

# CAMTA NEWSLETTER

<http://www.capitalareamta.org/>



September, 2025  
Miho Segal, Editor

## Letter from the President

Dear CAMTA Friends,

And just like that the summer is gone. . . I'm feeling a mix of emotions these days—holding on to the precious memories made with my kids and grandkids, while also looking ahead with hope to what the new year might bring. I'm truly grateful for CAMTA and all that this group does to keep me going. I honestly can't imagine teaching alone in my studio without the support, encouragement, and camaraderie I've found here.

We're delighted to welcome back our 25/26 returning board members this year! Vice President Natalia Bezuglova, Treasurer Megan Nyquist, Recording Secretary Kathy Richardson, Correspondent Secretary Miho Segal, Past President Gail Lytle Lira. Thank you all for your commitment of time and talent to furthering the mission of CAMTA. Thank you to Gerardo Ascheri for editing the annual yearbook as well as overseeing the Eileen Keel Sonata Competition. Thank you to Amber Redoutey for again heading up the Student Achievement Testing team. Thank you to Gail Lytle Lira for chairing the Scholarship Awards Committee and for manning our Facebook presence. It takes all of us to keep CAMTA moving ahead.

It looks like this fall is shaping up to be a really rewarding season for us as teachers—full of chances to learn and grow.

September 9th = Some practical tips of the trade with **Round Table Discussion** topics such as, "Studio Payment Plans", "How to effectively implement Group Lessons", "Give Your Recitals a Facelift", "Assignment Sheets that are Practical and Effective" and "Easy Teaching Night Meal Prep".

October 10-11 = MMTA **Annual Conference**, Saginaw Valley State University  
(continued on next page)

## Coming Up...

### **CAMTA Meeting**

2nd Tuesday of the month at  
9:30 a.m. at Faith Lutheran  
Church

Tuesday, September 9th  
**Member Round-Table  
Discussion**

Tue, October 14<sup>th</sup> **Special  
Guest: Joy Morin**

Tue, November 11<sup>th</sup> **Special  
Guest: Physical Therapist**

Fri. December 5th **CAMTA  
Christmas Party**  
**No meeting in December**

Tue, January 13<sup>th</sup> **Sheryl Iott:  
Teacher's workshop and  
Masterclass**

Tue, February 10<sup>th</sup> **SAT  
Preparation**

Sat. Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> **Eileen Keel  
Sonata/Sonatina Competition**

Sat. March 7<sup>th</sup> **SAT at MSU**

Tue, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 **Brunch  
Meeting (Location TBD): Post  
SAT**

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Honors Recital**

**No Meeting in April**

**Tue, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Teachers' Recital/Luncheon**

October 14th = Special Guest Speaker, **Joy Morin** presenting “*Music from the Inside Out: The Story of Edwin E. Gordon’s Music Learning Theory*”

November 11th = An expert **Physical Therapist** is in process which we hope will bring us some practical tips on promoting healthy body mechanics and alignment.

December 5th = The fall concludes with a CAMTA **Holiday Dinner Party** on the evening of Friday, Dec. 5th. This is an ideal chance to join CAMTA members and their spouses/partners for an informal time to share a meal and celebrate with one another.

Looking ahead to 2026

January 17th - Sheryl Iott Lecture and Master Class

February 21st - Keel Sonata Competition

February 28th - NFMCA Piano Festival

March 7th - Student Achievement Testing

March 15th - Honors Recital

May 12th - CAMTA Teacher’s Recital and Luncheon

Bless you all for the wonderful work you are doing with your students. What an amazing opportunity we have to pour our love for music into the next generation! I count it a privilege.

Laura Johnson

### Halloween Hoot 2025

Join fellow CAMTA teachers and their students for a spooky Halloween Hoot!

Saturday, October 25th, 2025

1:00 p.m. (recital time)

Faith Lutheran Church

4515 Dobie Road

Okemos, MI 48864

Important info:

Costumes welcome!

Memorization of pieces is not necessary.

Solo and ensemble pieces are welcome.

No cost to participate.

Please register using the link provided.

Registration closes on Friday, October 17th.

Limited to 25 performers.

Teachers: Please bring a bag of candy to the recital.

Questions: Heather Vedder

([heathervedderpiano@gmail.com](mailto:heathervedderpiano@gmail.com))

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/251895699239176>

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Laura Johnson

President

[ilovenewsongmusic@gmail.com](mailto:ilovenewsongmusic@gmail.com)

Natalia Bezuglova

Vice President

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Gail Lytle Lira

Past President

[gail@gaillytlelira.com](mailto:gail@gaillytlelira.com)

### Studio Openings

Alix Marilyn Jenkins: [edfrid1@aol.com](mailto:edfrid1@aol.com)

Mary Jane Miller: [millermusicmjm@msn.com](mailto:millermusicmjm@msn.com)

### To CAMTA Membership ~ From Editor

Please let me know if you have studio openings.

