

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
AFFILIATED WITH MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

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SUMMER 2008



2008 MMTA Outstanding Students

Rachel Mast,

student of Frankie Harpole

and

Colin McDearman,

student of Annette Joe

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Message from the President

My activities since January have included the usual correspondence with MTNA and our state members, attendance and assistance with the state collegiate competition, attendance at the national conference in Denver, and at SSRR in Meridian in May, and initial consultations with the President-Elect in the planning for next year's state conference and collegiate competitions. Toward that end, I have made preliminary arrangements for rooms for the state conference to be held at Mississippi College in the fall and the Collegiate Competition in the spring.

The highlight of this spring's correspondence has definitely been notification from the Broward County (Florida) Music Teachers Association that they had raised \$1500.00 for assistance to Mississippi teachers affected by Hurricane Katrina. I responded to the letter from Annamarie Cockreham (treasurer), explaining that the Executive Committee would decide how to distribute these new funds, and I thanked them for their continued support. I will communicate our intentions to them pending decisions made at the Executive Committee meeting.

At the national conference in Denver, I attended several meetings including the State Presidents' Advisory Council, where I took the minutes. I also attended the Foundation Fund Gala where I rejoiced at Sharon Lebsack's honor! I took three of my students to the conference and was thrilled for them to see our organization at that level.

At the SSRR activities in Meridian, I announced winners at ceremonies after each recital and also watched in amazement at the efficiency and hard work of the teachers in the workroom. My part was relatively small, but the details involved in the event are unending, even after the playing is done!



Angela Willoughby



Annette Joe and Angela Willoughby attend the MTNA Gala in Denver with three of Angie's students

Early in the spring, I appointed a nominating committee to be chaired by the Immediate Past President. The committee will prepare a slate of officers to be considered by the membership at the Fall Conference.

Angela Willoughby, President

2008 MMTA Outstanding Student Biographies

Rachel Mast, the sixteen year old daughter of Glenn and Maggie Mast, has studied piano for ten years with Frankie Harpole of Columbus, and in the past two years, has begun teaching piano herself. In her eight years of participation in SSRR, she has won two gold medals, several alternates, and the highest composite score award. Rachel has also participated in the National Federation Junior Festival for six years. In addition to her piano studies, she has also studied violin with Salvatore Guerra for seven years. As a violinist, she has participated in the NFJ Festival for three years and in Mississippi All-State Orchestra for four years. She is a member of the Columbus Suzuki Strings program, playing in their youth orchestra and advanced ensemble. Rachel is home educated, entering her senior year. As a member of Faith Mennonite Fellowship, she is secretary of her youth group, teacher of midweek girl's club, and staff member for Vacation Bible School each summer. She plans to attend the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra's Premier Orchestra Institute in Jackson this summer.



Colin McDearman is a 12th grade student at St. Joseph Catholic School in Madison, MS. He has studied piano for 10 years, the last 8 with Mrs. Annette Joe of Ridgeland, MS. Colin has participated in SSRR for 8 years and during that time he has been awarded 8 gold medals and three 2nd place alternates. He has been a 1st place winner for 5 consecutive years at the Bach Festival; Gold Medallist for Sonata-Sonatina Festival for 7 years; and received 9-year superior for the MFMC Festival. Colin represented Mississippi in the Baldwin Jr. Piano Competition Southern Division in 2003 and again in the Yamaha Sr. Piano Competition Southern Division in 2006. He was the winner of the elementary, junior-high & senior-high scholarships from the Georgia-Bailiff piano competition sponsored by the Federated Jackson MacDowell Music Club and also winner of the senior-high piano scholarship competition sponsored by the MS Women's Federated Clubs. Colin has attended several piano camps in the summers including, the Mississippi Piano Showcase at Mississippi State University for 4 years, Piano Discoveries at Ole Miss, and the Mississippi Keyboard Camp at Hinds Community College. He has also attended the International Institute for Young Musicians (IIYM) at the University of Kansas for the last 4 summers.



Colin has been an active member of the Jr. MacDowell Music Club in Jackson for the last 8 years, and most recently served as President. He also served as an officer in the Mississippi Federated Junior Music Clubs for the last 2 years. At his high school, he is a member of the National Honor Society, the Academic Quiz Bowl Team, and an "A" Honor Roll Student. He has also been involved in the Drama Club where he served as an officer for 2 years. Colin has been the accompanist for masses at his school since the 7th grade and he also serves as accompanist for masses at several other local churches.

His other interests include reading, canoeing, camping, and swimming. This fall, Colin plans to attend the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, where he will continue his piano studies under Dr. Robert Weirich.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Our 2008 conference is scheduled for October 30, 31 and November 1 and will be hosted by Mississippi College in Clinton.

Our conference artists will be **Silverwood Quartet** <http://www.silverwoodquartet.com> with Andra Bohnet—flute, Tom Morley—violin, Jonathan Clark—viola, and Barbara Gabriel—cello. **I'm sure they will offer a wonderfully eclectic recital.**

The Independent Music Teachers Forum will host **Jane Abbott-Kirk** (<http://www.baylor.edu/music/piano/index.php?id=47464>), pianist from Baylor University in Waco, TX, for the Saturday IMTF luncheon presentation. She is a wonderful pianist and teacher, and is experienced in helping musicians prevent and recover from performance injuries and in building a healthy technique. She has also agreed to judge the Saturday afternoon pre-college concerto competitions and present a masterclass for these participants.



