



1926-2026
Celebrating 100 years!

The Second Fifty Years



“On Friday evening, September 13, 1926, twenty-five music teachers of Reading met at the home of George D. Haage for the purpose of forming an organization to be known as the Music Teachers Association of Reading. The purpose of such an organization would be to raise the position of the music teaching profession to a higher degree of public recognition and to afford protection of the proper rights and interests of those engaged in the music teaching profession.”



This is the first entry in the official minutes of the Reading Music Teachers Association. The founders stressed that the purpose of the organization was not to dictate the methods and practices of teachers, but to support and promote their professional development and to provide educational and performance opportunities for members and their students, while cultivating music education in the community.

It should be noted that Mr. Haage served as President from 1926 through 1964! Early meetings, events, and workshops were held at Hangen’s Music House, Eckert Brothers, Alexanders, Zeswitz, Young’s Music Store as well as many churches around the area. As RMTA has never had a physical home base, the organization was – and still is – dependent upon the generosity of community organizations which continues to be vital for performance events wherein quality pianos are as important as the venue.

100 years later, RMTA continues to cultivate the mission established by our founders with workshops, forums, masterclasses given by renowned artists and teachers. Also, performance opportunities, contests and competitions, and bus trips to the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, New York’s Steinway Hall, and The Smithsonian and the National Cathedral in Washington DC.

The accomplishments of those early years can be found in a booklet entitled “The First Fifty Years” which can be downloaded from the RMTA website. ***This document is the sequel!***

As with any small non-profit with a dues-based budget, RMTA struggles with the roller coaster of membership numbers and participation, as well as managing students who are juggling complicated and demanding schedules. But we strive to adapt as the desires and needs of the membership and our community evolve. There are, unfortunately, activities that we cannot hold any more – primarily our Piano Fests – due to the costs related to venue rental and having no local piano dealers to provide the piano orchestra.

One thing that has not wavered through the years is the talent, insight, adaptability, and strength of RMTA members. They are a dedicated bunch who continue to collaborate for the betterment of the individual teacher, the organization, and their community. **This sequel is dedicated to them.**

The following pages provide a summary of activities, achievements, events and notes of interest in our second fifty – 1976-2026. It has been and always will be an honor and a privilege to be able to work, teach, and play with them all.

From your 2024-2026 Officers,

Millie Eben
RMTA President

Lindsay Evans
RMTA Treasurer

Holly Altenderfer
RMTA Secretary

Sandy Sittler
RMTA Immediate Past-President



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1926-2026
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RMTA OFFICERS 1976 – 2026

PRESIDENTS

(and immediate Past-Presidents)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Angela Ganster Haage | (1976-1981) |
| Sister Mercylle | (1962-1984) |
| Grace Mease | (1984-1986) |
| Rosemary Fraley | (1986-1988) |
| Pearl Kahler | (1988-1992) |
| Doris Ketner | (1992-1994) |
| Rosemary Fraley | (1994-1996) |
| Millie Eben | (1996-2000) |
| Kathleen Herber | (2000-2002) |
| Theresa Cocci | (2002-2004) |
| Holly Altenderfer | (2004-2006) |
| Kathleen Herber | (2006-2009) |
| Millie Eben | (2009-2012) |
| Debbie Simpson | (2012-2014) |
| Jennifer Smith & JoAnne Earnest | (2014-2016) |
| Jennifer Smith & Dorinne Bilger | |
| Millie Eben | (2016-2018) |
| Barbara Lanza | (2018-2020) |
| Stephen Longenecker | (2020-2022) |
| Millie Eben | (2022-2023) |
| Sandy Sittler, | (2023-2026) |

Immed Past Pres

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Elizabeth Homan | (1976-1981) |
| Position ended 1981 | |

FIRST VP

(Teacher activities)

