27 senior (35%)
- * 6 collegiate (8%)
- * 20 NCTM members (26%)
- * 17 joined (or rejoined after an absence) in 2025 or 2026
- * Membership increased by 4 (5½%) since last November

Upcoming Dates



TEMPO, virtual
June 26, 2026



Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum,
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 7 - 8, 2026



Summit for MTNA Leadership,
Cincinnati, Ohio
September 11 - 13, 2026



MTNA Affiliate Leadership Seminar, Virtual
September 25, 2026



PMTNM State Conference,
Albuquerque, NM
November 6 - 7, 2026



MTNA Collegiate Symposium,
Kansas City, Missouri
January 16 - 17, 2027



MTNA National Conference,
St. Louis, Missouri
April 2 - 6, 2027

Vice President's Report - Sam Jacobs



Ever since my earliest conversations with Laura last November, we have been focused on three main areas - increasing membership, raising money, and planning an amazing conference.

Feedback from several member teachers who are regular participants in the conferences suggested that the conferences needed to be bigger, more inspiring and exciting if they were going to continue to be involved with them. On top of that, 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the PMTNM and we both thought that something special is called for. We intend to do this through bringing very high-caliber guest artists to perform, present and judge our competitions, and be using a venue which is conveniently located, suitable to our purpose and friendly to out-of-town teachers, students and families. To have great artists and a great venue is expensive, hence the importance of fundraising.

Fundraising

I have been working on fundraising for the last month/month and a half. A trickle of donations has started to come in. It's not clear at this point whether it will ever turn into a flood, but I am convinced that as long as I keep asking new donors, the trickle will continue. The exact pitch varies according to whom I'm contacting, whether I know them, what I know about them, etc., but the core promotional information is consistent, and was the result of a series of conversations with Laura so that anyone else doing fundraising will be telling potential donors the same thing. This core information is:

The PMTNM offers great benefits to music teachers and students in New Mexico. Our fundraising objectives are laid out below. We offer such perks to our donors as we can in grateful appreciation of your generosity.

PMTNM Benefits to New Mexico Music Teachers and Students

An annual conference in early November, which brings the music community together and provides a variety of events to inspire and educate. In celebration of our 75th anniversary, we are planning a large and exciting event for 2026. The current plan is to hold the conference at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Albuquerque, making it both enjoyable and

convenient for people coming from out of town. We have a world-class roster of guest artists including pianists Peter Takacs and Daniel del Pino, conductor and cellist Thomas Shoebottom, and soprano Yunah Lee, as well as local composers. There will be concerts, lectures, and workshops serving a variety of different interests and level. PMTNM runs two student competitions - the state level the MTNA national competitions and the finals of our own state Honors auditions. Both will happen at the conference. These constitute two of the only three competitions for pre-college music students in New Mexico.

For students interested in performance opportunities and professional feedback without the pressure of competition, the PMTNM also sponsors Performance Evaluation Programs (PEP) in districts with sufficient interest.

PMTNM puts out a newsletter for teachers, called *Segue*.

PMTNM has a website with a member directory and resources for teachers and students.

Our Fundraising Objectives

Donors are of course welcome to designate donations for things that they are interested in, like sponsoring a guest artist at the conference. Otherwise, all donations will be used according to the priorities of the organization, as follows:

Cover the cost of the 2026 conference - currently estimated at \$19K

The next \$5K will be added to the main operating account PMTNM.

Any additional funds will be used to create an endowment to support the long-term financial health of our organization.

The proposed endowment has the following characteristics:

- 70-80% equities
- 15-25% bonds, real estate and precious metals
- 0-10% cash/money market funds. Index funds, government bonds, REITs, and precious metals funds are encouraged
- Crypto will be excluded entirely
- A transfer will be made from the endowment to the PMTNM operating account only in

years with a positive return - half the return will transfer; half will be added to the principal for the next year

PMTNM Donor Perks (for those who want them)

All Donors - inclusion on a donor list published on the conference program and the website

Silver Donors (\$75 and up) - 1/4 page ad in the program

Gold Donors (\$150 and up) - 1/2 page ad in the program

Platinum Donors (\$300 and up) - full page ad in the program

Ruby Donors (\$1000 and up) - admission to the opening concert the conference with guest artists, Friday November 6, 7 pm

Diamond Donors (\$2500 and up) - admission to the competition winners' concert at the conference, Saturday November 7, 7 pm

Turquoise (our state gemstone) Donors (\$5000 and up) - pass to the full conference Friday and Saturday

Partnerships with Other Local Organizations

I had a productive meeting with Marian Tanau, who is the Director/CEO of both the NM Phil and the Olga Kern competition. He offered us free advertising in their October programs in exchange for announcing some their promotions to our membership at the beginning their season, around the same time. He was also amenable to either speaking briefly at our conference about their upcoming season or having Maestro Minczuk do it. To me, this is a win/win and could lead to even greater reciprocal benefits in future years.

