



Segue ~ Fall 2026

*Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico is an affiliate of
Music Teachers National Association*

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*Conference registration
coming soon!*

Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future ~ PMTNM Celebrates 75 Years

Mark your calendars and get ready to celebrate a remarkable milestone –the 75th anniversary of the Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico! This special conference promises an exciting weekend of professional development, musical inspiration, fellowship, and celebration.

The conference will take place Friday and Saturday, November 6–7, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque, with the annual membership meeting scheduled for Sunday morning, November 8.

There will be something for every music educator throughout this milestone celebration. Attendees can look forward to the MTNA and Honors competitions, along with inspiring performances by guest artists Peter Takács and Thomas Shoebotham. We are also delighted to feature our MTNA 2021 Commissioned Composer Elizabeth Garland.

For those interested in exploring movement and music, Terri Reck will lead a Dalcroze Eurhythmics class, offering participants an engaging opportunity to experience this unique approach to music education.

The weekend will also include collegiate presentations, providing a forum to share ideas, research, and perspectives. Student performance competitions and Music Bowl will help fill out the weekend events.

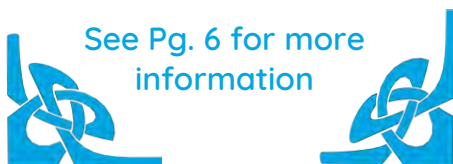
A highlight of the anniversary celebration will be the banquet honoring the 2026 Teacher of the Year, Jacqueline Zander-Wall. This special evening will provide an opportunity to recognize Jacqueline's contributions to the profession and celebrate her accomplishments alongside fellow PMTNM members. MTNA CEO Brian Shepard will also present a commemorative plaque honoring PMTNM's 75th anniversary.

As PMTNM celebrates 75 years of supporting music teachers, students, and the musical arts throughout New Mexico, this conference is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our organization's history and connect with fellow teachers from around the state.

Plan now to be part of this very special 75th anniversary celebration! We look forward to gathering with friends and colleagues in Albuquerque for a memorable weekend of music, learning, and fellowship.



**Visit the Official
PMTNM Website**
For up to date news &
happenings.



**See Pg. 6 for more
information**

Meet Our Conference Artists, Clinicians, & Guests

Peter Takács

The Mind of Beethoven: Recurring Ideas in the 32 Piano Sonatas



Hailed by the New York Times as “a marvelous pianist,” Peter Takács is internationally acclaimed for his penetrating and communicative musical interpretations. Born in Bucharest, Romania,

he began studying piano before age four and gave his debut recital at seven. After his family sought permission to immigrate to the West, his musical studies and performances were banned. He continued studying clandestinely until the family was allowed to move to France, where, at 14, he was admitted to the Conservatoire de Paris.

After arriving in the United States, Takács received full scholarships to Northwestern University and the University of Illinois, followed by a three-year doctoral fellowship at the Peabody Conservatory, where he completed his artistic training with renowned pianist Leon Fleisher.

Takács has appeared as a guest soloist with major orchestras throughout the United States and abroad and has performed at numerous prestigious festivals. He has also given master classes throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia and served as a juror for prominent international piano competitions. His recordings include the complete cycle of Beethoven’s 32 piano sonatas, released to critical acclaim in 2011.

A distinguished teacher as well as performer, Takács has guided students to top prizes in competitions worldwide and to admission at leading institutions including Curtis, Juilliard, and Peabody. He served as Professor of Piano at Oberlin from 1976 to 2024 and has been a faculty member of the Montecito Summer Music Festival since 2008.

Thomas Shoebotham



Thomas Shoebotham has taught and performed on the cello in the Bay Area for over 25 years. In past seasons he has made solo appearances with the Oakland Civic Orchestra, Kensington Symphony, and Palo Alto Philharmonic, and given solo and chamber music recitals in the Bay Area, Los Angeles,

New Mexico, Illinois, and New York. As an orchestral player he has appeared with New Mexico Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, Symphony San Jose, West Bay Opera, the Illinois Philharmonic, and numerous other professional ensembles.

Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Shoebotham holds a B.M. in Cello Performance from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where he studied with Joanna de Keyser. He continued his studies with Steven Doane at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where he was awarded a M.M. in Cello Performance and Literature. He has taught in many public and private settings, including several elementary and high schools, colleges, the Music in Schools Foundation, and private studios, for students in a variety of age ranges. He has coached many student chamber groups, and youth orchestra cello sections in the Bay Area.



