



Susan Atkins, NCTM  
*President*

Elizabeth Caluda, NCTM  
*President-elect*

Becky Wallenborn  
*Vice President, Membership*

Mun Lee Han, NCTM  
*Treasurer*

Laura Cardin  
*Secretary*

Diane Perett, NCTM  
*Certification*

Julie Slingerland  
*IMTF*

Donna Halleck  
*State Chair for Local Associations*

Paulo Steinberg, NCTM  
*Immediate Past President*

Jeanette Winsor, NCTM  
*NewsNotes Editor*

# NewsNotes

## President's Notes

Susan Atkins, NCTM, VMTA State President

Dear VMTA Members,

Having just returned from the Southern Division Competitions, I am energized and hopeful for the future of Virginia Music Teachers Association. It was wonderful to see talented students playing at such a high level, especially our Virginia students.

### Southern Division Winners

A big shout-out to Senior Piano winner—Evelyn Mo, student of John O'Connor; Junior Piano honorable mention—Joanna Cheng, student of Marjorie Lee; Junior Woodwinds alternate—Claire Cheng, student of Albert Hunt; Senior Piano Duet alternate—Philena Sun and Grace Wang, students of Marjorie Lee; Senior Woodwinds alternate—Olivia Johann, oboe, student of Yeong Kim; Composition Competition Senior Winner—Matthew Schultheis, Student of Frances McKay. A complete list of all Southern Division Competition winners can be found on the VMTA website: [www.virginiamt.org](http://www.virginiamt.org).

### Newly Certified

Congratulations to our newly certified VMTA members! Terry Francisco from Roanoke Valley, Collin Anthony Richardson from Peninsula, Holly Rodgers from Northern Virginia, Jennifer Scott from Richmond.

### Foundation Fellow

I would also like to recognize Melissa Marrion, our Foundation Fellow for 2016! Melissa will be honored at the MTNA Conference Gala in San Antonio on Monday, April 4. I hope you will join me in San Antonio for a conference that promises to be informative and fun. I've reserved a Virginia table at the Gala, so help me fill it by registering for the conference (and the gala) at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). Send me an email or call to let me know you need a place at the table.

### Membership Renewal

Very soon you'll receive a renewal notice from MTNA and I encourage you to renew your membership without hesitation. I'm discovering the benefits of membership as I spend more time on

the MTNA website and am taking advantage of what this great organization has to offer. My MTNA membership, including membership in VMTA and my local association, has made me a better teacher and has helped my students immensely. In addition, I discovered a fantastic benefit of membership I want to share with you. I'm saving a lot of money using my MTNA Office Depot/Office Max Discount card. To get your card, visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) and click on "members only." You must use your member number as a password to assess this area.

Back to the Southern Division Competitions: I was struck by the camaraderie of the MTNA members as they willingly sacrificed many volunteer hours to make it a successful competition. I asked Kevin Chance, chairperson of the competition about it and he said, "I remember when I was a student competitor in these events and now I want to give back so today's students can succeed as I have." What a beautiful sentiment, and one that applies to all of us. We still have needs on the VMTA Executive Committee. We are currently looking for an IMTF Chairperson and also need help with the MTNA competitions and Concerto competitions. Won't you please volunteer? ■

**It's Official.**

**Mark Your Calendars.**

**Virginia Music  
Teachers Association**

**2016 State Conference  
2016 MTNA Competitions  
2016 State Auditions**

**October 27-30  
Shenandoah University**

**Be there.**

# JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of  
*Music*



**FORBES CENTER**  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PHOTO BY MIKE MIRIELLO ('09M)

The JMU School of Music offers a  
B.M., M.M. and D.M.A. in Piano.

Graduate assistantships are available for  
M.M. and D.M.A. students with tuition waiver  
plus a generous stipend.

For more information, go to [www.jmu.edu/music](http://www.jmu.edu/music) or call (540) 568-6863.

## JMU PIANO FACULTY



**Gabriel Dobner**  
USA



**Lori Piitz**  
Canada



**Eric Ruple**  
USA



**Paulo Steinberg**  
Brazil

# Certification Profile: Jennifer Scott

by Anne James, NCTM



After beginning the certification process in 2007–08 and gathering the references and paperwork then required, Jennifer Scott was ready to take the exam but the impending birth of her first son forced her to postpone it. Fortunately MTNA has a long memory, and in 2015 she received an email urging her to complete the process. The timing was just right, as her two boys were at a good age.

