

MTACC (Music Teacher Association of Clark County, formerly CCMTA)
Music Artistry Program (MAP)
DATES TBD, but likely Feb. 23, 24 and/or 25, 2024
Location: Washington State School for the Blind

The Music Artistry Program (MAP) of the Washington State Music Teachers Association has been created to offer students the opportunity to perform for a visiting guest master teacher (“visiting artist”) and receive both written and oral feedback. The MAP is a self-supporting enterprise developed to encourage interest in music and to maintain standards of fine musicianship among student musicians.

The Music Artistry Program provides many benefits for students, parents, and teachers.

For the Student:

- Set goals, which encourages preparation beyond the normal weekly routine
- The process is similar to sports: practice – games – tournaments
- Perform for a highly-respected visiting artist
- Work one-on-one with the visiting artist to improve your performance
- Receive written comments and a certificate for your hard work

For the Parent:

- The Music Artistry Program serves as a goal for your child to prepare two-three pieces for performance
- Non-competitive format encourages learning, rather than comparison with others
- Visiting Artists are experienced teachers with advanced training, have been carefully screened by WSMTA, are nationally certified by MTNA and many serve on college faculties around the Northwest

For the Teacher:

- Challenge yourself and your students to achieve goals
- Observe your students’ lessons from a third-person perspective, often seeing new ways to approach difficult situations or unique problems
- Share ideas and questions with a supportive colleague during one-on-one time with the Visiting Artist after he/she has heard all your students
- Discover trends and areas which may need improvement

Our guest master teacher/visiting artist this year is soprano, **Gayla Bauer Blaisdell**. Ms. Blaisdell teaches a vibrant studio of aspiring singers and directs the award-winning Opera Ensemble at Central Washington University. She performs regularly as in the Pacific Northwest specializing in Beethoven, Wagner, and Verdi as well as contemporary art song and music by women. Her CD, Gayla Blaisdell Performs the Songs of Ross and Paulus, is available on all digital music outlets. Blaisdell’s scholarly interests intersect in the fields of feminist theory, performance and pedagogy resulting in numerous national presentations and an article published in the Choral Journal (2018). She is highly sought after as a stage director, clinician, and adjudicator. Most recently, she directed Dvorak’s Rusalka at the Utah Vocal Artists Summer Festival. She is a trained Intimacy Choreographer and incorporates Consent/Boundary and Trauma-Informed Practices in her pedagogy and directing. She holds vocal performance degrees from New York University (Ph.D), New England Conservatory (MM and GD), and the Eastman School of Music (BM).

