

**MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Baltimore, Maryland
March 17, 2017**

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Present

President Rebecca Johnson, President-elect Scott McBride Smith, Vice President Karen Thickstun, Secretary-Treasurer Sylvia Coats, Immediate Past President Kenneth Christensen, Kevin Chance (Southern Division), Sue Field (Southwest Division), Sherry Frush (South Central Division), Christopher Hahn (Northwest Division), Ginger Hwalek (Eastern Division), Beth Klingenstein (West Central Division), Christine Steiner (East Central Division), and Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle (ex officio without vote)

Staff Present

COO Brian Shepard and Executive Coordinator to the CEO Diana Viltrakis

CALL TO ORDER

President Rebecca Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on March 17, 2017.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the December 2-3, 2016 meeting of the board were entered into the record, the documents having been approved unanimously as submitted via email vote on December 21, 2016.

Minutes were also submitted from electronic meetings on January 13, 2017 and February 16, 2017. Those minutes were approved as distributed.

OFFICER REPORTS

Written reports were received from the following National Officers: President Rebecca Johnson, President-elect Scott McBride Smith, Vice President Karen Thickstun, Secretary-Treasurer Sylvia Coats, and Immediate Past President Kenneth Christensen.

Secretary-Treasurer Sylvia Coats recognized Executive Director Gary Ingle to present an overview of the January 31, 2017 financial reports. Assets of MTNA are \$4,540,225.81 with liabilities of \$178,681.89. Income is \$ 2,524,680.17 with expenses of \$1,172,874.80. The balance of the MTNA Trust account is \$884,535.73. The Foundation Fund Endowment account has

assets of \$1,451,088.59 and the McHose Trust has assets of \$606,165.72. Ingle's presentation included his financial projections for the fiscal year end.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Written reports from all seven Division Directors were reviewed: Christine Steiner (East Central Division), Ginger Hwalek (Eastern Division), Christopher Hahn (Northwest Division), Sherry Frush (South Central Division), Kevin Chance (Southern Division), Sue Field (Southwest Division), and Beth Klingenstein (West Central Division).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO REPORT

Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle reviewed his written report as follows:

Federal Trade Commission

- MTNA continues to comply with all the terms and specific actions required by the FTC Decision and Order (Consent Decree).
- The Three-Year Compliance Report is in the process of being written. The report will be filed on or before April 4, 2017.

Board and Governance

- The formal discussions with the College Music Society have tapered off significantly over the past two months. CMS continues to desire a vital relationship between our two organizations, but the nature and depth of this relationship are unknown at this point in time. Dialogue is certain to resume following our conference, and the scope of the partnership will become clearer.
- President-elect Scott McBride Smith and he attended the Symposium for Chief Executive and Chief Elected Officers in Orlando, Florida on January 10-11, 2017. The event is a program of the American Society for Association Executives to provide an opportunity for the two leaders to explore how to best work together to effectively carry out the association's mission and enhance future success.
- The voting process for the 2017-2019 officers began on January 25 and concluded March 1. 1,246 MTNA members voted, electing Martha Hilley as president-elect, Peter Mack as vice-president, and Debra Florian as secretary-treasurer. 1,131 members (91%) voted online.

Conferences and Meetings

- The sixth MTNA Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium was held on January 17-19, 2017, at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. A total of 140 registered for the event, which brought together collegiate chapter members and their advisors in an intimate setting to build bridges of communication through collegiate-led sessions and dialogues.
- The 2017 National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland has been the primary focus of our attention over the past months. The event has been planned, prepared, and now awaits execution.

International

- Ingle was unable to attend the 50th anniversary of the Piano Teachers National Association of Japan (PNTA) in Tokyo on February 28, 2017. In his absence, a commemorative plaque was presented and read at the celebration by PTNA CEO Seikoh Fukuda.
- At the NAMM show in Anaheim, Scott McBride Smith, Brian Shepard, and he had dinner with Christian Bluthner, president of Bluthner Pianos. Bluthner has a very strong presence in China and a willingness to work with MTNA to further our mission there. Mr. Bluthner will attend the MTNA National Conference in Baltimore to experience MTNA firsthand.

Legal and Ethics

- MTNA's application for a trademark of "Music Teachers National Association" and "MTNA" was approved. The certificate of copyright has been received at the National Headquarters.

Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy

- The partnership with the American Psychoanalytic Association continues to develop. On January 14, 2017, Ingle participated in a session on the **Role of Music in Understanding Shame, Hate, Prejudice, and Healing** at the ApsaA conference in New York City. The session was curated by Julie Nagel, and featured Ray Lustig, a composer from Julliard. In addition, Ingle had the opportunity to visit with ApsaA leadership to discuss ideas for future collaborations.

Programs

- Implementation of the eFestival program continues to progress. Amy Immerman and Brian Shepard have been putting the finishing touches on the announcement of the new program at the national conference.
- This year's division competitions went off without any issues, weather or otherwise.

State and Local Affiliates

- On February 7, 2017, we were informed by Carol Neal, president of the Southern Delaware MTA, that the group has ceased functioning due to lack of members. The three members will continue their membership in the Delaware MTA.

Staff and Headquarters

- The changes related to exempt and nonexempt employees and overtime pay have been successfully implemented. Four staff positions were reclassified from exempt to nonexempt, and paydays were changed from twice per month to every other Friday.
- The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation performed its audit of MTNA records to ensure that the proper amount of workers' compensation premiums was being paid on November 29, 2016. Only one minor issue surfaced, which actually resulted in our premium being lowered.
- In late December 2016, MTNA was the victim of a cyber scam that exploited a weakness within an online Foundation Fund contribution form. The "bot" fed thousands of credit card numbers through our system, attempting to determine which were valid accounts.

Once the incursion was discovered, the form was taken down and ultimately replaced by a more secure contribution form. Although our security prevented any credit card from actually being charged, MTNA was charged with transaction fees on each of the attempts. The associated fees related to the fraudulent transactions were \$17,521.88, which were subsequently reduced through negotiation to \$8,760.94.

Travel and Meetings

January

Jan 08-11, 2017	ASAE CEO Symposium	Orlando, FL
Jan 13-16, 2107	ISME Bylaws Working Committee	Los Angeles, CA
Jan 17-19, 2017	American Psychoanalytic Assn. Conf.	NYC
Jan 20-23, 2017	NAMM Show	Anaheim, CA

February

Feb 14-15, 2017	NMC Board & Stecher/Horowitz	NYC
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March

March 17-22, 2017	MTNA National Conference	Baltimore, MD
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Ingle supplemented his report with perspectives on the recently announced federal budget in which the President had eliminated funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Some state affiliates had contacted him questioning if their affiliate, as a 501(c)(3) not for profit, could run afoul with the Internal Revenue Service for publicly opposing the cuts. He explained that no MTNA affiliate would face any negative consequences with the IRS by expressing its opinion on the cuts.

Several members of the Board expressed the belief that MTNA should publically support the NEA, inform the MTNA membership of its support, and encourage them to become advocates.

President Johnson appointed Beth Klingenstein, Ginger Hwalek, Sue Field, and Chris Hahn to author a statement on behalf of the Board, which would be discussed later in the meeting.

Following a break, the group presented a statement for review and Board action. The final draft was as follows:

Subject: Important message from the MTNA Board of Directors

President Trump recently submitted a budget to Congress that includes a proposal to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The Board of Directors of Music Teachers National Association has deep concerns about this proposal; if it is enacted, the elimination of the NEA and NEH will have dire consequences for every state. For a synopsis of what's at stake in the arts, please see [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Statement on Proposed Elimination of the NEA](#).

If you feel that the NEA and NEH are important to our country, this is the time to contact your representatives in Congress. Their votes will determine the final outcome.

Here is what you can do:

- *Contact your [House](#) and [Senate](#) delegations. Urge them to oppose the President's request and provide full funding for the NEA and NEH.*
- *See if your state is represented on either the [House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee](#) or the [Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies](#). If so, your outreach to these committee members will be especially influential.*
- *Remind your delegation that 40% of the grant dollars appropriated to the NEA go to states and regions. These funds address state priorities. Rural and low-income areas would be disproportionately hurt by the elimination of the agency.*

The MTNA Board believes that the arts and humanities are a fundamental part of American life and that continued funding of the NEA and NEH is vital.