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Pearl Kahler | (1974-1976) |
| Grace Mease | (1977-1982) |
| Doris Ketner | (1982-1986) |
| Sherry Lenich | (1986-1988) |
| Anne Weiser | (1988-1990) |
| Rosemary Fraley | (1990-1992) |
| Cedric Elmer | (1992-1994) |
| Kim Webster | (1994-1996) |
| Kathleen Herber | (1998-2000) |
| Holly Altenderfer | (2000-2004) |
| Pam Zebrine | (2004-2006) |
| Christopher Macy | (2006-2008) |
| Keri Houp Wagner | (2008-2012) |
| JoAnne Earnest | (2012-2016) |
| Jennifer Smith | (2016-2018) |
| Chris Chandler | (2018-2020) |

Position ended 2020

RECORDING SECRETARY

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Grace Mease | (1974-1976) |
| Kathy Barth-Parker | (1976-1980) |
| H. Jan Svenski | (1980-1981) |
| Marie Comfort | (1981-1983) |
| Rosemary Fraley | (1984-1986) |
| Doris Ketner | (1986-1988) |
| Debbie McTaggart | (1988-1990) |
| Grace Mease | (1990-1992) |
| Millie Eben | (1992-1993) |
| Marie Comfort | (1993-1994) |
| Kathy Herber | (1995-1996) |
| Donnasue Thompson & Kathy Herber | (1996-1998) |
| Theresa Cocci & Gina Smith | |
| Susan Pena | (1998-2000) |
| Debbie Pyle | (2001-2006) |
| Shelley Brower | (2006-2008) |
| Sandy Sittler | (2008-2009) |
| Keri Houp Wagner | (2009-2012) |
| Holly Altenderfer | (2012-2014) |
| | (2014-2026) |

SECOND VP

(Student activities)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Alma Dundore | (1974-1976) |
| Robert Dillane | (1971-1980) |
| Gloria Ballamy | (1981-1983) |
| Kathryn Schiffner | (1984-1986) |
| Elizabeth Snyder | (1986-1988) |
| Beverly Schmittberger | (1988-1990) |
| Millie Eben | (1990-1992) |
| Dottie Olson | (1992-1996) |
| Holly Altenderfer | (1996-2000) |
| Theresa Cocci | (2000-2002) |
| Pam Zebrine | (2000-2004) |
| Kim Breiner-Stoudt | (2004-2006) |
| Debbie Simpson | (2006-2008) |
| Gloria Capinski | (2008-2010) |
| Jennifer Scott | (2010-2016) |
| Theresa Cocci | (2016-2020) |

Position ended 2020

TREASURER

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| David Bilger | (1976-1979) |
| Pearl Kahler | (1979-1985) |
| Millie Eben | (1985-1990) |
| Leonard Kahler | (1990-1992) |
| Becky Butler | (1992-1994) |
| Marie Griffith | (1995-1964) |
| Maki Chen & Barbara Lanza | (1996-1998) |
| Barbara Lanza & Yvonne Alling | |
| Barbara Lanza | (2000-2001) |
| Barbara Lanza | (2001-2002) |
| Cathy Fronheiser & Terry Voth | (2002-2004) |
| Cathy Fronheiser | |
| Sylvia Kantor & Jill Haley | (2004-2005) |
| Millie Eben | |
| JoAnne Earnest | (2005-2006) |
| Jennifer Smith | (2006-2012) |
| Lin Breyer | (2012-2013) |
| Barbara Lanza | (2013-2014) |
| Lindsay Evans | (2014-2020) |
| | (2020-2022) |
| | (2023-2026) |