Meet Our Conference Artists, Clinicians, & Guests

Brian Shepard

MTNA Chief Executive Officer



Photo Credit: Rejino Photography

Brian Shepard is Chief Executive Officer of Music Teachers National Association. Shepard first began his career at MTNA in 2003 as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations.

In addition to his work at MTNA, Shepard serves on several other nonprofit boards and committees, including the National Music Council. From 2009 to the present, Brian has served in multiple leadership roles with the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, including Board Chair and Professional Organizations Advisory Council Chair. He currently serves the Hall of Fame as Board President. Previously he held multiple executive board positions with CCMpower at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Shepard also volunteered on the Cincinnati Opera Sales and Marketing Committee and was President of the Middletown Music Club for three years.

A frequent keynote speaker at conferences around the country, Shepard champions the power of music making and the impact that communities of musicians, like MTNA, can have on society.

Shepard is also an accomplished musician who performs frequently for church and community programs as a pianist, vocal soloist and choral conductor.

A graduate of Miami University of Ohio, Shepard holds degrees in marketing and music education. He was named an MTNA Foundation Fellow in 2010.

Elizabeth Garland

2021 Commissioned Composer



Elizabeth Garland is an award-winning composer, pianist, educator, and interdisciplinary artist based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her work spans film scoring, live performance, collaborative creation,

sound installation, and experiential workshops exploring presence, creativity, and human connection.

Garland was selected as the 2021 New Mexico Commissioned Composer, sponsored by PMTNM and MTNA. Because the conference was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions, she was unable to perform her commissioned composition that year. The composition will be performed Friday afternoon.

Her compositions have earned international recognition, including First Prize in the International Golden Key of Vienna Composition Competition and the International Piano Guild Composition Competition. She is also a two-time international best-selling author in the Power of Why series.

Having traveled to 26 countries, Garland draws inspiration from diverse musical traditions, landscapes, and storytelling. Rooted in Celtic musical heritage and informed by global experiences, her music blends classical training with atmospheric, contemporary, and cinematic influences, exploring memory, belonging, land, and identity.

Her recent work includes EQUISONIC (Multiverse Horse), an interactive sound and sculpture project exploring mythology, ecology, and New Mexican cultural histories. Through Superpresence, she develops workshops that help artists and professionals transform performance anxiety into authentic presence. Across disciplines, her work asks: How do we learn to be fully present—with sound, with place, and with one another?

Meet Our Conference Artists, Clinicians, & Guests

Terri Reck

Dalcroze Class



Terri Reck, a native New Mexican, studied harpsichord, piano and music history at UNM, receiving 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.

Terri Reck is a Certified Teacher of Dalcroze Eurythmics – a discovery-based approach that teaches music, rhythm and solfege through body movement – and teaches Dalcroze classes at the UNM Music Prep School. She has taught Dalcroze at numerous conferences, Suzuki workshops and at Interlochen Center for the Arts, and has been a guest lecturer at UNM in Baroque Performance Practice and Dalcroze instruction 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.

Dalcroze teaches rhythm, structure, and expression through physical movement and the kinesthetic sense, helping students experience music with their entire bodies before playing instruments.

Jacqueline Zander-Wall

2026 Teacher of the Year



Mezzo-soprano Zander-Wall has enjoyed an extensive career as a recitalist and oratorio soloist, performing with Robert Shaw, the Flensburger Bach Chor, and numerous European ensembles. Her work has been

featured on German radio and television, and she has performed at venues and festivals throughout the United States and Europe.

After earning three degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara, she received a fellowship to the Music Academy of the West in 1988 and later moved to Germany on a Rotary Scholarship to study at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst. Following seven years of performing in Germany, she accepted a fellowship at Boston University's Opera Institute.

A strong advocate for new music, Zander-Wall has premiered works for the Goethe Institute in Boston, Composers Forum in Moscow, Scala in Hamburg, and L'art pour l'art in Frankfurt. Her opera and festival credits include the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Boston Lyric Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Hamburg Opera, Arizona Opera, Opera Southwest, Aspen, Skaneateles, and Britten-Pears festivals, among others.

