

2015 Washington State Winners **MTNA National Composition Competition**

I am pleased to announce that two of our Washington State Composition Competition winners have gone on to win the MTNA National Composition Competition this year!

Heartfelt congratulations to **Nathan Paek** and his teacher *Sharon Van Valin*, and the friends and family who have supported him in his endeavor. He went on to win first place in the National Competition for Elementary-aged composers.

Those same heartfelt congratulations to **Eric McElroy**, his teacher *Patricia McElroy*, and the friends and family who have supported him in his endeavor. He went on to win first place in the National Competition for Young Artist composers.

These two young people have been rewarded for their talent and hard work, and will be invited to represent Washington State at the National Conference in Las Vegas this coming March. As we all glow with pride for our two outstanding achievers, I would like to remind us all that the old adage "...it takes a village..." rings true here as in so many other instances. Here in Washington State, we all work together to create an environment that provides a tremendous amount of educational support, encouragement, and opportunities for our students. We support each other as teachers to give our students and ourselves the best opportunities for growth, and as a consequence have one of the most successful student groups in the nation. By keeping this spirit of collaboration alive and continuing to focus on providing quality opportunities for our students, we will keep our beautiful state ripe for musical growth and beauty into the future.

Congratulations, Washington!

Rachel LaFond
WSMTA/MTNA Composition Competition Coordinator