NOTABLE FIRSTS

- 1975: First Teachers Recital
- 1983: RMTA first logo was adopted via a community competition.
- 1986: Video-conference: "Independent Teaching as a Viable Career"
- 1989: First Student Original Music Composition Contest with 67 entries.
- 1990: First Student Music Essay Contest with the theme "Music Makes the Difference."
- 1991: First pops recital, the first-time that jazz repertoire took center stage at a student recital, Alvernia College.
- 1991: First student recitals at Berks County senior facilities
- 1992: Maestro Sidney Rothstein, conductor of the Reading Symphony Orchestra
- 1994: Scenic River Days exhibit with student performances and interactive music activities for kids.
- 1994: Membership hits 90!
- 1996: Fundraiser to benefit Make-A-Wish Foundation which garnered \$14,600. This was a cooperative effort with local school and community music organizations with over 400 Berks County young musicians participating.
- 1997: Affiliated with Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association.
- 1997: First DSPF at Trinity Lutheran Church with 109 students participating
- 1999: RMTA became an independent 501c3 nonprofit corporation
- 1999: First summer music camp scholarships offered. Program later transferred to Reading Musical Foundation.
- 2000: Bus trip to Washington DC National Cathedral and Smithsonian Institute in celebration of 300th birthday of the piano
- 2000: Participated in a national program 'Nurturing Audiences Campaign'
- 2001: Baroque Dance workshop
- 2002: First adult student music salon (circa)
- 2004: First website hosted on Millie Eben's laptop
- 2005: Concert and discussion on diversity with members of Intercultural Journeys, a Philadelphia based organization. The title of the event was "Middle Eastern Cultures in Harmony."
- 2006 (we think...): First performance event for adult students
- 2010: First Student Spring Performance Festival
- 2019: First virtual student adjudications and recitals due to COVID restrictions.
- 2024: First "Partners in Music" Community Recital to benefit Immanuel UCC, Shillington
- 2025: Trip to Kimmel Center, Philadelphia to hear Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with Philadelphia Orchestra

MISCELLANEOUS TIDBITS

- RMTA had a telephone tree until early 2000's.
- Held annual teacher recitals until 2014 which were fund raisers for the student scholarship fund.
- Composer Commissions:
 - 1994: Millie Eben, a late elementary piano duet entitled "Midnight Horseman"
 - 2000: Robert Vandall, an intermediate level piano duet entitled "Spirals"
 - 2005: Martha Mier, an early intermediate level piano duet entitled "Blue Parrot Rag"
 - 2020: David Himes, a piano composition in honor of Millie Eben's years of service to the organization entitled "Vibrant"
 - 2026: Phillip Keveren, an intermediate level piano duet entitled "The Reading Rag"
- Website:
 - 2004: First website hosted on Millie Eben's laptop using Sandvox software, hosted on GoDaddy
 - 2019: New WordPress website developed by Shirkworx; hosting switched to Namecheap (because it was cheaper...)

*Millie,
Thank you for the inspiration you have
been over the years and for your
dedication to RMTA. Your love for
music and teaching is contagious,
and we have all benefited so
much from it!
Keri Wagner*

Vibrant
for solo piano

*Thank you, Millie for all
your years of service to RMTA.
And thanks for your friendship!
All the best, always.
- Barbara Lanza*

*Millie, Thanks for
your 'Vibrant' leader-
ship for many
years!
Barbara Lanza*

*Here is a gift for you that
exemplifies your generosity to
RMTA. You have given so much
to RMTA over the years. This
gift will honor
you as the muse
lives on -
Believe
Jenny Scott*

Written especially for Millie Eben
to commemorate a lifetime of dedication
to the Reading musical community
through teaching, coaching and accompanying
students. She has provided exemplary leadership to the
Reading Music Teachers Association (RMTA),
providing encouragement and inspiration to all.

Commissioned by RMTA
in the summer of 2020

*Millie,
Thank you so much for the
heart & soul you've put into
this organization!
Jenny Scott*

*To me, you are RMTA.
Thank you so much for
the thousands of hours
of your time and
dedication. HOU
Millie,
I so appreciate the
organizational leadership &
love that you have poured
into RMTA. Thank you!
Lin Breyer*

David Himes

Vibrant

Andante (♩ = 80)

Allegro (♩ = 124)

© 2020 by David Himes

PIANOFEST

Held periodically since 1966, PianoFests were started as fundraisers for the student scholarship fund. The very first event was held at the Albright College Field House. Two hundred fifty students performed on 26 pianos under the direction of John Harrison. The funds raised allowed the organization to continue the George D. Haage Student Scholarship program. While not held every year, they eventually grew to include instrumental and vocal ensembles. The largest event featured 320 students.