Motion and Second that the Board of Directors send the MTNA membership via email the proposed statement regarding the federal budget cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

PASSED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Written reports were received from the 2017 Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium (Katherine Chandler), 2018 National Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum (Tom Pearsall), 2017 Conference Planning Committee (Debra Florian), *AMT* Editorial Committee (James Litzelman), Composer Commissioning Program (Ann Witherspoon), e-Journal Editorial Committee (Andrew Hisey), Finance Committee (Sylvia Coats), Foundation Fund Development Committee (Brian Chung), Grants and Awards Task Force (Karen Thickstun), Membership Committee (Karen Thickstun), Nominating Committee (Kenneth Christensen), and the State Presidents Advisory Council (Nicholas Phillips).

President-elect Scott McBride Smith, as chair of the Global Initiatives Task Force, distributed its report to the Board and gave an update on the group's progress. He announced a meeting on April 26-27, 2017 at the MTNA National Headquarters in Cincinnati with two representatives from China to discuss future possibilities and strategies for partnership.

Vice President Karen Thickstun, as chair of the Grants and Awards Task Force, expanded upon her written report. She informed the Board on several of the issues being confronted by the task force, especially the processes surrounding the selection of the recipients of the various "____ of the Year" awards.

BUSINESS

Sexual Misconduct Insurance for State Affiliates

The Board discussed an agenda item from Deborah Rodgers, Pennsylvania MTA President. Sexual misconduct insurance is now being required by more and more universities where MTNA-related events are held. This insurance is unavailable on a “stand-alone” basis, meaning that a General Liability insurance policy is required in order to have Sexual Misconduct insurance. Since MTNA provides the General Liability insurance for MTNA-related events, the state and local affiliates are unable get the Sexual Misconduct coverage without purchasing their own General Liability insurance, making MTNA’s General Liability coverage unnecessary and redundant. Rodgers proposed that MTNA include sexual misconduct insurance as part of the general liability insurance for state and local events.

Executive Director Ingle reported that this idea had been explored with the MTNA insurance broker Risk-Source. Unfortunately, there are no insurance companies that will provide both General Liability and Sexual Misconduct insurance that would cover state and local affiliates. Although Lloyds of London is being queried, it is certain that this coverage would be beyond MTNA’s means. Unless and until the insurance industry catches up with the marketplace, MTNA will not be able to provide Sexual Misconduct insurance for state and local affiliate events.

The Board took no action on the proposal.

Collaborative Commissioning Program

The Board discussed a proposal from Janice Wenger and Ann Witherspoon related to Collaborative Music Commissioning. Currently, the University of Missouri provides travel funding for the instrumentalists to premier the annual collaborative commissions. Due to financial restraints, the university may be unable to provide this service after 2018. Wenger and Witherspoon requested that MTNA provide the funding beginning in 2019 in the event the University of Missouri is unable.

The Finance Committee recommended that no funding be committed for the travel of these instrumentalists and that the Commissioning Chair be encouraged to seek out performers in the conference host city to perform the premiers.

Motion and Second to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee not to fund travel for the Collaborative Commissioning Program performers and to suggest the use of local artists in the conference city to perform the commissioned pieces.

PASSED

OTHER BUSINESS

The MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two-Piano Competition

The Board discussed the specifics of the new *MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two-Piano Competition* currently being negotiated by Executive Director Ingle. The duo pianists, Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz, have devoted their lives to performing music for two pianos throughout the world. For decades, they have made it their mission to sustain and advance the importance of artistic collaboration in a profession that has traditionally been the domain of the soloist. For almost five decades they afforded audiences the world over an unforgettable musical experience. Now, the duo is taking their support of two piano performance to a new level through the establishment of the *MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two-Piano Competition*.

The MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two-Piano Competition differs from the MTNA student performance competitions because it consists of only two rounds: a Preliminary Round, by video submission only; and a Final Round, which takes place live at the National Conference. All entrants will compete without regard to the state or division in which they live or take lessons.

The rationale for these changes is obvious. First, many states and divisions would find it exceedingly difficult to staff and implement a two-piano competition. The state affiliates and the divisions would be required to allocate additional warm-up and performance spaces within an already existing shortage of space. Additional adjudicators who are knowledgeable of and have experience with the two-piano literature and techniques would have to be secured. Extra volunteer monitors would also be needed to ensure efficient and effective oversight of the on-site competition processes and procedures. The most challenging issue would be securing two equivalent grand pianos for both warm-ups and the competition itself. These and other complications pose insurmountable challenges for the already over-burdened state affiliates and divisions.