Sharon Stewart had offered to mentor her, so in January, 2015, Jennifer began compiling her portfolio. “It helps a lot to have someone who can answer your questions, especially when considering how to present your teaching philosophy. Both Sharon Stewart and Gabriella Ryan were invaluable resources.”

Shortly after receiving the email and beginning to write about her teaching philosophy Jennifer attended a Richmond Music Teachers Association workshop on certification led by Gabriella Ryan. “It confirmed for me that I was on the right track. After writing my teaching philosophy I described the studio environment. The workshop also helped me organize a timeline for preparing the analysis, which took a long time, and the videotaping, which I did during the summer. I feel I’m much more confident and aware in my teaching because of it, especially in the analysis of pieces and how to translate it to students.”

Jennifer Scott finds it works best to teach her 25 students over three full days, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9:30 to 9:30. This balances well with her family responsibilities. Her focus is on classical music, theory and a heavy dose of sightreading. Each student has an achievement binder which has a structure for rewards. There are five major categories: 1. Technique, including chords, scales and arpeggios; 2. Ear training; 3. Music history, including writing about composers and creating a drawing or poem about a piece; 4. Music analysis, including terminology based on the VMTA theory exam; 5. Sight reading, with goals for each year. In addition students can document their listening achievements. Mrs. Scott selected six composers and chose six pieces from each composer. Using links to YouTube, students were asked to just listen without distraction, then write the names of the pieces they heard in their binders so they would remember them better. The parents actually wind up listening with them quite often. Students get a medal for the five required achievements. Beyond that they can earn a trophy. “Sightreading is a big emphasis in my studio because I remember how much I needed it growing up.”

A graduate of James Madison University, Jennifer Scott studied piano with Dr. Eric Ruple and received a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Industry with a minor in Business. “When I was out of college and in the corporate world for a while my husband said, ‘You should be a teacher.’” She is in her

second term as President of RMTA, and has also served as 2nd Vice-President (Membership) and 1st Vice-President (Programs), in addition to chairing Central District Auditions for five years.

“My goal in teaching is to focus on the students and their strengths and helping them fulfill their true potential. One thing I love doing is sharing with students how to be very musical in their playing. Above all, I want my students to love playing music for a lifetime.” ■

## MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

**ELECTION FOR SOUTHERN  
DIVISION DIRECTOR  
VOTE FOR GABRIELLA RYAN!**

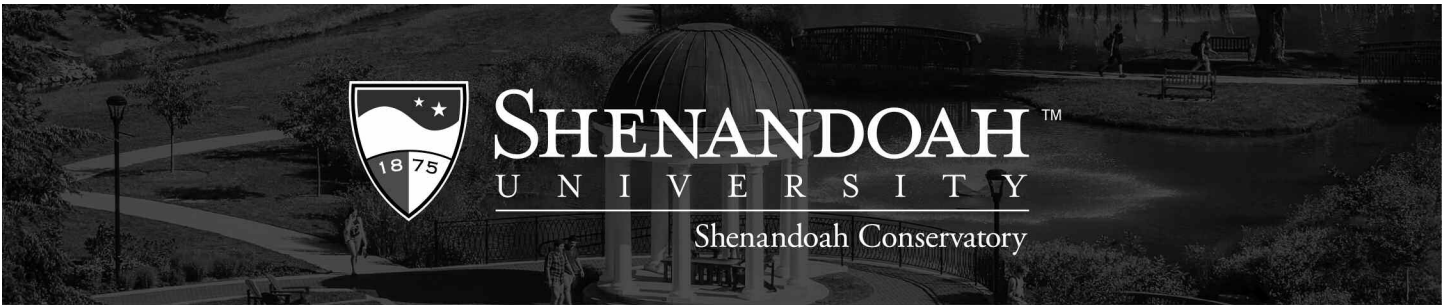
Gabriella, a former VMTA president, is on the ballot for Southern Division Director.

### **3 WAYS TO VOTE** (But only vote once!)

1. Send an email to [mtna@mtna.org](mailto:mtna@mtna.org) containing your name, state and the name of the candidate you are voting for.
2. To vote online: visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) and click on the box in the lower left corner of the home page that says Division Elections “Vote Now.” Then click on the box that says “Vote Online Now.”
3. Don’t have a computer? Fill out the ballot on page 43 of the February/March issue of the [American Music Teacher Magazine](#) and mail it to MTNA, 1 W. 4th Street, Suite 1550 Cincinnati, OH 45202.