- May 7, 1966: Albright College Field House; John Harrison, conductor
- May 6, 1967: Albright College Field House; John Harrison, conductor
- October 5, 1968: Albright College Field House; John Harrison, conductor
- May 16, 1970: Muhlenberg High School Auditorium, David Bilger, conductor
- May 23, 1981: Governor Mifflin High School, David Bilger, conductor
- May 1986: Muhlenberg High School
 - 16-piano Ensemble, J. Carl Borelli, conductor
 - Vocal Ensemble, Elizabeth Hinkle
 - String Ensemble, Nancy Hampton, Conductor
 - Flute Ensemble, Anne Weiser, Conductor
- May 1990: Muhlenberg High School
 - 16-piano Ensemble, J. Carl Borelli, conductor
 - Wind Ensemble, James Michael Conductor
 - Vocal Ensemble, Rosemary Fraley, Conductor
 - 16 piano ensemble featured piano duo La Guachinanga, composed by Chester Wittel, arranged for two pianos by long-time RMTA member Cedric Elmer
- May 1994: Scottish Rite Cathedral
 - 16-piano Ensemble, J. Carl Borelli, conductor (320 students!)
 - Featured commissioned work by Millie Eben, "Midnight Horseman"
- May 1997: Scottish Rite Cathedral, Don Hinkle, conductor
- May 2000: Scottish Rite Cathedral, John Harrison, conductor
 - Featured a commissioned work by Robert Vandall, "Spirals"
- June 4, 2005: Scottish Rite Cathedral, Mark Thomas, conductor
 - Featured commissioned work - "Blue Parrot Rag" by Martha Mier
- February 2010: Scottish Rite Cathedral, John Harrison, conductor

STUDENT'S ORIGINAL COMPOSITION CONTEST

(Details were scarce; few notes in the minutes)

- 1992: 83 entries, 25 finalists chosen by committee, winners placed by Dr. Roy Hinkle
- 1995: 69 entries; 25 finalists chosen by committee, winners placed by composer Robert Bruce
- 1998: 63 entries; finalists chosen by committee, winners placed by Dr. Frank Siekmann
- 2002: 20 entries
- 2014: 26 entries; judged by Dr. Patricia Powell, West Chester University
- 2016: 16 entries; judged by Anne McGinty, composer; Chris Heslops, musician/composer, Dr. Gayle Kowalchuk, pianist/composer/pedagogue.

2026:

STUDENTS MUSIC ESSAY CONTEST

- 1991: 98 entries; "Music Makes the Difference"; finalists chosen by committee, winners placed by Susan Pena
- 1993: 120 entries; "Your most memorable musical experience"; finalists chosen by committee, winners placed by Claude Dundore
- 1996: "Fun-Raising: Being a Musical Ambassador"
- 1998: no details
- 2016: 16 entries; judged by Rachel Gutzler, Wilson School District High School librarian, Susan Pena, freelance writer, and Keri Shultz, RMF Executive Director

