

# NOTABLE

**UMTA  
NEWS**



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 1, 2021 Summer AIM Registration Deadline
- June 12, 2021 UMTA Chapter Presidents Meeting 9:00 a.m. online
- June 12, 2021 UMTA State Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. online
- July 10, 2021 Summer AIM Testing
- September 14, 2021 MTNA Performance Competition Registration Deadline
- October 28, 2021 MTNA Performance Competitions
- October 2021 Performance Evaluations
- November 5-6, 2021, State Conference at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi
- Need more information? Check out the UMTA Website

<https://bit.ly/3bXUKZy>

### Quick way to find a UMTA Member on the Website:

1. Member Resources > Member Access > Login with UMTA ID #
2. Under "Directories" heading, select "UMTA Directories by Name"
3. On a PC press Ctrl F (Mac press Com F). This pulls up a search box. Type in the name of the person you want to find. Then press Enter. If you only have the first or last name, it will help you narrow down your search quickly.

## Member Moments

### Getting to Know Lenora Brown:



### Celebrating 50 years with MTNA!

In the 1970s, Lenora Brown joined MTNA/UMTA as a competitor in the piano competition sponsored by that organization. She won state and regional and went on to compete nationally. She has been active ever

since. Because of the musical opportunities for her students (evaluations, honors recitals, and competitions) and the importance of being affiliated, Lenora has impacted the lives of many musicians in the state. The Bountiful Davis Art Center honors her many contributions with a recital stage that bears her name and two Steinway pianos. This venue, also an art gallery, provides a complete artistic experience for student and professional performers.

Over the years, Lenora's students have won or placed in the UMTA piano competitions. They are polished from the minute they approach the piano, to the final chords played. Certification has been an important aspect of MTNA to Lenora. In 1982, she became Nationally Certified and was awarded the MTNA Permanent Professional certificate in 1997. Lenora enjoyed serving on the UMTA Board for Certification (1992-1994). She also developed, organized, and implemented the first Keyboard Evaluations and Honors recitals for UMTA. Lenora has given several master classes for chapters of UMTA.

Lenora is professor of music at the University of Utah and has been a guest pianist multiple times for UMTA. She has presented many piano repertoire workshops at chapters in California, Idaho, Illinois, and Utah. This summer, *Brillante*, a mother/daughter duo, consisting of Lenora and her daughter, Heather Smits, will be featured as the guest artists at the MTAC Convention in California where Lenora will also present a master class. The duo will also be performers at the UMTA conference in November. For these conventions, they will play an entire program consisting of Lenora's two piano arrangements.

*Brillante's* performances include Carnegie Hall, Mu Phi Epsilon international convention in Denver, and the World Piano Conference in Serbia. They were first place winners of the United States Classical International Competition. Since Heather lives in California, they commute several times a year to rehearse, and rehearse together virtually through JamKazam.

In addition to teaching, Lenora arranges and composes solo and ensemble music for piano. The University of Utah Piano Area holiday concert featured her arrangements for 9 pianos, and her ensembles for the annual Monster Concert are always a highlight.

## Sandy Monster Concert

### 8 Pianos - 39 Years - Mother's Day Concert



For nearly 40 years, the Sandy Chapter's annual eight-piano ensemble Monster Concert has delighted audiences and performers at the Shops at South Town. This two-day event, organized by Sandra Peterson and held every Mother's Day weekend, has featured 10-16 teachers, up to 70 students performing at one time, and often draws up to 250 audience

members. Riverton Music in Sandy generously tunes and donates the use of five grand pianos and 3 digital pianos. This year's event, "Be Our Guest," took place May 7 & 8 with great success! Teachers have commented, "My students practice more for duets than for the whole year!" Students love this event and look forward to playing ensemble music with their friends and siblings.

In the past, this concert has also been a fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis, Muscular Dystrophy, and individuals suffering from tragedies. Currently, the Shops at South Town's new ownership does not allow for media coverage or fundraising. Students pay a participation fee to cover the rental of the mall space.

Former students and their parents often return to participate. Highlights have included patriotic themes and decorations, extra percussion instruments, Disney-themed balloons, outfits, and Mickey ears. Another teacher tosses candy with parade and carnival-themed music to the audience as the students are introduced. Student gymnasts, audience participation, and exciting repertoire where students change partners and places fill this event with energy and excitement for music making!

Wow, is all we can say about this amazing event that Sandra Peterson has organized for 36 of the past 39 years.

## Sandy Monster Concert 2021

### Marie Harris' Studio



- 8 Pianos - 16 Performers



### Sandra Peterson's Studio