I attended a violin masterclass by Rachel Barton Pine on April 10 at Robertsons. It was sponsored by a local Suzuki organization, I think it is called 505 Suzuki Coop. It was packed - standing room only.

There are at least a half dozen teachers in the organization, maybe quite a few more, and as far as I could tell none of them are members of MTNA. This seems to me an opportunity to not only increase our numbers, but the energy and vitality of the PMTNM. The head of the organization is Rafael

Videira. Please let me know if you have any ideas for bringing them into the fold.

I also accompanied a clarinet student in an evaluation program sponsored by APS on April 18. It was very much like PEP, but for instrumentalists. There were dozens of students performing and many teachers as well, and none that I recognized from PMTNM. This too suggests an opportunity to enlarge and invigorate our membership. It would be great if we knew how to find all these APS music teachers, contact them and give them a compelling reason to join the MTNA.

It came to my attention that more than a dozen of our members were not appearing in the "search for a teacher" feature on the MTNA website. When I contacted the MTNA, they said their website was being redone. It came online at the beginning of April.

I recommend that all members check their profile on the website to make sure yours can be viewed.

This visibility is part of the benefits you are already paying for.

Thank you for placing your trust in Laura and me. Please do not hesitate to approach us with ideas, questions, and concerns.



TEMPO

Join us Friday, June 26, for an interactive online event focused on practical teaching strategies and real-time music making.

Secretary/Treasurer Report - Jeanne Grealish, NCTM

Quarter and annual financial records, reports, and required tax returns are prepared by Mary Scofield, CPA, and are in accordance with the format approved by IRS, the State of NM Taxation and Revenue, the State Corporation Commission, the Attorney General's Office, and MTNA. Daily records are kept by the Sec.-Treas. and given to Ms. Scofield on a quarterly basis. Ms. Scofield also prepares the necessary returns for IRS and the State of New Mexico, which the Sec.-Treas. then files. The Sec.-Treas. makes all bank deposits, balances all accounts, and writes all checks. She handles the required filing with the NM State Corporation Commission and Attorney General's Office as directed by CPA Scofield.

General checking is done with Bank of America. A money market account for PMTNM and checking or savings accounts for the seven (7) designated funds are held by Bank of America; the Danfelter CD is held by Main Bank, formerly Bank 1st.

- * All expenses to date have been paid.
- * All federal, state and local required documents and lists have been prepared and filed.

If at anytime anyone wishes more detailed financial information, it is readily available. All checkbooks, bank statements and CPA's reports are available for inspection by any member upon request.

I have been happy to serve PMTNM for approximately 30 years and always will remain grateful when I can be helpful. Board members shouldn't hesitate to call on me at any time. My job description covers many areas of service. I trust that a new Executive Sec.-Treas. will be found very soon.

MTNA Mission

MTNA enriches lives, strengthens communities, and furthers quality music instruction by empowering music teachers through lifelong learning.

MTNA Vision

A world where every music learner is inspired by skilled, supported, and empowered teachers



2027 National Conference

Plan to attend the next MTNA National Conference, April 2–6, 2027, in St. Louis, Missouri.

New Affiliate Established - Music Teachers of Eastern New Mexico

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

Current officers are:

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

This year, teachers and students participated in Eastern New Mexico University's second annual Piano Day, providing valuable performance and learning opportunities for area musicians. In addition, Vice President Marina Bengoa Roldán submitted a proposal for an MTNA Affiliate Enrichment Grant that would support several professional presentations for members during the upcoming school year.

The organization also celebrated an important milestone by receiving approval for tax-exempt status under MTNA's umbrella, strengthening its foundation for future growth and programming.

Student Activities

PEP - Janna Warren

This year we decided to do a joint PEP combining students from Los Alamos and Santa Fe.

Our district PEP was held on April 17-18 in Santa Fe in the home of Dr. Wood. Laura Spitzer will come to be the judge. We are all excited and grateful that she will come to Santa Fe. Forty-two students from studios of 5 teachers participated.

An alternative day was held May 9 for students who couldn't attend in April. Kim Bakkum was the adjudicator.

PEP in Albuquerque was held May 9th with Jacobs serving as adjudicator. Allyssa Perhson was the local chairman.

PEP in Clovis was held on May 7th. Lori Dawkins was the local chairman and Dr. Bruce Lin the judge.

UNM Collegiate Chapter - Falko Steinbach

This semester, the MTNA chapter presidency changed. Ravijit Khalsa is the president, Dominic Jaramillo is the secretary, Sharonrose Harper is the treasurer, and Matthew Sanchez is the vice president.