[mihosegal@hotmail.com](mailto:mihosegal@hotmail.com)

### Mark your calendars!

Eileen Keel Sonata/Sonatina Competition on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
Question? Contact Gerardo Ascheri @ [gercelasch@gmail.com](mailto:gercelasch@gmail.com)

Festival on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Application Deadline will be Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
Questions? Contact Mary Jane Miller @ [millermusicmjm@msn.com](mailto:millermusicmjm@msn.com)

SAT Testing on Saturday, March 7, 2026  
Application Deadline will be Saturday, January 17, 2026.  
Questions? Contact Amber Redoutey @ [amber.k.redoutey@gmail.com](mailto:amber.k.redoutey@gmail.com)

Monthly Book Study Group lead by Kathy Richardson (Date TBA)  
Questions? Contact Kathy Richrdson @ [kathy@richardsonmusicstudio.com](mailto:kathy@richardsonmusicstudio.com)

### Update on MI student dues

MMTA Treasurer David Husser wrote that there are two changes to our Michigan student/collegiate dues rates. He emailed that information to Melissa Curtice at the national level, who responded by writing:

1. We cannot lower dues rates for the current year (2025-26) because, even though students haven't paid their fees yet, they have already been billed the current rate of \$15. We will lower the state collegiate dues rate to \$10 in time for the following year (2026-27).
2. We can offer a 50% discount to those students transitioning from collegiate to active membership this year. They only need to request that before renewing their membership (which they also need to do in order to receive the 50% discount for their national dues).

Questions about details to:

David Husser  
MMTA treasurer  
[mmtafinance@gmail.com](mailto:mmtafinance@gmail.com)

### 2025 – 2026 Music Festivals / Competitions at Schoolcraft

In an effort to encourage excellence in musical performance and to recognize excellent teaching in the Metropolitan Detroit-Ann Arbor area, Schoolcraft College sponsors three Festival events each year in which student musicians perform and receive evaluations from a panel of judges.

Schoolcraft Honors Auditions for Piano & Voice

**Piano Auditions:** Friday, October 24 & Saturday, October 25, 2025

**Voice Auditions:** Saturday, October 25, 2025

**Honors Recitals:** Saturday, November 1, 2025

[Piano & Voice Honors Information \(PDF\)](#)

[Piano & Voice Honors Application \(PDF\)](#)

Bach Festival

**Auditions:** Saturday, December 6, 2025

**Honors Recital:** Friday, December 12, 2025

[Bach Festival Information \(PDF\)](#)

[Bach Application \(PDF\)](#)

Sonatina/Sonata Festival

**Auditions:** Saturday, February 7, 2026

**Honors Recital:** Friday, February 13, 2026

[Sonatina-Sonata Information \(PDF\)](#)

[Sonatina-Sonata Application \(PDF\)](#)



Teacher of the Year  
Sheryl Iott



Teachers' Recital  
May 2025



MAY CAMTA Meeting

### Grand Valley State University's 20th/21st Century Piano Festival

The details of GVSU's 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Piano Festival are below.

<https://t.e2ma.net/message/6cfghm/act7or>

### More Events in September and October 2025 at MSU

Sun, September 7 at 3:00 pm at Cook Recital Hall: **Violin & Piano Duo Recital** Zenas Hsu (Violin) and Sookyung Cho (Piano) present "Forgotten Gems," a program spotlighting lesser-known 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> c. American composers.

Sun, September 21 at 3:00 pm at Cook Recital Hall: **Beethoven: Part 5** Pianist Young Hyun Cho continues her Beethoven journey with Op. 31-sonatas No.16 through 18.

Fri. October 3 at 7:30 pm at Cook Recital Hall: **Solo Piano Soundscapes** Pianist Derek Kealii Polischuk performs a solo recital featuring works by Marie Jaëll, Franz Schubert, Margaret Bonds, and Keith Jarrett.

Mon, October 13 at 7:30 pm at Cook Recital Hall: **Votapek and Friends 5<sup>th</sup> Edition** Pianist Votapek performs alongside Wei-Qin Claire Tang and Daniel Bazin in an evening of vibrant two-piano works, featuring music by Barber, Bernstein, Kapustin, and Rachmaninoff.