



Legacy Award Winners

2017



Lois Matthews, NCTM was raised in the small town of Ashton, Idaho, and began taking piano lessons in the sixth grade, becoming church organist at age 14. After receiving her Associate of Arts Degree from Ricks College, attending the University of Wyoming and BYU, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Honors English/Communications from Weber State University. She worked for five years as an Admitting Coordinator at the LDS Hospital in SLC, two years as a bookkeeper at the Ramada Inn in Evanston, Wyoming, and five years as a Deputy Court Clerk in Layton, Utah.

Lois has taught private piano for 51 years, full-time for the last 30 years. Her students have participated in several International PianoTeams® competitions, including Gina Bachauer, where her teachers' team, The Rocky Mountain PianoTeam, placed in the finals, and KSL interviewed her students. She is a Permanent Professional Certified Teacher of Music with the National Music Teachers Association as well as a licensed teacher of the Well-Prepared Pianist. She has studied with N. Jane Tan, Seymour Fink, David Engle, Paul Pollei and Seymour Bernstein. Earlier, she enjoyed studying with Barbara Stucki, Lenora Brown and Madelyn Taylor.

Her dual membership in the Ogden/Davis Chapters, service as UMTA President and ongoing service, have provided opportunities for further musical growth and great associations. Maintaining a large and varied clientele of private students, coaching PianoTeams® and performing at community events helps fulfill her lifelong pursuit of music. She is proud to claim six children, sixteen grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

2016

Carla Cleavenger, NCTM

2015

Coila Robinson, NCTM

2014



MARY KAY HARPER was born in North Carolina, but grew up in Ogden Canyon. At Weber High School she was the accompanist for the a Capella choir and participated in the National Federation of Music Clubs solo and concerto events as well as solo and ensemble festivals. She attended Brigham Young University receiving a minor in music. While at BYU she accompanied the Women's Chorus under Maughan McMurdie and had duet lessons from Dr. Reid Nibley.

She opened her own private studio in the late 1960's teaching her own children and many others. Her students have participated in festivals as she did as a youth, and she is co-chair of her local festival group, involved with scheduling venues and judging students.

She joined UMTA in 1974, and was privileged to hear many wonderful presentations over the years from Dr. Paul Pollei, Dr. Bryce Rytting and many others. Attending State UMTA Conference has always been and still is a great priority in her busy schedule. Her students entered Student Achievement, and now Achievement in Music. She served as chapter president, vice-president, and AIM chair local and regionally. She has been state recording secretary in 2004 and enjoys working with the state and local officers, many great musical friends.

A quote given to her by a former piano student shares one of her personal beliefs; "Without Music Life would B flat (using a flat symbol)." She plans to continue to teach many students and share the joy of music with them throughout the rest of her life.

2014



CHERYL GRAHAM RYTTING, BM, NCTM, has been teaching music in her independent music studio for over 40 years. she received a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Utah with an emphasis in Musicology. While at the University, she studied piano with Lennox Larsen and organ with Dr. Alexander Schreiner, Roy Darley, and Dr. Clay Christiansen. She is MTNA Certified and Piano and Organ.

Cheryl has been a member of UMTA for over 30 years and has always felt it is important to contribute to UMTA by serving where she can. She has served in her local associations as Jordan River Chapter President, Sandy Chapter Certification Chair, and Salt Lake Chapter 2nd Vice-President Membership. She has been on the UMTA State Board as Certification Chair and is currently serving as UMTA First Vice-President Elect and Conference Chair. Cheryl had the opportunity to serve nationally on the MTNA Certification Commission as Southwest Commissioner (2010-2014). She is also an active member of Utah Federation of Music Clubs, having served as Slat Lake West Chair for 16 years and currently serving on the UFMC State Board. She is also a member of the American Guild of Organists.

She loves to continually learn by attending chapter meetings, classes, workshops and most importantly, through her interaction with her students. She enjoys sharing what she learns with her students and colleagues. She is actively engaged in providing music in the community and for church services. She and her very supportive husband, Todd are parents of five married children and have nine grandchildren. Her family is the joy of her life.

2013

Barbara Elison has been a member of UMTA for over 25 years and her love for music and children has grown over the 64 years she has been teaching. An active member of the Provo/Orem chapter, she has served as president and also secretary. Barbara also served a term on the state UMTA board and presented workshops at the state conference. She has also been pleased to prepare and present workshops for other UMTA chapters throughout the state and at piano stores.

Most of Barbara's musical training was under Professor J.J. Keeler, Organ professor at Brigham Young University. She studied piano with him for 13 years. She credits her pedagogy training to tons of workshops, UMTA meetings, State Music Conferences, other teachers with ideas to share, and especially Jane Tan who for six years taught a group of piano teachers in the area. Taking Robert Pace classes were also a big help in organizing the teaching of musical concepts and inspiring creative, fun ways of involving students in their music. While at BYU, Barbara was a member of the Organ Guild and rehearsal accompanist for Opera Workshop.

Barbara has received two awards for serving the community through teaching piano: the SCERA which is an arts organization that blesses the area with classes, musical productions and other music-related programs for children and adults; and "Citizen of the Year," which she received with her husband, Jerry Elison for community service to the arts.

Barbara's two famous students, Kurt Bestor and David Glen Hatch still give her hugs every time they see her. Barbara feels her greatest accomplishment, however, has been the rearing of 7 children. It has been a joy for her to pass on her love of music.

UMTA Legacy Award Winners - List

2018

2017 Lois Matthews, NCTM

2016 Carla Cleavinger, NCTM

2015 Coila Robinson, NCTM

2014 Mary Kay Harper and
Cheryl Graham Rytting, NCTM

2013 Lezlee Bishop, NCTM
Barbara Elison

2012 Lynn Dean, NCTM
Carolee G. Eriksson, NCTM
Sandra Preysz, NCTM

2011 Debra Gamero, NCTM
Eleanor Marshall

2010 Kathie Caldwell
Yu-Jane Yang, NCTM

2009 Jenny Bennett, NCTM (Posthumous)
Bernice Williams, NCTM (Posthumous)

2008 Karen Gygi, NCTM (Posthumous)
Iris Moon, NCTM (Posthumous)

2007 Jeffrey Shumway

2006 Dora Curtis, NCTM
Beverly Nelson, NCTM (Posthumous)

2005 Susan Goodfellow, NCTM
Yvonne Egbert (Posthumous)
William and Norma Foxley, NCTM (Posthumous)

2004 Paul Pollei, NCTM
Katharine Brough, NCTM (Posthumous)

