"MUSIC ELEVATED -- CELEBRATING 60 YEARS!"
November 6th & 7th, 2015
Red Lion Hotel
Salt Lake City, Utah

The 2015 UMTA Conference was fabulous. You might enjoy the brief highlights and pictures below.

Thursday, many UMTA members participated in the AGO Conference. We were able to see and play many of the organs on Temple Square. It was a great experience for all!!

Our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Craig Jessop, former music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, gave a moving and motivating talk about his early childhood, his many teachers from grade school, middle school and high school, as well as post-high, and their influences in his life. He mentioned the "four sacred callings" ...first and foremost being "Teacher." One of the quotes we took away from this inspiring talk was, "You never know the destiny of the Human Soul."
Who would have expected a young boy, from Nibley, Utah, to achieve all that Dr. Jessop has. We are thankful to him, and to each of his wonderful teachers!

This year UMTA celebrated its **60th year** since being established, and there were many wonderful displays documenting this history! There were even old song books that some of the "ancient teachers" had learned to play the piano from! Pictures of past presidents, notable past conferences from long-ago and more recently, and information from the past 35 years of UMTA/MTNA Performance Competitions. What a legacy Utah has created in the musical arts!! We are all proud to be affiliated with UMTA!

UMTA wouldn't have made it 60 years without Skip Daynes and DAYNES MUSIC!

Skip, and his amazing staff at Daynes Music, have been integral and generous supporters of UMTA and our annual UMTA Conference for many, many years!! They have hauled more 9 ft. Steinways around the state than should be legally allowed..and have always gone above and beyond in promoting music throughout the state of Utah.

We are so very grateful to Skip for his contributions, and are proud to have selected him as our 2015-1016 Foundation Fellow. THANK YOU, SKIP, (and Susan) DAYNES!!

Friday's Teacher Forum Luncheon was a great success! Not only was the meal fabulous, but the "Bright Ideas" presented in "three minutes or less" by each participant were great motivators. Ideas such as: Facebook pages, groups and private groups; Arm movement...where does your arm REALLY begin?; Legato finger action facilitated by Play Doh; Memorization helps...drawing out the phrasing, dynamics, etc., without notes; Recital ice breakers; The Performing Teacher benefits; Decide Now! app with spin-the-wheel action!; Open performing time in the teacher's home on Sunday afternoon/evening; Repertoire levels with point system to encourage fast progression. And there you have the Teacher Luncheon Forum with a lot of Bright Ideas!

There were many wonderful workshops and presentations on Friday! We hope you were able to join us for this conference and take some tidbits home to inspire you in your teaching!

There were several great performances Friday evening at the Awards Banquet and Concert. Dr. Lindsey Wright and sister, Ann Christensen; Tatyana Ekshteyn and Marina Osipova; Merla Little and Gretchen Tanner; Jie Deng Lu and Ning Lu; and Dr. Kevin Olson's premiere performance of his commissioned piano solo, Momentum. It was a memorable evening.

The TWO beautiful 9 ft. Steinways brought in by Daynes Music for the Banquet concert were wonderful to listen to. Then, when Skip explained that when Lang Lang had performed on the Steinway (closest to the audience) he told Skip that he wanted THAT piano. He signed his name on the inside so he would know for sure that THIS was the piano he wanted. Many other artists have also signed this remarkable instrument. Many went up afterwards to view the signatures in the piano. Lang Lang will be getting his piano soon!!

Laurissa Cope, our newly elected "President Elect" is very comfortable serving in UMTA.She was one of many great presenters on Saturday; others included, Sharalyn Heath; Julia Olson and Dr. Kevin Olson; Eugene and Dr. Vera Watanabe; Stephanie Stuart; Dr. Scott Holden;Danielle Dallas; Juliet Preston.

Dr. Yu-Jane Yang of Weber State University gave a wonderful Intermediate level master class; there was a panel of the teachers from four universities: U of U, Dr. Susan Duehlmeier; Weber State University, Dr. Yu-Jane Yang; Brigham Young University, Dr. Scott Holden; and Utah Valley University, Dr. Hilary Demsk, who addressed the topic of "Preparing a Student for Successful Collegiate Music Study; Kevin Olson presented a Master Class on Composition; and David Love presented a Showcase on the amazing Piano Maestro app for Ipad.

A panel consisting of Dr. Irene Peery-Fox, BYU; Dr. Yu-Jane Yang, WSU; and Dr. Susan Duehlmeier, U of U, moderated by Lezlee Bishop, discussed "What I wish I would have known when I first began teaching."

The Nebo Chapter sure enjoyed being together at this memorable conference and HAD to have a picture with all of them in it! Congrats Nebo teachers!!

Conference attendees tried to take every word in!! Saturday's "Studio Tour" presented by Patrice Hunt, shared

video clips from 12 UMTA teachers' studios, giving some great ideas for improving where we teach. Honor's Recitals were held on Friday and Saturday, with students traveling from all over the state (even St. George!) to perform. Students were selected from their various locations by the judges of the Performance Evaluations in each area. Utah has some great talent!!

Lynda Broadbent, NCTM from Nebo Chapter; Cindy Hartley, NCTM (newly certified member) from Ogden Chapter; Melissa Bearden, Timpanogos Chapter; Jill Gubler, Davis Chapter; Rachel Mecham, NCTM, Timpanogos Chapter; Oh, look!! It's the Nebo Chapter, again!! and Desiree Gonzales with Student Teacher of the Year, Katherine Chipman.

UMTA/MTNA PIANO PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS were held Thursday, Friday and Saturday during conference at Daynes Music. This was three days of very intense competition and powerful performances. Dr. Lynn Dean of the St. George Chapter has been the 2nd Vice-President for many years, overseeing this very competitive weekend. This year there were

Judges were Dr. Jane Abbott-Kirk from Baylor University, Texas; Dr. Mykola Suk from UNLV; and Dr. Alvin Chow from Oberlin University in Ohio. There were overwhelmed with the talented performances they heard over the three days of competition.

There were nine competitors in the Junior Division; nine competitors in the Senior Division and twelve competitors in the Collegiate Division.

Junior Winner - Junhao Wang, student of Jie and Ning Lu
Senior Winner - Anastasia Magamedova, student of Heather Connor and Scott Holden
Collegiate Winner - Ling-Yu-Lee, student of Yu-Jane Yang

The Collegiate Fair boasted many of the Universities and Colleges throughout the state. Questions were answered and information was made available to those who made it into the Fair.

Dr. Ralph van der Beek from WSU; Dr. Hilary Demske from UVU; Dr. Nancy Allred from Dixie State University; Forrest Howell from BYU and representatives from SLCC, SUU among others.

FAIM Award Recipients and Composition Winners from Saturday's Student Award Luncheon.

Our WONDERFUL conference would never have happened so spectacularly without so many great volunteers!! There are many people "behind the scenes" that don't get thanked...so THANK YOU!

Cheryl Rytting's husband was definitely the "right-hand man" who helped out in so many different ways. We thank him for all of his contributions, and for supporting his wife so well!!

The registration people did an outstanding job, even though they were by the COLD entrance door; and Danielle Dallas and her crew did an awesome job at the Foundation Table, where each of us bought tickets in the hopes we would win one of the wonderful baskets brought by each chapter.

Thanks to everyone for attending, and making UTAH a matchless, musical state!!