



Milwaukee Area Piano Teachers Association, Inc.

January 2026 Newsletter

<https://www.maptapianoteachers.org/>

New website password is

Follow us on Facebook for dates, news and announcements! We have 103 followers.

Happy 2026 and a Happy New Year of Teaching!

Have you made any new year's resolutions for your teaching? One online teachers' group, that I belong to, has encouraged every member to start practicing more, at least one hour a week. I thought that was a good goal. There was also a goal to declutter your studio; I believe that was pointed at me because I have a hard time returning music to my filing cabinets! What will be your goals for this year? Will you have all your students work on scales or arpeggios or focus on more expressive playing? Will you do something new at your studio recitals?

I hope that you will have the goal of entering students in one new MAPTA event this year because we offer so many wonderful events for our piano students.

My favorite MAPTA event is our Honors Auditions with the Honors Recital and trophies every two years. I find MAPTA judging standards to be better for students. We do not give students inflated ratings but rather a more realistic critique so that they know if they have deficiencies that they need to improve upon, which will help them on the road to becoming a better musician. In the Honors Auditions each piece can get a maximum of 5 points and the 3 pieces can get 15 points. To earn a trophy, a student must earn 25 points within a 2-year period. So, if a student earns 13 points in one year, letting them know they are not yet perfect in their technique or interpretation, they can still qualify for their trophy. They do need to earn 15 points to be invited to perform on the Juniors Honors Recital for Levels 1-4. That makes that event very special for younger students! Older students qualify with 14 or 15 points for the Senior Honors Recital.

Whatever MAPTA event that you choose for your students, I know that you will be happy that you decided to enter them!

Janet Acker, MAPTA President

Saturday, January 10th - MAPTA Inaugural Music Quiz Bowl

This will be held at Mount Mary University, Notre Dame Hall building, Classroom 250, which is down the Hall from Stiemke Recital Hall. We recommend that everyone parks in the Faculty Parking lot, entering from Swan/92nd Street. Use the entrance in the Gerhardinger Center and follow the MAPTA signs through the building to Notre Dame, 2nd Floor.

8:30 am Setup —all participating teachers will help.

Dr. Juanita Becker will be the Quiz Master, asking all the questions.

9:30 am Level 3 Competition begins 2 teams competing

10:15 am Level 2 Competition begins 2 teams competing

11:00 am Level 1 Competition begins 2 teams competing

11:45 am Conclusion & clean up. Remove signs and rearrange the classroom.

There will be 30 minutes of questions in each event. **Trophies** will be awarded to all members of the 1st and 2nd place teams. Students are welcome to bring family and friends to the event.

The **January MAPTA membership meeting** will be held after the Quiz Bowl, with a salad potluck luncheon at the Acker home, 10216 W Wright St., Wauwatosa, WI 53226. This is only a 5-minute drive from Mount Mary University. Please bring something to contribute to the table!

Entry forms for March Honors & Trophy Auditions due before Jan. 24th to Christine Weege. She will accept them at the Jan. 10th meeting. All the necessary forms are on the website on the Forms page. You will need:

1. Summary of Fees for March Auditions and the check
2. Honors & Trophy Solo Entry Form
3. Judging Form for each Honors Solo (or Trophy Solo) or Honors Duet

Janet Acker will be accepting Young Artist Competition Entry Forms and fees. No judging form needed for this event. Young Artist entries are due before the Quiz Bowl. We will draw for performance time slots at the January Business Meeting. No YA entries accepted after January 10th.

February - We will get together for lunch or coffee.

Place and date TBA. Sunday, March 1, 2026,

- Honor & Trophy Auditions in Germantown & Wauwatosa. Students choose where they wish to audition.
- Spring MAPTA Membership Meeting will be held at the home of Christine Weege or Janet Acker, after the auditions conclude. Rating sheets will be available at this time.

Sunday, March 15, 2026, "

- Young Artists' Competition at Mount Mary University, Stiemke Hall in the Notre Dame Building. Auditions traditionally start at 8:30 or 9:00 am.
- Junior Honors and Senior Honors Recitals in the afternoon. Finalists of the Young Artists Competition must perform on one of the Honor Recital to receive their scholarship award. Seniors who have applied for the new MAPTA Senior \$100 Scholarship must perform on the Honors Recital to receive their award, and trophy if earned this year,,

April - We will get together for lunch or coffee. Date & time TBA.

Sunday, May 31, 2026, " All dues must be paid by this date to avoid the late fee.

June " Summer Board Meeting This date will be set at the March meeting.

Tuesday, June 30, 2026, " Deadline for Summer Music Festival.

Updated MAPTA Young Artists Awards Please note the new amounts below:

Levels 12-14 ~ 1st Place - \$300, 2nd - Place \$250, 3rd Place - \$200

Levels 9-11 ~ 1st Place - \$175, 2nd Place - \$150, 3rd Place - \$125

Levels 7-8 ~ 1st Place - \$100, 2nd Place - \$75, 3rd Place - \$50 (unchanged)

The board approved a new \$100 Senior Scholarship for Seniors who perform in the 2026 Honors Auditions or the Young Artist Competition in their Senior year of high school and

who have already earned their third MAPTA trophy. The award will be presented at the Senior Honors Recital.

MAPTA welcomes new member Susan Torres, who is a friend of Betsy Hegwood. Susan received a B.A. from Marquette and continued her education at Alverno College, School of Music. She currently teaches at the White House of Music in Waukesha. She and her husband live in West Allis. Susan has one student in the Quiz Bowl.