Second, the use of video technology at some level within major competitions has become the norm rather than the exception. In fact, competitions exist today that are on-line only, from preliminaries through final rounds. The reasons are obvious: video and audio technologies have advanced exponentially in both quality and availability. Today most, if not all, colleges and universities have video recording facilities and equipment available for faculty and student use. Furthermore, the ease by which these videos may be uploaded and subsequently viewed and evaluated by the adjudicators, wherever they may be, has never been better.

Format: The *MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition* will consist of two rounds: Preliminary Round: entrants will submit videos via Accept'd for adjudication. Adjudicators will rank numerically all duos in order from highest to lowest. The rankings of all three adjudicators will be added together to determine the rank order of each duo from highest to lowest. The five duos with the highest cumulative scores will be the five finalists that advance to the final round, which takes place live at the MTNA national conference. In the event of a tie(s) among the duos that are eligible to advance to the final round, the adjudicators will confer on the eligible duos so as to break the tie.

Only the original members of the duo may compete in the finals. If, for any reason, a duo selected for the finals is unable to perform with the same members of the duo who competed in the Preliminary Round, or if the duo is unable to attend the final round, the duo will be replaced

by the next duo listed in final rank order. In the event that an alternate duo cannot be procured before the Final Round, the competition will be held with fewer than five competing duos.

Prizes:

First Prize:	\$5,000 (divided equally between the two pianists)
Second Prize:	\$3,000 (divided equally between the two pianists)
Third Prize:	\$1,000 (divided equally between the two pianists)
Merit Award:	\$ 400 (divided equally between the two pianists)
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Award Certificates:	\$ 200

Entry Fee: \$140 (\$120 registration fee plus \$20 Accept'd fee)

Deadlines:

1. The deadline for the application and the first-round video submission is 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on December 1, 2017.
2. Finalists will be notified by January 16, 2018.

Repertoire:

1. Only original compositions written specifically for two pianos are allowed. The program must contain repertoire from at least two different periods of music (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary). The movement or section must be complete.
2. Program may not exceed 30 minutes.
3. Memorization is required.

Entrant Requirements:

1. Both duo performers must be U.S. citizens or hold a U.S. visa or permanent residence (green card), which is valid throughout the competition year.
2. Both duo performers must reside in the U.S. during the competition year.
3. Both duo performers must be between the ages of 19–32 as of January 1, 2018.

Motion and Second to establish the MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition as presented.

Executive Director Ingle will communicate the Board's approval and changes to Stecher and Horowitz for their agreement.

PASSED

2017-2019 Nominating Committee Election

President Rebecca Johnson opened the floor for nominations for two Board representatives to the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee. Christine Steiner and Sue Field were nominated.

Motion and second to elect Christine Steiner and Sue Field as Board representatives to the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee.

PASSED

The Board recessed at 3:28 p.m. on March 17, 2017.

The Board reconvened at 9:15 a.m. on March 22, 2017.

Stecher and Horowitz Revisions

Executive Director Ingle reported that he had communicated the Board's approval of the competition as well as the changes to the original proposal to Stecher and Horowitz. They agreed except on two points: (1) the upper age requirement of 32 should be reduced to 29, and (2) that the preliminary round could be limited to 30 minutes (for uploading purposes), the finalists should be required to play 40 minutes.

Motion and second to accept the revisions and to authorize Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle to negotiate and decide any further changes.

PASSED

Appreciation Resolution

Motion and second that the Board of Directors express its profound gratitude and appreciation to the following officers for their service to the association 2015-2017:

**Rebecca Grooms Johnson, President
Kenneth Christensen, Immediate Past President
Scott McBride Smith, President-elect
Karen Thickstun, Vice President
Sylvia Coats, Secretary-Treasurer**

PASSED

Lifetime Membership

Motion and second that the Board of Directors confer MTNA Lifetime Membership status on Rebecca Grooms Johnson in honor of her outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the association as National President 2015-2017.

PASSED

The Board also presented President Johnson with a Tiffany vase to demonstrate its appreciation and good wishes for her leadership and service as national president.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be July 10-12, 2017 at the MTNA National Headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio.

ADJOURNMENT

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m. on March 22, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Coats
Secretary-Treasurer