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1976: Donation of music records to Wernersville State Hospital
1976-1980: Student Recitals at Wernersville State Hospital
1977: Aeolian Sax Quartet concert
1991: Student recital series began at area senior facilities which continued until COVID in 2019
1992/1994/1996: Scenic River Days
1995: Santiago Rodriguez, piano masterclass; co-sponsored with Albright College
1996: Fund raiser for Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southeastern PA; Raised \$14,625.51 for MW;
Over 400 students participated including Berks Youth Choir; RSYO, string ensembles; Berkshire Mall
1996: Maurice Hinson, pianist, pedagogue, editor
1998: Riverfest, community arts event
1998: Full Circle Music Society student workshop and concert
1999: Pipes & Pizza, a cooperative workshop with Reading's AGO chapter where students explored the inside of a pipe organ.
2000: Berks Arts Council Humanities Days at Grings Mill
2000: Participate in National Shut-In Day at Fairgrounds Mall with student performances
2001: Thomas Rosenkrantz, PMTA Collegiate Piano Competition Winner
2002: Pallavi Mahadara, PMTA JR Piano Competition winner
2002: Fund raiser for Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southeastern PA, held at Fairgrounds Mall.
2005: Concert and discussion on diversity with members of Intercultural Journeys, a Philadelphia based organization. The title of the event was "Middle Eastern Cultures in Harmony."
2019: First remote student auditions and online Youtube video performances due to COVID restrictions.
2021: Jason McDevitt, piano technician: "Anatomy of a piano", community workshop
2024: First "Partners in Music" recital which included family and other community members.

MEETING PLACES

RMTA never had a permanent address and met at many places around Berks County thanks to the generosity of the community. We met in restaurants, local colleges, churches and the homes of our members.

Pardon any unintentional omissions from this list. Some of these places also no longer exist. It was hard to keep track!

Abraham Lincoln Motor Inn
Brass Lantern
Chef Alan's
Crystal Restaurant
Elks Club, S. 5th St., Reading
Exeter Restaurant
Inn at Reading
Hanover Trails
The Riveredge
Woman's Club of Reading
Wyomissing Club
Wyomissing Restaurant
The Highlands of Wyomissing
Eckert Brothers Music
Zeswitz Music (*the old place*)
Alexander's Music Store
Young's Music Store
Menchey Music Store, Wyomissing

Albright College
Alvernia College
Kutztown University
Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing
Calvary United Church of Christ, Reading
Christ Church UCC, Temple
First Presbyterian Church, Reading
First UCC, Reading
Grace Bible Fellowship Church, Shillington
Immanuel United Church of Christ, Shillington
Lincoln Park United Methodist Church
New Fellowship Church, Oley
New Life Bible Church, Reading
Reading Y.M.C.A.
Trinity United Church of Christ, Mt. Penn
Yocum Institute for Arts Education
(*formerly Wyomissing Institute*)
William Bitting Mansion, Reading
Women's Club of Reading Recital Hall

TEACHER FORUM TOPICS

“Practice Makes Perfect...or Does It!”

“The Professional Music Teachers and What It Means”

“The Business of Independent Teaching”

“Favorite Teaching Gems”

“Teaching Tips”

“Tricks of the Trade”

“Games for Group Lessons”

“Problems and Concerns of the Private Music Teachers”

“Guiding students toward continued musical activities in adult life”

“The Parent/Student/Teacher Triangle”

“Teaching the divergent learner”

“Organizations and Periodicals to Help the Private Music Teachers”

Electronic keyboards workshop at Zeswitz

“Teaching Jazz Improvisation....where to begin?”

“Teaching Composition”

“Preparing students for auditions”

“What’s in Your Piano Bag? - A review of the current piano methods”