She has served on the voice faculties of Phillips Exeter Academy, Phillips Academy, College of Santa Fe, and the University of New Mexico. She continues as a Bach soloist, recitalist, and private voice teacher. A past president of NATS Rio Grande Chapter, she is an MTNA member and Artistic Founding Director of the Vocal Artistry Art Song Festival.

Conference Schedule /Hotel Information

(Subject to Change)

Schedule

Friday, 11/6

12:00-5:00	Registration
1:00-2:45	Board meeting
3:00-3:50	Melyssa Garland - 2021 Commissioned Composer Performance
4:00-5:00	Thomas Shoebotham Presentation
5:30-6:45	Conference Banquet honoring the 2026 PMTNM Teacher of the Year and 75 th anniversary award presentation by Brian Shepard, CEO of MTNA
7:00	Guest Artist Recital featuring Peter Takács, piano, Thomas Shoebotham, cello, and Samuel Jacobs, piano

Saturday, 11/7

8:00-5:00	Registration
8:00-8:45	Lightning Talks by PMTNM members
9:00-9:45	Brian Shepard, CEO of MTNA meets with PMTNM board members
9:45-10:30	Brian Shepard, CEO of MTNA meets with PMTNM general membership
10:30-11:30	Teachers' Corner: Discussion of lightning talks and other teaching topics
9:00-2:00	Honors and MTNA Competitions
1:00-2:00	Terri Reck, Dalcroze Class
2:00-3:00	Collegiate Presentations
3:00-4:15	Peter Takács: The Mind of Beethoven: Recurring Ideas in the 32 Piano Sonatas
3:00-4:00	Music Bowl
4:15-5:30	Piano and String Master Class - Peter Takács and Thomas Shoebotham
5:30-6:45	Dinner on your own <i>Suggested: meetings of collegiate students; faculty; and independent teachers</i>
7:00	Winners' Recital featuring MTNA and Honors winners

Sunday, 11/8

9:00-11:00	General membership meeting
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Conference Headquarters & Lodging

Crown Plaza Hotel - \$129 + tax
1901 University Blvd NE

The Querque Hotel - \$89 + tax
1760 Menaul Rd NE

The Querque is a sister hotel in the same location with access to the conference facilities and other amenities of the Crowne Plaza.

In Other News...

Music Teachers of Eastern New Mexico Offer Workshops

Marina Bengoa Roldán assisted by Cheryl Pachak-Brooks recently applied for a Teacher Enrichment Grant sponsored by the MTNA Foundation. The local association was awarded a grant to fund workshops for our members in rural areas via Zoom. The following presentations are scheduled for this fall.

****September 11 at 11 am** - Fanarelia Guerrero:
From Keys to Memory: Teaching Students to Memorize with Confidence. (60 minutes)

****October 2 at 10 am** - Dennis Alexander: Music and Motion (90 minutes)

****November 13 at 10 am** - Ann Gipson: Nurturing Resilience. (60 minutes)

Additional details, including Zoom links, will be available soon. **All PMTNM members are welcome to join in for these presentations.** For more information contact: [Marina Bengoa Roldán](#).

New Member Welcome

Cynthia Hope
Piano, General Music
Santa Fe NM

Suzanne Jacquelyn McDonald
Organ, Piano, Accompanying, Choral, Theory
El Prado NM

Sherilyn Urben
Early Childhood Music, Cello, Piano, Guitar, Violin
Albuquerque NM

Elizabeth F. Winzenz
Piano, Voice
Los Lunas, NM



PMTNM Launches New Official Website and Newly Branded Facebook Page



The Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico (PMTNM) is excited to announce the launch of its new [official website](#) and newly branded [Facebook page](#)!

Our updated online presence makes it easier than ever for members, students, and the community to stay connected with PMTNM. Visit our new website for information about upcoming events, membership,

programs, scholarships, resources, and more.

Be sure to follow our newly branded Facebook page for the latest announcements, event updates, opportunities, and news from PMTNM.

We invite you to explore, connect, and share our updated online presence with fellow music teachers and friends. We look forward to building an even stronger PMTNM community together!

PMTNM Welcomes New Board Members



Dr. Joseph Seth Zamora - PMTNM Executive Secretary

PMTNM welcomes pianist and educator Dr. Joseph Seth Zamora as our new Executive Secretary. He holds a DMA (2025) and MM (2021) in Piano Performance from the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied with Dr. Andrew Brownell, and a BA (2018) in Piano Performance from New Mexico State University, where he studied with Dr. Laura Spitzer.

