

# Acceptance Speech

By

Sally Liew Sansbury

It is truly an honor and privilege for me to accept this award. When I was growing up, I had a tiger mom and a tiger dad who pushed me very hard as a child into taking piano lessons and later to have a career in piano-teaching. I had no say in the matter and my heart was not in it at all. Because of this and due to a lack of training, I felt like a failure. When I first came to study at Ohio Wesleyan University in 1987, it was because of the need to get away from family expectations and to embark on a journey of personal healing. It was divine providence that brought me to OWU because one day I happened to see this plaque on the walls of Sanborn Hall and instinctively knew it was something significant -

A Landmark of American Music  
Site of the Founding of

**Music Teachers  
National Association**

Monnett Hall, 1876  
By Theodore Presser  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Going through graduate school at OSU, I worked with fabulous teachers and made life-long musician friends. Then I got involved with CEOMTA and realized what a vibrant organization it was. I learned tremendously from all the conferences and workshops I've attended over the years, worked alongside music colleagues and made friends along the way. All of this have helped mold me into the person I am today. I am so thankful that someone like Theodore Presser had the foresight to start a music department at OWU and then to establish the first music organization in America. The fact that CEOMTA is recognized as the Best District of the Year in 2020 perhaps reflect its roots in the founding place of MTNA. Looking back, I realize that I came to the right place in central Ohio to get a fresh start in music. I can unequivocally say that music has come full circle for me and it is something that I embrace whole-heartedly today. And for that, I give God all the glory!