The main activity this semester was the MTNA national conference in Chicago.

They also assisted and helped out at the PMTNM conference in NM.

Activities in progress:

Expanding the UNM – Chapter
Help Piano Competition SFIPC

HONORS - Melinda Moore

Activities completed:

Honors Audition for 2025 is complete. On November 8, 2025 we held State honors with 12 piano students, 3 voice students and 7 string students. prepared and it was a delight to hear all the performances. Winners performed a concert that night and received a cash prize.

Activities in progress:

There are currently no activities in progress for the next Honors.

As someone who took the job over at the last minute and had only attended one State Honors previously, I have a few recommendations.

Have a date, place and time reserved for the next state Honors by July.

Require District auditions be completed 6 weeks prior to State Honors. Four weeks is a very tight turn around.

Have a standard procedure in place on a single document that the president can turn over to the chairperson. I had to cobble together what to do from people kind enough to send me the information. It would be preferable to have a website with folders marked for each chairperson to easily access.

It would be good to do an email campaign over the summer encouraging teachers to enter their students at district level. Any chance for a student to perform should be taken advantage of. The more experience a student has at performing the better they are performing.

AMTA Vocal Artistry Art Song Festival of New Mexico - Jacqueline Zander-Wall



The AMTA Vocal Artistry Art Song Festival of New Mexico will be holding its 17th annual festival on October 23-25 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. We will be celebrating Cançiones Españolas.

Patricia Caicedo from the Barcelona Festival of Art Song will be joining us along with Stephanie Sanchez,

uprising Mezzo Soprano that participated in 2012 and now is singing Frieda at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Stephanie graduated from NMSU. Nathan Salazar, another treasured PMTNM student will also be performing and judging the collaborative piano division along with Marina Bengoa Roldan.

The Festival has now included over 1,500 New Mexico students of piano and voice.



The chair position for Advertising Manager, Archives, and Awareness and Advocacy remain vacant. Laura Spitzer has temporarily put her name on them in the hope that she could complete one or two activities for each in the course the year. Here are plans:

Advertising Manager - Laura Spitzer

Sam Jacobs and I plan to solicit conference ads, sponsorships, and donations, and will soon form a conference committee from all parts the state. One their tasks will be to contact their universities, music stores, and patrons of the arts.

Archives - Laura Spitzer

I will be putting out a call for pictures and documents to create an archive slideshow at the conference. I also plan to assemble a team to sort through materials in the storage unit and purge what is no longer needed.

Awareness and Advocacy -Laura Spitzer

The committee exists to increase community awareness, the importance of music study, and the professionalism of music teachers. But I think promoting awareness of PMTNM and MTNA among fellow musicians is another important facet. Even our own members (I include myself) are not aware MTNA's many benefits. This could be communicated in each issue of Segue, by email, and on social media.

Handbook

The PMTNM Handbook was last revised in 2014 and is in need of another revision. A committee of three is reviewing the handbook and will make recommendations this summer.

SEGUE - Cheryl Pachak-Brooks, NCTM

Laura Spitzer and I shared a vision for bringing life back to Segue and we are happy to share the first edition with the membership. Please feel free to share news or articles of interest throughout the year with me.

District News

Southwest District – Jung-Won Shin, DVP

I will be reaching out to the school district music teachers, NMSU faculty, and independent music teachers in the Southwest District with information about Honors Auditions that will be held in early October 2026 (exact date TBA). For state certification, I submitted a short article for the PMTNM newsletter, Segue, on the information and benefits the MTNA Professional Certification Program and what kind of tasks it entails to get certified.

Northeast 2 District – Lori Dawkins, DVP

Greetings! On Saturday, April 4th, piano students from Clovis, Portales, and Roswell performed for the 2nd Annual Piano Day at ENMU. Students played the piano and received a certificate , rating, and judge comments. The piano studios of Dr. Lanjiabao Ge, Dr. Marina Bengoa Roldán, Mike Lively, Ferrell Roberts, and Lori Dawkins participated. Special thanks to our adjudicators for the event: Dr. John Olsen, Dr. Marina Bengoa Roldán, Dr. Mark Dal Porto, and Ms. Kayla Liechty. Also, thanks to Marina Bengoa Roldán and Cheryl Pachak- Brooks for organizing this special event.

On Thursday, May 7th we held PEP auditions in Clovis at First Methodist Church. Dr. Bruce Lin from Amarillo College will judge. On May 9th, Ferrell Roberts and Lori Dawkins will have student Spring recitals. Mike Lively had his students play for several festivals in New Mexico and Texas this semester. It has been a busy Spring.



GP3

The National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum will be held August 7–8, 2026, at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Joyce Walker

We are forever grateful to Cindy Walker for continuing her mother's, Joyce Walker, legacy in supporting our young musicians. Cindy has graciously increased the amount of awards for the upcoming year.