**DEADLINE TO VOTE  
MARCH 2, 2016**





Announcing the appointment of  
**Ieva Jokubaviciute**  
Assistant Professor of Piano



# SHENANDOAH CONSERVATORY

- Study at Shenandoah University’s renowned **Shenandoah Conservatory**
- Learn from internationally accomplished faculty in a creative and supportive artistic community
- Prepare for a meaningful and satisfying career
- Experience a vibrant performance culture with more than 400 concerts and recitals per year including The World of the Piano concert series
- Participate in masterclasses with visiting artists

PURSUE YOUR PASSION FOR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE



Contact Admissions



Apply Now



Visit Shenandoah

800-432-2266 | [admit@su.edu](mailto:admit@su.edu)  
[www.su.edu/VMTA](http://www.su.edu/VMTA)

# Reports

## CERTIFICATION

Diane Beyer Perett, Ph.D., NCTM

Congratulations to the following VMTA members who have achieved national certification from MTNA since August 2015: Jennifer Scott, Terry Francisco, Holly Rodgers, and Collin Richardson. Several other Virginia teachers are midway in the process.

As of December 2015, 12.7% of VMTA members were nationally certified, giving Virginia a present ranking of 32nd in the nation, an improvement from 35th in July 2015. Now that we're "on a roll," let's make it our goal to have one member of each of the smaller local VMTA chapters and two to five members of the larger groups initiate the certification process in 2016.

The letters NCTM show the world outside VMTA that we music teachers are professionals—life long learners who aspire to and maintain high standards for ourselves in our teaching. Completing the process of national certification leads even the best of teachers to a higher level of excellence. We owe our students that excellence!

If you are an independent music teacher not already nationally certified, seriously consider starting the process now, as you assess your teaching accomplishments, seek inspiration, and set goals for this new year.

Read the certification information on the MTNA website, as well as the articles about certification in each issue of the AMT. Start work on one of the required teacher profile projects now! All but one of the five projects can be completed before you ever officially submit your application for certification to MTNA, and that can buy busy teachers a little extra time.

There are no tests to take!

Your local certification chair and I are happy to answer your questions, find mentors, and form study groups to help you earn your national certification. Please let one of us know if you are interested. ■



**MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE**

For further information or audition materials, contact:

**Dr. Lise Keiter**  
Department of Music  
Mary Baldwin College  
Staunton, VA 24401  
(540) 887-7193  
lkeiter@mbc.edu

[www.mbc.edu](http://www.mbc.edu)

*Come study music in a liberal arts setting*

**Featuring:**  
Bachelor of Arts in Music  
Music Education Licensure  
Bachelor of Arts in Arts Management  
Outstanding Faculty

**Consider one of our specialized programs:**  
Program for the Exceptionally Gifted  
Early College Academy  
Adult Degree Program  
Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure Program

*Mary Baldwin College is also home to the Heifetz International Music Institute.*

## 2015 MTNA COMPETITIONS RESULTS

Winners will advance to Southern Division Competitions in Tampa, Florida

### MTNA Junior Piano

Winner: Joanna Cheng	Student of Marjorie Lee
Alternate: Andrew Cocchiera	Student of Marjorie Lee
Honorable Mention: James Bennett	Student of Marjorie Lee

### MTNA Senior Piano

Winner: Evelyn Mo	Student of John O'Connor
Alternate: Muli Yu	Student of Marjorie Lee
Honorable Mention: Matthew Schultheis	Student of Lisa Sarratt
Honorable Mention: Emily Quan	Student of Marjorie Lee

### MTNA Senior Piano Duet

Winners: Philena Sun and Grace Wang	Students of Marjorie Lee
Alternates: Faith Lan and Roman Kasparian	Students of Margarita Gramaticova and Raffi Kasparian
Honorable Mention: Emily Quan and Jeffrey Yu	Students of Marjorie Lee

### MTNA Young Artist Piano

Winner: Langlabao Ge	Student of Dr. Yin Zheng
Alternate: Donald Lee, III	Student of Dr. Eric Ruple
Honorable Mention: Elider Di Paula	Student of Dr. Paulo Steinberg
Honorable Mention: Bo Gao	Student of Ieva Jokubaviciute

### MTNA Junior Woodwinds

Winner: Claire Cheng, Clarinet	Student of Albert Huet
Alternate: Ada Rexrode, Clarinet	Student of Mani Western

### MTNA Senior Woodwinds

Winner: Olivia Johann, oboe	Student of Yeong Kim
Alternate: Aimee Toher, flute	Student of Jennifer Lapple
Honorable Mention: Ashley Hsu, clarinet	Student of Albert Hurt
Honorable Mention: Cassie Ferrer, bassoon	Student of Sue Barber

