MAMT 2023 Election Candidates

**President Elect**

Emma Martin

My name is Emma Martin and I am honored and excited to be running for president-elect of MAMT! Icurrently work as a music therapist and clinical services coordinator for a private practice in Hagerstown,MD. In the past, during my undergraduate time I served on my university’s music therapy club executive

board as first a chapter representative, where I worked closely with the MAR-AMTAS board and was awarded the regional chapter representative award, and went on to serve as president. I also served as the secretary of the MAR-AMTAS board during that time. Additionally, I have previously been very active attending conferences in the MAR region and at the national level. I approach tasks with vigor, enjoy working as a part of a team, and have excellent organizational and leadership skills, all of which are important for the position of president-elect, and eventually president. If elected I hope to learn from the current and past-president to take over all responsibilities, and work with the music therapists in Maryland to strengthen the community. It would be an honor and privilege to serve on the MAMT executive board as president-elect!

**Vice President**

Tom Gerni

Tom Gerni, MT-BC, is a Licensed Professional and Board-Certified Music Therapist who has been serving the needs of the Mental Health and Education Communities on the Eastern Shore of Maryland since 2015. Previous to coming to the Eastern Shore, he provided quality Music Therapy services in 2 of the 40 Community Services Boards [Mental Health] in Virginia.

A member of our professional organization American Music Therapy Association since 2006, he has served his profession as Virginia State Task Force member and Co-Chair for 4 years during the time the profession was initially pursuing State Recognition in Virginia, laying the groundwork for eventual licensure which came to fruition in 2019. Likewise, since coming to Maryland he has worked with efforts of the Maryland State Task Force including reaching out directly to stake-holders and legislators with phone calls, visits to the Capital and related efforts through Maryland Association of Music Therapists.

He has presented CMTE trainings for both Virginia and Maryland State Associations. Tom served for four years as a representative of AMTA to the Professional and Technical Advisory Committee [PTAC] of the Joint Commission on Mental Health.

Currently providing both contract and per Diem services in Delaware, Tom continues a strong advocacy of Music Therapy to assist clients and families to access Music Therapy Services.

With a life-long love of involvement with local and state government leaders, Tom brings a passion to our profession that mixes service and pride, justice and humility and is honored to earn your consideration.

**Treasurer**

Brianna Webster

Brianna (Bri) Webster has been a board certified music therapist for 6 years, living and practicing in the state of Maryland. Bri is currently employed with Annapolis Music Therapy, a private practice located in Annapolis, MD, and works with people across the lifespan with varying diagnoses and needs within a clinic setting and out in the community. Bri was born and raised in Maryland and is extremely passionate about the field of music therapy and its growth in the state. Bri received an undergraduate degree from Shenandoah University in Virginia where she graduated summa cum laude and received the Music Therapy Scholar Award and the Undergraduate Dean's Award. Bri most recently completed her master of music therapy with counseling concentration degree at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and is now eligible to sit for the licensed clinical counselor exam in Maryland. Bri has been the MAMT treasurer for the most recent 2 year term and has loved serving as a board member. In this role, she managed all the funds and expenses of the board and supported other board members in various tasks. She looks forward to the opportunity to be re-elected as the Treasurer of MAMT and feels excited by the possibility of continuing to serve the music therapy community in this way

Meghan Roche

**Public Relations Chair**

Anissa Dominguez

My name is Anissa Dominguez. I am a music therapist and the administrative director for Annapolis Music Therapy Services and I have been serving the board for the past two terms as Public Relations Chair. I have learned a lot while being on the board and would love to continue learning and contributing to Maryland Music

Therapists. I have more ideas that I would like to implement going forward so I would be honored to have the chance to serve on the board again. While being on the board for the past two terms I created and maintained the current MAMT website, the members only section of the website, and the Maryland Music Therapist Directory. I also have been managing the MAMT social media accounts and promoting upcoming events. Managing all of these things has taught me a lot and I would love to continue learning and improving MAMT’s online presence and engagement with local therapists. I would like to continue adding to our website to make it user friendly for both music therapists and for people seeking music therapy services. I would like to help develop the “members only” section of the website into a hub for all local music therapists to connect. Lastly, I would like to add on and develop our Maryland Music Therapist Directory so that it is an accurate and useful tool to help all local therapists reach people requesting services. I thank you all for allowing me to serve for this long and I hope you will allow me to continue serving on the MAMT board.

Natasha Montgomery

I'm Natasha Montgomery and I am interested in the Public Relations Chair for MAMT this year. I have experience in public relations by serving in a position like this in college. I was able to curate events for the music therapy club and advertise for them as well. I have extensive experience with social media and am organized with scheduled posts. I also have professional graphic design experience.  I hope to be considered for this position and to further serve and support MAMT.

**Government Relations Chair**

Elizabeth Peksa (Smith)

Liz is an active music therapist based in St. Mary’s County, Maryland. CBMT certified in 2017 after graduating from Seton Hill University and an internship at the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salem, VA. Liz is currently employed as Director of Activities for Assisted Living at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall, MD and is looking forward to creating and growing a Music Therapy program with the Veterans there.

Liz has been an active member with the Maryland Music Therapy State Task Force since June 2020 and has taken up role as Co-Chair since October 2021. Throughout the years, Liz has been working closely with the State Task Force, legislative officials and has been an instrumental figure on advocacy and the establishment of state licensure within the state. Together with MDSTF and MAMT, Liz has been helping provide education on licensure and hopes to continue to do so in the years to come.

Additionally since October of 2021, Liz has been acting interim Government-Relations Chair and creating a healthy transition for previous chair as they assumed role on the BOE-AUD/HAD/SLP/MT. If elected, Liz would love to continue to foster the relationship between MAMT and the MDSTF effectively passing information and ensuring support for both the Task Force and MAMT advocating for needs and licensure for state Music Therapists.