GUEST CLINICIANS, LECTURERS & ARTISTS

1976: Dr. Walter Hartley, saxophonist; New York State University College at Fredonia
1977: Sigurd Rascher, saxophonist
1977: Carl Gehrhart, organist, Allen Organ Company
1979, 2004: Ben Whitten, pianist, teacher; workshops and student masterclasses
1981: Peter LaManna, organist
1981: William Fairlamb, piano, Lebanon Valley College faculty; lecture/recital on the Chopin Etudes
1982: Pierce Getz, organist, Lebanon Valley College faculty and Malvina Leschock, concert pianist; "Symposium on Ornamentation"
1984: Walter Noona, pianist, pedagogue, composer
1986: Sam Holland, pianist, composer, pedagogue; teacher workshop and student masterclass
1990: Gloria Greene Thomas, pianist; analysis of Beethoven sonatas
1991: Phillip Compton, organist, lecture/recital
1992: Dr. Ben Whitten, West Chester University; "Pulse and Impulse"
1993: Joan Boytim, vocal teacher; masterclass; teacher workshop on business of teaching
1993: Dr. Jacques Voois, West Chester University; "Keyboard Performance and Injury: An Ounce of Prevention"
1993: Dr. Richard Veleta, West Chester University; 18th Century Ornamentation
1994: Joan Frey Boytim, vocal teacher, pedagogue; Studio Management, Vocal Repertoire for Young Voices
1994: Tony Caramia, piano, Eastman School of Music
1994: Dr. Timothy Blair, piano, West Chester University; student masterclass
1995: Robert Bruce, pianist, composer
1995: Co-sponsored Latin Fiesta Ensemble at Albright College
1996: Full Circle Music Society
1996: Maurice Hinson, pianist, editor, pedagogue
1996: Constance Murray, piano teacher; past-President PMTA; "Prescription for Performance"
1997: Martha Mier, pianist, composer; teacher workshop and student masterclass
1997: Jean Fox, piano teacher; past-president PMTA
1997: Maurice Hinson, pianist, editor, pedagogue
1997: Robert Siemers, pianist; teacher workshop and student masterclass
1998: Robin Kani, flutist
1998: Carl Schmidt, organ
1998: Mary Jo Carabello, theater/vocal; stage presence
1998: Barbara Lister-sink; music wellness; "Freeing the Caged Bird – Developing Well-Coordinated, Injury-Preventive Piano Technique"
1998: Bob Dawson, bluegrass pianist
1999: Dr. Richard Veleta, West Chester University; Contemporary Intermediate Piano Literature
1999: Judyth Cave Whitman, blind pianist
1999: Sparx, flute trio
1999: Pipes and Pizza, joint workshop with AGO; students explored the inside of a pipe organ
1999: Susan Boardman, Penn State University, vocal teacher; workshop and student masterclass
2000: Robert Vandall, pianist, composer
1999: Willis Snyder, piano technician; "Piano Perspectives"
2000: Peter Brye, former director Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra
2001: Baroque Dance workshop

