

SEPT 2023

FORUM FOCUS

Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum Monthly Newsletter

WELCOME!

Welcome to the new and improved Forum Focus! Here is what you can expect:

- Monthly issues mailed directly to members
- Program highlights
- Teacher Spotlights
- Upcoming Events
- Deadline reminders for upcoming events
- Board Member Articles
- And more!

If you have information pertinent to the entire membership, please contact Kris Olson @ krisolsonpiano@gmail.com. Submissions are not guaranteed to be a part of the publication.

We hope you enjoy it!

STATE OF THE (MMTF) UNION

Corey Sevett, President

Every year, the U.S. president says, "The state of our union is strong!", even though there are usually many aspects of American lives that are not so strong.

Well, I'm here to say "The state of the Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum is strong!" But... there are some parts of our organization that need help.

MMTF runs on volunteers. We contract out a handful of jobs, but most of the work is done by members who understand the value of MMTF and want it to thrive.

I want to talk about our board. A few things have changed, but what hasn't changed is that there are vacancies. And those jobs are being done informally by people who have OTHER jobs.

PRESIDENT: I am your president, having taken the job in 2020 after Dr. Sharon Follingstad agreed to stay for a third year. I will keep serving until after the 2024-25 year.

Continued on page 2...

Newsletter Highlights

State of the (MMTF) Union

MMTF Recital News

New Payment Platform

Website Opportunity

Upcoming Events

MMTF Board Members

President - Corey Sevett

President Elect - Kris Olson

VP of Student Ed - Stephanie Tesch

Treasurer - Donna Engel

VP Member Ed - OPEN

VP Special Events - Narissa Bach

VP Membership - OPEN

Recording Secretary - Sondra Howe



The State of the (MMTF) Union Continued...

1st VICE PRESIDENT (president elect): We finally have a President-elect. After serving as VP-Student Education, Kris Olson has agreed to be our next president. Currently she is working on a number of projects and lends a hand whenever it is needed.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT (member education): This position is open. After serving in this job for many years, Narissa Bach has moved to VP-Special Events. Our general meetings will, for the second year, be held in conjunction with the St. Paul Piano Teachers Assoc., and they are coordinating many of these meetings. But we need someone to work on our meetings and other member education programs.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT (student education): Stephanie Tesch has joined the board to fulfill the duties of this position. This is probably the job that takes the most time, in the summer and throughout the year, and we are grateful to have Stephanie in the position. We have a Recital Schedule with six venues, one of them new, and Stephanie will continue to fill in the names of volunteers for Recital Chair and Committee. Be sure to contact her about helping with one or more recitals.

4th VICE PRESIDENT (special events): As noted above, Narissa Bach has taken over this position, which was held by Merrily Stone for the past 20+ years. Each of the events takes a great deal of time to coordinate, and while each of them has a chairperson (and we are grateful to these members as well), Narissa is the overall coordinator.

5th VICE PRESIDENT (membership): This position has been vacant for 4 years now, and is currently being done by the last person to have the position—me. I would like to have someone else take over the duties, which include receiving membership applications, keeping the spreadsheet of member information accurate, and, most importantly, working to recruit new members. If you can help, please let me know.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Dr. Sondra Howe is attending our meetings, writing the minutes, and contributing her knowledge and expertise to the discussions that shape MMTF. Sondra has served more than one 2-year term.

TREASURER: Did I say that the VP-student education is the busiest job? I think I was wrong. It's the treasurer, and our treasurer since 2018 has been Donna Engel. The job is more complicated than ever with the introduction of online payments. Donna has handled everything with efficiency and precision. She did mention that her time as treasurer would end at some point, but I don't think I heard her clearly.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Dr. Sharon Follingstad continues to serve on the board and helps with special projects.

There are many other members who aren't on the board who help out with programs, and to those people I want to say "Thank you!!!"

I hope you all had a restful summer and will begin the school year in September with renewed vigor and purpose. I know I will enjoy seeing my students on a regular basis again. And I will continue to guide MMTF as best I can. I hope to see you all at one of our programs.

Corey Sevett, President

MMTF RECITAL NEWS

Stephanie Tesch, VP Student Education

Thank you to all who have volunteered as organizers, chairs, committee members or judges for our recital program. It takes all of us to make it work! If you haven't yet signed up, please take a look at the schedule and send an email to Stephanie Tesch at tesch.piano@gmail.com.

This year we will have only two virtual recitals, due to low demand last year. That is good news, because the virtual option does not replicate the full recital experience. A new recital location for us is the First Evangelical Free Church in Minneapolis. They have a large parking lot directly across the street.

We will have eight Lollipop recitals, which are opportunities for students eight years old or younger to play in a smaller group with students of a similar age. Lollipop students receive a certificate but not a critique, and their performance counts toward a ribbon. Students of any age can register for the regular recital and receive a critique. Looking forward to seeing you at our first recital on October 29!

New Payment Platform

The site has been updated slightly, but it's easy to make a payment via PayPal OR a credit or debit card. Please don't forget to put the reason for the payment in the appropriate box. Our treasurer needs to know why you're sending us money.

mmtfpayments.com



MMTF Website Opportunity

MMTF is currently seeking an individual to help maintain our websites. This would include monitoring security, performing software updates, and assisting with content changes. If you know of anyone in this business who might be interested, please have them contact Corey Sevett (corey@sevett.com).

MMTA STATE PIANO CONTEST WORKSHOPS

These workshops are open to ALL piano teachers who are preparing students for State Contest. All workshops will take place at Schmitt Music in Bloomington at 10:00am.

Cost per workshop is \$18 and includes presenter notes.

DATE	LEVEL	PRESENTER
September 5	SRB	Sara Langmead
September 12	SRA	Stella Sick
September 19	INB	Herb Johnson
October 3	INA	Suzanne Greer
September 26	JRB	Kathryn Karg
October 10	PP, Pri, JRA	Lorna Wolthoff



Register and pay at www.mmtfpayments.com or by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera. Questions? Contact Donna Engel at dixiedonna18@gmail.com.



Autumn Tea for MMTF and SPPTA Members

Oct 5 | 10:30am-12:00pm
Silverwood Park
Visitor Center

2472 County Road E W, St Anthony, MN 55421

Enjoy tea indoors, socialize, take a leisurely stroll across the walking bridge to the island, view art, sit on the patio and listen to the sounds of nature.

\$14/per person



Register by Sept 8, 2023

Type in the link below or scan here with your phone's camera



<https://www.cognitofrms.com/saintpaulpianoteachers/autumntea2023>