### MTNA Young Artist Woodwinds

Winner: Jacob Moyer, clarinet	Student of Garrick Zoeter
Alternate: Nathaniel Frost, clarinet	Student of Chuck West

### MTNA Junior Strings

Winner: Masato Chang, violin	Student of Amy Horman
Alternate: Michelle Li, violin	Student of Amy Horman

### MTNA Senior Strings

Winner: Sarah Heifetz, violin	Student of Helen Heifetz
Alternate: Adrienne Hyde, cello	Student of Kenneth Law

### MTNA Young Artist Strings

Winner: Alexander Fowler, cello	Student of Alan Weinstein
Alternate: Stephanie Barrett, cello	Student of Dana McComb

(continued on page 6)

# Reports... *(continued from page 5)*

## FALL FESTIVAL RESULTS

Debbie Sacra, VMTA Fall Festival Coordinator

First, a special Thank You goes out to the local MTA Chairmen of the VMTA Fall Festival: Johnson Scott, CVMTA; Lori Santos, Virginia Moore and Miyon Park, NVMTA; Lois Broadwater and

Savannah Hatcher, RMTA; Bittsy Hall and Adele Carliss, RVMTA; and Beth Caluda, Shenandoah. Many of this group are new Chairmen. Also, without the hard work of local members and their students, the VMTA Fall Festival would never take place. 620 students were registered in the five Fall Festivals across the state in 2015. Fall Festivals were held in Lynchburg, Northern Virginia, Richmond, Roanoke and Winchester. 96 teachers were represented with 618 entries in piano solo, 1 in flute and 1 in voice. There were no duets.

Thank you all for making the Fall Festival so successful! ■

<b>FESTIVAL LOCATION</b>		<b>Registered:</b>	<b>All piano*</b>	<b>17 solos*</b>	<b>Levels*</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	
<b>Lynchburg</b> (CVMTA) (Nov 14)		<u>4 teachers*</u>				<u>17 Students*</u>	
Level I-A					5*	5	
Level I-B					2*	2	
Level II					3*	3	
Level III					5*	5	
Level IV					2*	2	
<b>TOTALS</b>						<b>17</b>	
<b>Played:</b>							
<b>Northern Virginia</b> (NVMTA) (Nov 7)		<u>55 teachers*</u>	<u>415 piano*</u>	<u>416 solos*</u>	<b>Levels*</b>	<u>416 Students*</u>	
Beginner	124	34	3	0	178*	161	
Intermediate	125	44	6	0	192*	175	
Advanced	19	18	3	1	46*	41	
Not Rated						34	
<b>TOTALS</b>						<b>411</b>	
<b>Played:</b>	268 S	96 Ex	12 VG	1 Incomplete	34 Not Rated		
<b>Richmond</b> (RMTA) (Nov 14)		<u>19 teachers*</u>	<u>All piano*</u>	<u>104 solos*</u>	<b>Levels*</b>	<u>104 Students*</u>	
Level I-A	19	6	2		28*	27	
Level I-B	10	9	2		22*	21	
Level II	23	6	2		32*	31	
Level III	9	9			20*	18	
Level IV	1	1			2*	2	
<b>TOTALS</b>						<b>99</b>	
<b>Played:</b>	62 S	31 Ex	6 VG				
<b>Roanoke</b> (RVMTA) (Nov 21)		<u>14 teachers*</u>	<u>All piano*</u>	<u>72 solos*</u>	<b>Levels*</b>	<u>104 Students*</u>	
Level I	29	7			37*	36	
Level II	16	4			20*	20	
Level III	7	6			15*	13	
Level IV							
<b>TOTALS</b>						<b>69</b>	
<b>Played:</b>	52 S	17 Ex					
<b>Winchester</b> (Shenandoah) (Nov 14)		<u>4 teachers*</u>	<u>10 piano*</u>	<u>11 solos*</u>	<b>Levels*</b>	<u>11 Students*</u>	
Level I			4		4*	4	
Level II	3		2		5*	5	
Level III			1		1*	1	
Level IV			1		1 flute*	1 flute	
<b>TOTALS</b>						<b>11</b>	
<b>Played:</b>	3 S	8 Ex					
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b> (State) 2015		<u>96 teachers*</u>	<u>618 piano*</u>	<u>620 solos*</u>		<u>620 Students*</u>	
<b>Played:</b>	Superior 423	Excellent 152	Very Good 18	Good/Needs Work 0	Fair/Incomplete 1	Unknown 17	Not Rated 34
							681

\*Underlined entries marked with an asterisk represent registration information

(continued on page 8)

# ADVERTISING INFORMATION FOR VMTA'S *NEWSNOTES* AND YEARBOOK

Please send your electronically\* prepared ad, a check made payable to VMTA, and the completed form to: Agnes Wan, 219 River Point Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434, pianoatjubilee@gmail.com.