JOYCE WALKER FOUNDATION CHART OF AVAILABLE AWARDS FOR NOVEMBER 2026

TOTAL: \$ 3,585 plus \$500 Teacher of the Year: \$4,085

MTNA YOUNG ARTIST PERFORMANCE AWARDS **\$ 800**

1st Place \$ 600

2nd Place \$ 200

If only one Young Artist entrant the award will be \$100 as an honorarium.

MTNA JUNIOR/SENIOR PERFORMANCE AUDITIONS **\$ 1,050** **(First Place Winners)**

Junior: Piano \$150

Strings \$150

Senior: piano, strings, woodwinds, and voice

4 @ \$150 \$ 600

Senior: piano duet \$150 (\$75 each player) \$150

MTNA COMPOSITION (first place winners) **\$ 325**

Elementary \$ 50

Junior \$ 75

Senior \$100

Young Adult \$100

HONORS **\$ 1,410**

Student Honors:

Categories I-V: piano, instrumental and voice:

Category I \$ 40 each piano, instrumental, voice \$120

Category II \$ 50 \$150

Category III \$ 60 \$180

Category IV \$ 70 \$ 210

Category V \$100 \$ 300

College Honors \$150 piano, instrumental and vocal \$ 450

\$1,410

TOTAL WALKER STUDENT AWARDS \$ 3,585

In accordance with Joyce Walker's statement to PMTNM on July 18, 2011 these conditions related to Student Winners and Teacher of the Year Award are permanent.

I. Competition Awards:

A) Composition winners should continue to appear at the Ensemble Recital and in the future their award checks should be presented at that time.

B) The length of the intermission at the Winners Recital should be short and the announced time limit strictly adhered to.

C) According to Joyce Walker's wish Cindy Walker shall become Chair in making decisions regarding the Awards and shall be invited to attend all PMTNM meetings and conferences.

II. Teacher of the Year Award:

Beginning in the fall of 2026 it is Chair Cindy Walker's wish to increase the TOY Award to \$500.



The [MTNA Professional Certification Program](#) is designed to support music teachers in enhancing professionalism within the field of music instruction. It serves both music teachers and the public by promoting high standards in teaching. For educators, certification offers professional recognition, increased prestige, and enhanced professional opportunities. For the public, it provides a reliable way to identify qualified music teachers within their communities.

The program is grounded in five standards that outline the essential knowledge and skills of an effective music teacher. Once these requirements are met, candidates receive the MTNA Professional Certification and the designation Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM). All active music teachers are eligible to apply. Part-time and full-time college faculty members are eligible to pursue certification through the [Administrative Verification Process](#).

To learn more about the certification process, please select the appropriate link below:

Teacher Profile Projects:

Teachers who are not collegiate faculty become certified by completing a series of five [Teacher Profile Projects](#).

Administrative Verification:

Part-time or full-time college faculty may become certified using the [Administrative Verification Process](#).

Fees: [View the fees](#) associated with becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM).

"The true beauty of music is that it connects people. It carries a message, and we, the musicians, are the messengers." — Roy Ayers

If you have any further questions, please contact one of the following:

- Jung-Won Shin, NM Certification Chair
Phone (575) 646-2228 (office)
E-Mail jshin@nmsu.edu
- MTNA Certification Program
Phone (513) 421-1420 or (888) 512-5278
E-Mail mtnacertification@mtna.org



NMSU Hosted the First Annual NMSU Piano Festival

The [Department of Music at New Mexico State University](#) hosted its first annual NMSU Piano Festival! on Saturday, January 31, 2026, in Las Cruces. The event brought together pianists of all ages for a day of performance, collaboration, and learning.

The festival began with morning solo and ensemble recitals featuring student performers from pre-college through the graduate level, as well as adult learners and piano teachers. In the afternoon, participants took part in joint master classes led by NMSU piano faculty Jung-Won Shin and Yoshiko Arahata, alongside outstanding teachers Evan Aguilar, Tatyana Bayliyeva, Flor de la Garza, Zoila Garcia-Salas, Laura Spitzer, and Joseph Seth Zamora. The day concluded with an interactive Q&A session.

In addition to performances and master classes, students engaged in group piano sessions focused on improvisation and ensemble playing, creating opportunities for collaboration and creative exploration. The inaugural festival successfully fostered a sense of community among pianists while providing valuable educational experiences for participants at every level.

The date for next year's festival will be announced soon to PMTNM membership. The festival welcomes piano students of all ages and their teachers. For more information about the festival, please contact the NMSU Music Office at (575) 646-2421 or the NMSU piano faculty at jshin@nmsu.edu or yarahata@nmsu.edu.