2001, 2004, 2007: Dennis Kobray, composer impersonator
 2001: Tammy Mitgang, Executive Director Reading Musical Foundation
 2006: Lee Evans, jazz pianist, pedagogue
 2002: Susan Boardman, vocal workshop
 2002: Pallavi Mahidara concert, PMTA Junior Piano Competitions winner
 2003: Charles Abramovic, pianist, Temple University
 2003: Kay Hooper, pianist; Alexander Technique
 2003-2004: Gloria Greene Thomas, pianist
 2004: Martha Mier, pianist, composer
 2004: Maria del Pico Taylor, pianist; "Hispanic elements in Debussy's piano music"
 2004: Elizabeth Campbell, Jacobs Music; keyboard supplier for PianoFest 2004
 2003: James and Kathryn Douthit, "Storm in the Studio: ADHD in the studio setting"
 2003: Charles Abramovic, pianist, Temple Univ: workshop and student masterclass
 2003, 2012: Kay Hooper, Alexander Technique; Ambient Awareness; Look at your hands and be nervous
 2004: Richard Veleta, pianist, West Chester Univ: workshop and student masterclass
 2006: Marylene Dosse, piano "Motion in French Piano Literature"
 2006: Lee Evans, jazz pianist; "Teaching jazz to the classical pianist"
 2008 & 2018: Jacqueline Herbein, "Beyond Words: Toys and Tools for Stimulating whole Body Awareness"
 2008: Annette Freeze, piano; "Memory....and not from Cats"
 2007: Timothy Shafer, piano: "What shall we teach them?"
 2007: Jacqueline Herbein: "Beyond Words: Toys and Tools for Stimulating Whole Body Awareness"
 2007: Leann Meck, occupational therapist; "Ideas for dealing with learning issues in children"
 2008: Annette Freeze, piano; Memorization
 2009: Anita Renfroe, pianist: "Mendelssohn in the British Isles"
 2009: Annette Freeze, pianist: Memorization techniques
 2010: Maestro Andrew Constatine, conductor Reading Symphony Orchestra
 2010: JoAnne Earnest, piano; "Right, Left, Up and Down"
 2011: Todd Grube, yoga instructor; "Yoga for Musicians"
 2012: Vidya Sridhar, Carnatic music
 2012: Kay Hooper, piano, Susquehanna University; "Ambient Awareness"
 2014: Keri Shultz, Executive Director of Reading Musical Foundation
 2015: Joanne Kirchner, Temple University; "Performance Anxiety"
 2016: Christy Ann Knauer, voice; "Healthy Singing Workshop" in conjunction with BYC
 2017: Lois Svard, pianist, Bucknell University; "Mirror Neurons and the Musicians Brain"
 2018: Jacqueline Herbein, pianist; "Wellness Alternatives for Musicians"
 2018: Daniel Immel, piano, Kutztown University; "The Digital Virus: Practicing in the age of Distraction"
 2018: Emily Lanza, attorney US Copyright Office, Washington DC; "A few notes on copyrights for music teachers"
 2019: Francine Black, vocalist; teacher workshop and student masterclass
 2020: Marty Mellinger, piano
 2021: Alyssa Lahoda, violin; Performance Anxiety and Musician Wellness
 2002/2024: Marvin Blickenstaff, pianist, pedagogue; "How Children Learn", "Technical Routines for Busy Teachers", "Performance Practice Made Easy", student masterclass
 2025: Amanda Cardinal, music therapist; "Considerations and Adaptations for Special Learners in Music Lessons"
 2025: Wendy Thompson, harpist; "History and Healing of the Harp"

RMTA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

George D. Haage Scholarship

| | |
|------|---|
| 1976 | Mark Lawlor, organ & Debra Schlegel, organ |
| 1977 | Karen Kniss, organ & Craig Weidner, voice |
| 1978 | Robert Davis, voice |
| 1979 | Carolann Burger, voice |
| 1980 | No winner |
| 1981 | Susan Garrett, flute |
| 1982 | Sara Bartlette, sax & Donna Reighley, piano |
| 1983 | Tina M. Kennedy, flute |
| 1984 | Monica Frey, voice |
| 1985 | Mark Johnson, sax |
| 1986 | None |
| 1987 | Ellen Kissinger, voice, Marcia Heydt, saxophone |
| 1988 | None |
| 1989 | None |
| 1990 | Joli Maori, piano |
| 1991 | Cynthia Ciervo, flute |
| 1992 | Matthew MacKenzie, saxophone |
| 1993 | Kevin Embry, saxophone & Laural Noll, piano/voice |
| 1994 | Jason Wetzel, piano |
| 1995 | Tammy Wapinski, voice & Ryan Rump, viola |
| 1996 | Ashley Hartman, piano |
| 1997 | Alexandra Zelinsky, voice |
| 1998 | None |
| 1999 | None |
| 2000 | Tracy Smith, flute & Megan DeCesar, violin |
| 2001 | None |
| 2002 | Michelle Howe, flute |
| 2003 | Seth Slaymaker, piano |
| 2004 | Allison Smith, piano |
| 2005 | Kelly Kantner, voice |
| 2006 | Lauren Tripolitis, piano |
| 2007 | Sarah Blair, voice |
| 2008 | Stephanie Allen, voice |
| 2009 | Lesky Mondedero, piano |
| 2010 | None |
| 2011 | None |
| 2012 | Katie Legenski |
| 2013 | Amataverna Lee, piano |
| 2014 | Danielle Moore, voice |
| 2015 | None |
| 2016 | None |
| 2017 | Joshua Matthias-Long, violin |
| 2018 | Miranda Patches, violin |
| 2019 | Sashank Sridhar, piano |
| 2020 | None |
| 2021 | None |
| 2022 | None |
| 2023 | None |
| 2024 | None |
| 2025 | Lauren Grabosky, violin |