Dr. Zamora has maintained an active musical career throughout New Mexico and Texas as a performer, collaborator, teacher, freelancer, and composer. While in Austin, he taught at Harmony Music Studio, Austin Piano School, Orpheus Academy of Music, and his private studio. He has also served on the faculty of summer piano and chamber music programs at Idyllwild Arts.

As a performer and collaborator, Dr. Zamora has worked with university ensembles including the UT Concert Chorale, Texas State University choirs, UT String Project, and UT Pops Orchestra. In 2019, he completed a statewide New Mexico tour featuring lecture-recitals designed to make classical music accessible to diverse audiences.

Since returning to Las Cruces, he has served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at NMSU and collaborative pianist for the University Singers and Concert Chorale. He has also collaborated with NMSU's Lyric Theatre and Singing Out Las Cruces and serves as Music Director at Peace Lutheran Church.

Outside of music, he enjoys cooking, exploring restaurants and wineries, pickleball, composing, and Dungeons & Dragons.

We look forward to meeting and working with you, Joseph!

Angela Rauch, PMTNM Executive Treasurer

Angela Rauch brings more than 36 years of experience in accounting, financial management, and business operations to her new position as Executive Treasurer of PMTNM. A highly accomplished comptroller, Angela has developed extensive expertise across a wide range of accounting disciplines, combining strong analytical and problem-solving skills with clear communication and collaborative leadership.

Most recently, Angela served as Comptroller for The Peters Corporation/Santa Fe Dining from 2016 to 2025. In this role, she balanced complex financial statements for 22 entities, managed daily cash reconciliations and cash-flow projections, and prepared and analyzed journal entries and supporting financial documents. Her responsibilities also included bank reconciliations, depreciation and loan amortization schedules, insurance and property-tax accruals, and lease accounting.

Previously, Angela worked in accounts payable and inventory management for Honstein Oil & Distributing, LLC, supporting 17 locations and managing financial statements for six additional locations. Her earlier experience includes preparing tax returns and financial statements for individuals, trusts, and nonprofit organizations, as well as overseeing comprehensive accounting functions for Chamisa Ridge, Inc.

Angela earned an Associate of Business Administration from Santa Fe Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Colorado Technical University, graduating with honors from both institutions.

Welcome to PMTNM, Angela! We are delighted to have you serving as our Executive Treasurer.

In Memoriam...



Heather Wilhelm Nasi, 87, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, passed away peacefully on July 28, 2026, surrounded by her sons, Mark and Mike, and daughter-in-law, Carolyn.

Born May 11, 1939, in Lincoln, Nebraska, Heather grew up on southwest Iowa farms and graduated from Villisca High School. She earned a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1961. There she met John Nasi, whom she married in 1963. They shared 44½ years of marriage until his death in 2007.

Heather and John lived in several states before settling in Gallup, New Mexico, in 1972.

Music and education remained central throughout Heather's life. She taught public school music, gave private piano, voice, and instrumental lessons, directed choirs, and mentored generations of students. For 30 years beginning in 1973, she volunteered as choir director at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gallup and later served as its pianist until moving to Albuquerque in 2022.

Heather was invited to join PMTNM by Sharon Kunitz. She served as president of the organization and chaired numerous committees, most recently the Scholarship Committee. Heather was honored as Teacher of the Year, and many of her family members traveled from across the country to attend the banquet celebrating her achievement.

Heather's faith guided her lifelong service to her family, church, students, and community. A devoted member of P.E.O. Chapter C, she held numerous leadership positions and treasured her P.E.O. friendships. She was preceded in death by her husband, daughter Michele, parents, sister Connie, and stepmother. She is survived by her sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and siblings.

Memorial contributions may be made to Westminster Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1130, Gallup, NM 87305.

Rest easy, Heather, and thank you for enriching so many lives throughout your many walks of life.

Did You Know...

MTNA offers many [resources](#) that are designed to inspire, engage, and advance music teachers — providing the knowledge, community, and support needed for lifelong success. Check them out!