Rachel Heard

Barbara Kreader, Keyboard Consultant for Educational Keyboard Publications to the Hal Leonard Corporation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will be available on both Friday and Saturday of our conference. She's pretty much a "top dog" at Hal Leonard. I guess when I told them that we had E.L. Lancaster from Alfred Publishing last year, Hal Leonard felt the need to send us one of their best and basically for the same price!

We have all of our judges for the MTNA competitions except one which I think is so wonderful! Having all of our judges in place will really help with our grant proposal which was submitted on March 1st. As always, we will receive notice as to whether we are awarded grant money sometime this summer.

Mark Snyder of Delta State University has been selected as this year's Commissioned Composer. We will look forward to hearing his composition performed during our 2008 Conference.

We already have several MMTA members who have agreed to present at next fall's conference on topics from the list below, including "Performance Practice Techniques found in Piano Music written after 1980", "Preparing for MMTA Student Auditions", and "Teaching the Recreational Musician in a Group Setting". Also, Angie has agreed to present her session that she proposed for the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta. I believe that this aspect of our 2007 conference worked amazingly well last year. Some of the topics which were suggested in 2006 and not used in 2007 were:

- Understanding the different personality types in our students
- Preparing students for MMTA Pre-College auditions: theory, technical skills, sight reading
- Group and partner lessons including lesson plans, activities, etc.
- Knowledge of the proper performance styles for each of the different historical time periods (other than Baroque)

One other member-suggested idea which we are trying to realize is that of having an annual presentation of "Local Association Showcase." Since we are mid-state this year, we might like to recognize Jackson, Meridian and Vicksburg organizations. We could rotate through all eight locals each year during the formal banquet. This might encourage more member participation in our banquets and also provide a theme for our evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Heard, President-elect MMTA

heardr@millsaps.edu



MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Profit and Loss July 1, 2007 – May 21, 2008



Andrea Cheeseman
Treasurer

Income

Conferences	\$6,714.00
(includes \$2,875. in grants)	
Interest	647.26
Katrina donations	850.00
Dues rebates	7,105.00
MMT ads	1,238.50
Pre-college fees	13,695.00

Total Income \$30,249.76

Expense

Executive Committee Expense	2,941.53
Operating Expense	2,124.59
March Conference Expense	3,087.54
Newsletter/Website	922.69
November Conference Expense	10,250.86
Pre-College Expense	11,645.83

Total Expense \$30,973.04

Net Income: -723.28

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<i>Mike Boyd, Guitar</i>	<i>Kay Guiles, Piano</i>
<i>Carrie Strickland, Brass</i>	<i>Theresa Sanchez, Piano</i>
<i>Susan A. Smith, Voice</i>	<i>Greg Smith, Voice</i>
<i>Michael Rushing, Piano</i>	<i>Mark Taylor, Choir</i>
<i>Matthew Pickering, Low Brass/Band</i>	

www.jcjc.edu/depts/finearts

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PRE-COLLEGE PERFORMANCES

On Saturday, May 3, there were 242 student entrants in Special Student Recognition Recitals at Meridian Community College. In my absence, Peggy Oakes and Janice Mesrobian served as Chairs on Friday and Saturday. They worked together to oversee the arrangements Friday afternoon and early Saturday; on Saturday, Peggy was designated to oversee the judges and the workroom and Jan was to oversee the recitals, teacher/workers and students.

Bad weather affected early attendance (the event was almost canceled due to weather). One piano judge had car trouble and needed transportation, while the vocal judge canceled at the last minute, requiring a local substitute (MMTA member Len Bobo). Allegrezza Piano Company provided two grand pianos at no charge and Golden Triangle MTA provided morning hospitality. The lunch was catered by Valley Foods and teachers paid \$6 for a sandwich bar. For the first time, we collected more than we spent. The Facilities Co-coordinator, Donald Jackson, was most helpful and easy to deal with.

The judges were co-operative and every recital produced winners and numerous ribbon recipients—so there was much rejoicing. Approximately thirty teachers assisted with recitals and workroom. Angie Willoughby made presentations of ribbons, ably representing our organization, and Barbara Tracy and Ian Hominick took pictures. There were two Eight Year Achievement Winners and nearly 300 High Composite Score certificates. We had 500 programs printed and perhaps 25 left over.

Several centers were significantly late in sending their forms promptly to me (as required by the syllabus) and half failed to send the proper forms or did not fill them out according to instructions. Therefore, creating the Recital Program, student and teacher schedules was unnecessarily difficult and compressed into an even shorter time than usual. However, since I had done the task last year, I was able to complete the tasks by deadlines. Several teachers also canceled in the last few days, necessitating last minute substitutions by wonderfully cooperative teachers.

I am deeply grateful to all who covered for me in my absence. As far as I know, the event was successful. I have sent letters of appreciation to almost all who assisted me.