Ads may also be submitted via e-mail (stuffed or zipped if necessary) to Rose Brown, *NewsNotes* Graphic Artist, at design@rosebrown.com. Call Rose at 571-276-7577 (cell) if you have any questions about preparing your ad or submitting your ad electronically.

\*Any combination of QuarkXPress (preferred), Illustrator, InDesign, PhotoShop, and PDF files are accepted. Do not send Microsoft Word or Publisher files. Include all fonts and imported graphics if you send native files.

## ADVERTISING SIZES AND RATES

SIZE (width x height)	<i>NewsNotes</i> One Issue	<i>NewsNotes</i> Two Issues	Yearbook Only	Yearbook & <i>NewsNotes</i> Combo 1‡ or Combo 2‡	
Full page (7.5" x 10")	\$165	\$300	\$200	\$350	\$450
3/4 page (7.5" x 7")	\$125	\$225	\$175	n/a	n/a
1/2 page (7.5" x 4.5")	\$110	\$200	\$140	\$225	\$290
1/2-V page (3.625" x 10")	\$110	\$200	\$140	\$225	\$290
1/2-H page (two @ 7.5" x 2.25")	\$110	\$200	\$140	\$225	\$290
1/4 page (3.625" x 4.5")	\$85	\$150	\$100	\$150	\$200
1/4-H page (7.5" x 2.25")	\$85	\$150	\$100	\$150	\$200
Business Cards (3.625" x 2")	\$25	\$40	\$30	\$50	\$65

‡Combo 1: Yearbook and one issue of *NewsNotes*; Combo 2: Yearbook and two issues of *NewsNotes*.

## AD DEADLINES

July 15—Fall Issue *NewsNotes* & Yearbook

January 15—Spring Issue *NewsNotes*

## VMTA ADVERTISING REQUEST FORM

Advertiser \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Department \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Size(s) of Ad(s):  Full Page  3/4 Page  1/2 Page  1/2-V Page  1/2-H Page  1/4 Page  1/4-H Page  Bus. Card

Advertisement Will Appear In:  *NewsNotes*—One Issue  *NewsNotes*—Two Issues  Yearbook Only  Combo 1  Combo 2

Begin with Issue:  *NewsNotes* Spring Issue (Year \_\_\_\_\_)  *NewsNotes* Fall Issue (Year \_\_\_\_\_)  Yearbook (Year \_\_\_\_\_)

Special Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the form, make your check payable to VMTA, and mail to: Agnes Wan, 219 River Point Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434.

## Virginia Music Teachers Association

Jeanette Winsor, NCTM, *NewsNotes* Editor  
6317 Brynmawr Lane  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-3730

### Reports... (continued from page 6)

#### 2015 VMTA STATE AUDITIONS RESULTS

##### VMTA Piano Division 1A

1st prize: Ella Kim Student of Lisa Sarratt  
2nd prize: Arthur Ding Student of Paul Hanson

##### VMTA Piano Division IB

Tie for 1st prize:  
Melissa Wu Student of Lisa Sarratt  
Adrian Cheung Student of Oxana Titova

##### VMTA Piano Division II

1st prize: Anni Wang Student of Jolenta Szewczyk  
2nd prize: James Shen Student of Paul Hanson

##### VMTA Piano Division III

1st prize: Grace Wang Student of Marjorie Lee  
2nd prize: Jeison Guzman Student of Paul Hanson

##### VMTA Violin Division IB

1st prize: Erik Midkiff Student of Vladimir Kromin

##### VMTA Violin Division II

1st prize: Bryan Kim Student of Vladimir Kromin

## MTNA TO HONOR MELISSA MARRION AS A FOUNDATION FELLOW AT MTNA CONFERENCE GALA IN SAN ANTONIO

Virginia's new MTNA Foundation Fellow, Melissa Marrion, will be recognized at the Conference Gala at the 2016 National Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The Gala will be held on Monday, April 4 in the Grand Hyatt San Antonio Texas Ballroom. Virginia has reserved a table for 10. If you plan to go to the Gala, please let me know so I can keep a list. It's not too late to register for the conference! You can register online by visiting [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). If you are planning to go, but still need a gala ticket, call 888-512-5278.