- Business Resources
- Parent and Student Resources
- Representation and Advocacy
- Collaborative Music Commissioning
- Wellness
- Studio Resources
- Copyright
- Essential Skills
- Affiliate Resources
- Leadership Resources
- Young Professionals

Calendar of Events/Music Bowl

September 9	MTNA Composition, Piano, Piano Duet, Strings & Woodwind Performance application deadline
TBA - Ask your District VP	Local Honors Audition application deadline
September 11 - 11 am	***Fanarelia Guerrero: From Keys to Memory: Teaching Students to Memorize with Confidence. (60 minutes)
October 2 - 10 am	*** Dennis Alexander: Music and Motion (90 minutes)
October 5	PMTNM Scholarships application deadline
October 15	PMTNM Conference registration deadline
October 20	District VPs: State Honors chair must receive Honors winners and checks by this date
October 23	Deadline to book a hotel room at Crowne Plaza for the PMTNM Conference at the group rate
October 24	**Music Bowl - application deadline
November 6-8	State Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel
November 6	Board meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel
November 7	MTNA state competitions, Crowne Plaza Hotel
November 7	Honors competition, Crowne Plaza Hotel
November 8	Membership meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel
November 13 - 10 am	*** Ann Gipson: Nurturing Resilience (60 min)
December	MTNA Brass & Voice Performance & Chamber Music application deadline
January 4, 2027	MTNA Stecher & Horowitz Two Piano Competition application deadline
January 16-17, 2027	MTNA Collegiate Symposium, Kansas City, MO
April 2-6, 2027	MTNA National Conference, St. Louis, MO

** Contact [Terri Reck](#) for more information or to register

***Contact [Marina Bengoa Roldán](#) for more information

Music Bowl

Music Bowl is a fun, quiz-style musical event for students attending PMTNM's state conference. It provides a lively environment for student engagement alongside the MTNA competitions, Honors Auditions, and master classes. Students compete with each other using dice and cards to choose questions. Students can find study materials to prepare for the event by visiting the Music Bowl page on the PMTNM website.

This event is designed to be fun for all your students and to demonstrate their knowledge of music, theory, and history.

Music Bowl will take place on Saturday, November 7 at 3:00 p.m. More information can be found on the [PMTNM website](#). The deadline to register is October 24.

Committee Chairs

Advertising Manager

Position open

Archives

Position open

Awareness and Advocacy

Laura Spitzer

Budget

Jeanne Grealish

Sharon Kunitz

Sam Jacobs

Jacque Zander-Wall

College Faculty Forum

Marina Bengoa Roldán

Collegiate Chapters

Falko Steinbach

Commissioned Composer

Elizabeth Garland

Executive Secretary

Joseph Zamora

Executive Treasurer

Angela Rauch

Handbook

Laura Spitzer

Sam Jacobs

Lawrence Blind

Joyce Walker Student Foundation

Cindy Walker

Music Bowl

Terri Reck

MTNA Competitions, Composition

Dr. Yoshiko Arahata

MTNA Competitions, Performance

Tatyana Bayliyeva

MTNA Foundation

Sam Jacobs

PEP

Janna Warren

Scholarships

Laura Spitzer

Segue Editor

Cheryl Pachak-Brooks

State Honors Auditions

Melinda Moore

Website Committee

Laura Spitzer

Wendy Ye

⚡ Lightning Talks: 5 Minutes to Share One Big Idea ⚡

Have an idea worth sharing at our Fall 2026 Conference? A project update, a fresh perspective, or an insight that could spark a conversation?

Take the stage for a 5-minute Lightning Talk!

Lightning Talks are fast, focused, and designed to connect people and ideas. Share **one key idea** using just a few slides—then let the conversation begin.

Why give a Lightning Talk?



Just 5 minutes: A hard stop keeps things moving.



Rapid-fire inspiration: Hear multiple speakers and perspectives in one session.



Easy entry: A great opportunity for first-time presenters to share without preparing a lengthy presentation.

Bring your ideas. Spark a conversation. Make a connection. Sign up to give a Lightning Talk!

Contact [Laura Spitzer](#) to sign up or for more information.

Thank You,
Jeanne Grealish!

For your many years of
dedication and service to the
**PROFESSIONAL MUSIC
TEACHERS OF NEW MEXICO**

*Your leadership, commitment,
and treasured contributions have
made a lasting difference.
We are so grateful!*