Helen Smith Scholarship

| | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 2001 | ? |
| 2002 | Adam Shane, viola |
| 2003 | Charis Diamanopoulous, piano |
| 2004 | Tim McDevitt, saxophone |
| 2005 | Matthew Barrell, violin |
| 2006 | Charles Feenstra, piano |
| 2007 | Joshua Matthias-Long, violin |
| 2008 | Muriel Eshbach, violin |
| 2009 | Megan Bailey, smith |
| 2010 | None |
| 2011 | None |
| 2012 | Cynthia Vong, piano |
| 2013 | Julia deGruchy, voice |
| 2014 | Rachel Ohnsman, voice |
| 2015 | Allison Paige, voice |
| 2016 | Alyssa Lahoda, violin |
| 2017 | Jeremy Earnest, piano |
| 2018 | Kristen Suruskie, piano |
| 2019 | Elise Eggleston, voice |
| 2020 | Reid Simmons, violin |
| 2021 | Isaiah Nygard, piano |
| 2022 | None |
| 2023 | Henry Smith, violin |
| 2024 | None |
| 2025 | Alison Applegate, voice |

HONORARY MEMBERS



Kathleen Embriani

Byron Nunnemaker, piano - 1977
Miriam Heisler, piano - 1984
Angela Haage Ganster, voice – 1984
Kit Breedy, voice – 1990
Elizabeth Zug, piano – 1992
Thelma Miller, piano – 1992
Helen Smith, voice – 1993
Alma Dundore, piano – 1994
Wes Fisher, bass - 1995



Miriam Heisler

William McElwee, Alexanders Music Store – 1996

Leonard Kahler, treasurer – 1996

Jean Marburger, piano – 1996

Kathleen Embriani, cello – 1996

Sister Mercylle, piano/violin– 1997

Elizabeth Homan, piano – 1997

Doris Ketner, piano – 2001

Grace Mease, piano – 2005

Pearl Kahler, piano – 2007

Millie Eben - 2010

JoAnne Earnest - 2019

Rosemary Fraley - 2025



Pearl Kahler, Grace Mease, Doris Ketner



Wes Fisher



Millie Eben



JoAnne Earnest



Sister Mercylle

LEGAL/FINANCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- February 1979: The scholarship fund was officially name “George D. Haage Memorial Scholarship”
- 1984: The first RMTA logo adopted via community contest. Created by Brenda Freeman.
- 1987: Created a job description handbook
- 1975: Received Tax Identification Number from IRS
- 1997: Accepted as an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association and Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association
- 1997: Established the David Bilger Woodwinds Memorial Scholarship with RMF
- 1997: Established an Emergency Aid Fund to benefit members with financial need
- 1998: Summer Camp scholarship established
- 1992: Code of Ethics adopted
- 1999: Established the Helen Smith Scholarship Fund
- 1999: Became a 501c3 Non-profit Educational Corporation
- 2000: Established the Helen Smith Scholarship
- 2000: Received its tax-exempt status under MTNA’s Group Exemption Roster with the IRS.
- 2004: First website hosted on Millie Eben’s laptop.
- 2008: Due to the large amount of the scholarship funds, it was decided to transfer all funds to Reading Musical Foundation for management. This included the Smith, Haage and summer camp scholarships. All future college scholarship auditions and finances are now managed by RMF in perpetuity.
- 2010: New RMTA logo adopted.
- 2020: Website migrated to a cloud-based platform with a new design by Shirkworx.
- 2026:

