

# TONES & OVERTONES

July 2023



## Miami MTA

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MMTA welcomes the  
new executive board  
for the term 2023-2025

### Important changes starting 2024:

- Student Day registration fee  
\$40 per student
- Merit Scholarship  
registration fee  
\$35 per student
- Honors Audition: 5 students  
per teacher (\$25 per student)

### In Memoriam:

Rieko Nakashima, 1948-2022  
See page 7

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*Calendar of events for  
2023-2024 will be uploaded in  
our website in September.  
MiamiMTA.org*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear MMTA Members,

As I write my last letter as MMTA President, my heart is full of joy for everything we have accomplished together during the past two years. Thank you for your trust and support. Thank you to the board members who shared this journey with me:

Paul Posnak, Vice-President of Programming, Carl Lauderman, Vice-President of Membership & Yearbook, Zelda Jensen, Director, Jay Harragin, Treasurer, Yianni Iliadis, Corresponding Secretary, and Sarah Salz, Recording Secretary.



## Summary of approved changes during the term 2021-2023:

- Yearbook will be replaced for website updates and newsletters posted on the website
- Merit Scholarship fee raised from \$25 to \$35 starting on the next edition in 2024
- Honors Audition total of participants changed from 3 to 5 per teacher
- Student Day registration fee was raised from \$35 to \$40 per student (approved by FSMTA)
- Pat Simpson Concerto Competition will be held in the Fall every 2 years. Next edition will be in the Fall 2024
- CD's accounts were moved into Investment accounts on Fidelity
- Ms. Rieko Nakashima's donation will go towards a new scholarship on her name. Her beneficiary Stacey Lowe will be part of setting the requirements. MMTA board will be notified when funds are available. MMTA members will receive the requirements as soon as they are established.
- Board position "Corresponding Secretary" was eliminated. Current President will follow up with email correspondence
- Board position "Recording Secretary" will update the website: Calendar, Events information, and members list throughout the year. For major updates, the webmaster will be contacted.
- MMTA members' attendance rule was changed: MMTA teachers will be able to attend the 2 required events in an extended period from January to December of the year prior to entering students. As an alternative to meet this requirement, MMTA teachers may enroll a minimum of 2 students in the Fall Recital, Spring Recital, and/or Fundraising Gala. Each Recital counts towards 1 attendance requirement.

Thank you to each of you who shared this journey with me. It was an honor to serve as the MMTA President for the past two years. I will continue my contribution as the chairperson for the Honors and Scholarships Auditions and for the Student Day Program. You can count on me for any help needed as the new board continues our mission!

Sincerely,

Marianela Gonzalez, MMTA President 2021-2023

## SPRING EVENTS:

### MMTF 69<sup>th</sup> Scholarships Auditions & Honors Recital

\*List of winners in Page 8

Congratulations to all winners and their teachers!

The auditions took place on February 25<sup>th</sup> at Christ Congregational Church. Thank you to the wonderful judges for their time and work in a very long day of auditions:

Piano Judges: Sandra Lopez, Anita Castiglione & Beiyao Ji

Composition Judge: Dorothy Hindman

Special thanks to all participating teachers for their contributions to these events:

Monitors: Cintia Becerra, Natacha Vidaurrazaga, Rolando Miralles, Sahily Canovas and Rosa Scott. Breakfast and lunch setup: Debora Sanchez and Eva Garrucho. Certificates preparation: Luca Cubisino. Tickets Sale: Jay Harragin and Yianni Iliadis. Program Preparation: Joana Gonzalez. Donation: Nightingale Ngo and Ludmila Vaserstein.

The Honors Recital took place on March 11<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of MMTA, we would like to extend our gratitude to Solange Merdinian, Manager of the Steinway Gallery, for all the support and help while hosting this recital.

Marianela Gonzalez, Chairperson



To support our scholarships, please send your donation through  
Zelle: [miamiMTAinformation@gmail.com](mailto:miamiMTAinformation@gmail.com) (all lower case)  
**Thank you!**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PAT SIMPSON CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS CONCERT

The three Winners of the MMTA Pat Simpson Concerto Competition performed with focus, poise and mature musicianship at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. They were accompanied by the UM Frost School's superb Stamps String Quartet, playing reductions for string quartet of the orchestral concerto scores.

The program began with "Strum" a short, brilliant, edgy piece for string quartet written by young composer Jesse Montgomery. This was followed by our three Winners: 3<sup>rd</sup> Winner, Alexa Vidal, playing the Haydn Concerto in C, Mvt 1; The Accolay Concerto for Violin, Mvt. 1 with 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner Alexander Litvinenko; and 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner Aleksandra Deshavaia playing the Mozart Concerto, K.412, mvt. 1. The second half of the program was a vivid performance by the Stamps Quartet of a Haydn Quartet, often called "The Joke".

The audience of Board members, parents, families, and friends was impressed, inspired and enthusiastic - a wonderful way to spend the late last Sunday afternoon of April.

Dr. Paul Posnak  
Concerto Competition Chairperson



3<sup>rd</sup> Pat Simpson Concerto Competition  
will be held on November 2024

\*\*\*Moving forward this event will take  
place every 2 years\*\*\*

# STUDENT DAY PROGRAM:



The Student Day Auditions took place on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at FIU School of Music.

A big thank you to:

Piano Judges: Zelda Jensen & Sarah Suarez, Vocal Judge: Nimia Marquez, Guitar Judge: Carlos Serrano, Aural Theory: Natacha Vidaurrazaga, Written Theory: Cintia Becerra & Leo Walz

After many years of absence, we had guitar students coming to the auditions again. It is great to see the interest of new teachers to get involved in such a complete program. We are planning to have string instruments next year as well!

If you have students, who might benefit from this program, this is the time to get them started to prepare for next year!

For more information to enroll your students, and to obtain the required materials to prepare for the exams, please visit our website: [miamimta.org](http://miamimta.org) (Non-Competitive Events)

Marianela Gonzalez, Chairperson Student Day

## PIANO JUDGES NEEDED FOR STUDENT DAY

As you may know, Student Day is a comprehensive program and Judges must be trained in advance to be able to judge this exam. If you would like to become a recognized judge in the FSMTA website for our district, please contact the chairperson, Marianela Gonzalez.

We count on you to have well prepared judges for this event in Miami!

## SPRING RECITAL:



The MMTA Spring Recital took place on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the beautiful St. Thomas Episcopal Church. We enjoyed 28 students performing and bringing joy to parents, teachers, students, and community members.

Thank you to all teachers for preparing each individual performance and congratulations to all our dedicated students for their high level of musicianship.

We could not have expected a better recital to wrap up a wonderful year and we wish everybody a beautiful summer.

Yianni Iliadis, Chairperson Spring Recital

## MMTA Executive Board 2023-2025:

The Installation of the new board took place on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Le Parc Café in Coral Gables. Our current president, Marianela Gonzalez, received a crystal on behalf of MMTA as a recognition for her work and dedication the past two years. We had a pleasant brunch to welcome our new President and members of the new board which will take over in August 2023.

### **Executive Board 2023-2025:**

Yianni Iliadis, President  
Luca Cubisino, Vice-President of Programming  
Carl Lauderman, Vice-President of Membership  
Vanessa Fourla, Vice-President of Publicity/Marketing  
Jay Harragin, Treasurer  
Joana Gonzalez, Recording Secretary  
Paul Posnak, Director for Development  
Zelda Jensen, Director  
Marianela Gonzalez, Director



## In Memoriam:

Rieko Nakashima, long-time member of the Miami Music Teachers Association, passed peacefully on December 26, 2022, in Miami, surrounded by close friends and devoted piano students. She had just celebrated her 74<sup>th</sup> birthday eight days prior to her passing.

Rieko was born in Japan to Dr. Tadayoshi Nakashima and Mrs. Fukuko Kondo. Her father was a biochemist and researcher, and his work and fellowships led the family to reside in Europe, Hawaii, and eventually Miami, Florida where they settled in their Palmetto Bay home.



For nearly 25 years, Dr. Nakashima was a research professor of Molecular and Cellular Evolution at the University of Miami.

For multiple years, he was recognized as an accomplished scientist in the Marquis Who's Who In America. Rieko's mother, Fukuko, tutored privately Japanese and other subjects to primary students. Though they left Japan and did not return, the Nakashima family were amply proud of their heritage and culture. Rieko's meticulous teaching style reflected the deep influence of her parents and Japanese background.

Rieko earned her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the North Carolina School of the Arts, and Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Juilliard School. After graduation, she became an adjunct professor and private piano instructor at Miami Dade College, Miami Christian College, and Trinity International University. From 1978-1995, she was the pianist and music director for services at the Unity Center for Christian Living.

Rieko was a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs and Miami Music Teachers Association for over thirty years. Her students consistently received superior or excellent ratings at the Junior Festival and won at competitive events. As a teacher, she will be remembered for her discipline, attention to detail, scholarship, and gentle but strict manner. Marilyn Gore, student, and friend of Rieko for 15 years, shared that "Ms. Nakashima was a gentle giant. Her calm personality and soft-spoken demeanor provided a great balance to her meticulous and firm demand for the lesson's perfection."

Rieko was reserved and private, though she appreciated anyone who could make her laugh. Keeping loyal to her Japanese heritage and traditions, Rieko demonstrated the utmost care and hospitality to her friends. Furthermore, her love and friendship extended to furry creatures. Rieko loved all animals and was known to feed the stray cats at Miami Dade College. She will be dearly missed by all her students and friends.

*Written by Stacey Lowe*

# 2023 MMTF Honors & Scholarship Winners

## Students

### **Merit Scholarship Junior A (through grade 4)**

1st place: Lara Nedeff  
2nd place: Elizabeth Goncalves  
3rd place: Amy Oliva  
3rd place: Julian Pozo  
Honorable Mention: Jared Valdes

### **Merit Scholarship Junior B (grades 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>)**

1st place: Marc Usatenko  
2nd place: Daniel Acosta  
2nd place: Uma Lidgi  
3rd place: Peter Younes  
Honorable Mention: Emily Banos

### **Merit Scholarship Junior C (grades 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)**

1st place: Joshua Safont  
2nd place: Ella Wang  
3rd place: Augustine Del Sesto  
Honorable Mention:

### **Merit Scholarship Senior A (grades 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>)**

1st place: Sofia Leon  
2nd place: Isabella Grandison  
3rd place: Tiffany Beh  
Honorable Mention: Nandinbilig Tamir

### **Merit Scholarship Senior B (grades 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>)**

1st place: Luna Zanna  
2nd place: Camila Garcia  
3rd place: Pablo Pupo  
3rd place: Gabriel Hablich  
Honorable Mention:

### **Merit Scholarship Junior VOICE (through age 13)**

1st place: Paulina Knez  
2nd place: Emma Camacho  
3rd place: Leila Pimienta  
Honorable Mention:

### **MMTF Latin-American Scholarship**

Winner:

## Teachers

Debora Sanchez  
Rolando Miralles  
Cintia Becerra  
Cintia Becerra  
Rolando Miralles

Luca Cubisino  
Sahily Canovas  
Yianni Iliadis  
Joana Gonzalez  
Rolando Miralles

Sahily Canovas  
Nightingale Ngo  
Ludmila Vaserstein

Sahily Canovas  
Luca Cubisino  
Nightingale Ngo  
Debora Sanchez

Luca Cubisino  
Rosa Scott  
Marianela Gonzalez  
Debora Sanchez

Natacha Vidaurrazaga  
Natacha Vidaurrazaga  
Natacha Vidaurrazaga



**MMTF Ensemble Scholarship Elementary**

1st place:  
2nd place:

**MMTF Ensemble Scholarship Junior**

1st place: Zoe Aldana & Joshua Safont  
2nd place:

Sahily Canovas

**MMTF Ensemble Scholarship Senior**

1st place: Sofia Leon & Emily Chea  
2nd place:

Sahily Canovas

**MMTF Composition Contest Junior**

1st place: Zoe Aldana  
2nd place: Nicholas Beh

Sahily Canovas  
Nightingale Ngo

**MMTF Composition Contest Senior**

1st place: Andrew Gedde  
2nd place: Tiffany Beh

Patricia Englehardt  
Nightingale Ngo

**HONORS AUDITION JUNIOR:**

Amy Oliva  
Julian Pozo  
Elizabeth Goncalves  
Amelia Nusspaumer  
Uma Ligji  
Raphael Hablich  
Peter Younes  
Victoria Zorrilla (Voice)  
Nerea Palomo (Voice)

Cintia Becerra  
Cintia Becerra  
Rolando Miralles  
Sahily Canovas  
Yianni Iliadis  
Eva Garrucho  
Joana Gonzalez  
Natacha Vidaurrazaga  
Natacha Vidaurrazaga

**HONORS AUDITION SENIOR:**

Nandinbilig Tamir  
Emily Chea  
Gabriel Hablich  
Pablo Pupo

Debora Sanchez  
Sahily Canovas  
Debora Sanchez  
Marianela Gonzalez

**Awards**

In memory of Margaret Squier; sponsor of the Merit Scholarships for students in grades:  
6th ,7th ,9th & 10<sup>th</sup>

Miami Music Teachers Foundation is the sponsor of all other students' awards.



To support our scholarships, please send your donation through Zelle:  
[miamiMTAinformation@gmail.com](mailto:miamiMTAinformation@gmail.com) (all lower case)

**Thank you!**