We are scheduled to have SSRR at the University of Mississippi on Saturday, May 2, 2009 (date may change). Auditions will be held in 2009 on Saturdays, March 28 and April 4 in groups specified by the syllabus.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet D. Gray



Janet Gray

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Sharon Lebsack with MC piano student

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER HONORED AS MTNA FOUNDATION FELLOW

CINCINNATI, OH (May 2008)—Sharon Lebsack, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, was recently honored by Music Teachers National Association as an MTNA FOUNDATION Fellow at the 2008 MTNA National Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Lebsack is a retired professor from the University of Southern Mississippi, where she spent more than 38 years teaching flute, harp and chamber music. She has been active in MTNA and the Mississippi Music Teachers Association, holding many positions, including MMTA president, Southern Division Certification commissioner and currently is the MMTA Competitions chair. Lebsack is past national president of Tau Beta Sigma and was awarded the Outstanding Service to Music Award in 1978. She was also the first woman inducted into national honorary music fraternity Kappa Kappa Psi.



Sharon with Donna Banks and Rachel Heard

The MTNA FOUNDATION Fellow program offers a meaningful method of recognition for individuals who have made



Sharon with Biljac and Joanna Burnside

outstanding contributions to music teaching. The award is bestowed when a peer or group of peers donates \$1,000 to the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND in an individual's name.

For additional information about MTNA or the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND please contact the MTNA national headquarters at (888) 512-5278, mtnanet@mtna.org or visit the website at www.mtna.org.

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Music Forum of Jackson was founded April, 1968,
and is affiliated with MMTA and MTNA

Piano Discovery Camp Photos



VINCENTINE WILLIAMS IS ALABAMA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Vincentine Williams, a piano instructor in Spanish Fort, Alabama, was named "Teacher of the Year" at the 2008 Alabama Music Teachers Association convention in Birmingham. Vincentine is a native of Fayette, MS, and is also a member of MMTA. She is a USM graduate and studied with Sylvia Zarembo at Tulane for her Master's degree. She taught at Gulf Park College (now USM) in Long Beach before retiring from college teaching.


Vincentine has been teaching so long that some of her current students include grandchildren of former students. The Mobile Register (June 29, 2008) recorded the following quote from Vincentine: "I thank God he gave me enough talent to know how little I have and enough teaching skills to know what I lack. I think I was born to do this." MMTA adds congratulations to a gifted music educator who has touched the lives of three generations of students.



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JULY CERTIFICATION THOUGHTS

A few months ago while preparing to speak at a couple of chapter meetings about certification (*Certification—Why Bother?*), I asked many of our Georgia certified teachers why they had "bothered" to become certified. I received some wonderful responses; a few are below.

I am a retired teacher with college certification. I receive requests frequently from students requesting a teacher from the certified list on the internet.

I am a firm believer in upgrading all professions. A look at public school teachers, the medical profession, financial planners—to name a few—shows that certification of some kind—gives validity to the person.

As a member of the American Guild of Organists, I taught free certification classes for 35 years, helping organists obtain various levels.

My surgeon who operated on my knees is a Fellow in his field of surgery, as is my podiatrist. My car mechanic has a certification hanging on his wall. **Don Larson, NCTM**

I decided upon Certification after thinking about CPAs, lawyers and doctors; all have to have certification in their field in addition to their education. If music teachers are ever to be thought as professionals then we must do something that sets us apart from the person who hangs out a shingle and teaches piano without any qualifications.

I don't think that it means a lot to our parents one way or the other. I have never had one ask what my qualifications are.

The best thing about certification is the satisfaction to yourself that you have accomplished a goal that you set for yourself.

When Rex Whiddon was President of Georgia MTA he got me to thinking about getting certified, and I went ahead and did this. Many of my colleagues don't feel that it is necessary because they feel that their teaching speaks for itself; however, I disagree with this idea because I feel that we must set high standards for our profession and treat it as a profession if we are ever to be thought of other than someone who earns spending money by being a piano teacher. We do far more than earn spending money and maybe by certification this thought might be eradicated from our society. **Sandy Yeargan, NCTM**

In my early years of teaching, even though I had a college degree, I did not feel that my chosen profession as an independent piano teacher was as "professional" as that of my friends' who were public school teachers. I was very happy when state certification was offered me through the Joint Committee of Georgia MTA and Georgia MEA. I immediately applied and received state certification in June 1963 and then state permanent certification in September 1994. When MTNA offered national certification, I immediately applied and received national certification in July 1968 and national permanent certification in December 1993. I was the first teacher in the state of Georgia to receive national certification. I never questioned certification; I just felt it was the thing to do.

As a young independent piano teacher, certification helped me feel more identified on the level of school teachers. I have always felt, and still do, that all independent teachers should become certified. In addition to college degrees, being certified is a statement to one's students and the general public that you have proved that you are a qualified teacher and that you continue to keep updated in your profession.

I feel that certification has helped raise my profession as an independent teacher to a high level, and that I can expect better students and can ask a raise in my pay along with other professionals. I always include that I am a certified teacher in various resumes, newspaper articles and other publications. I know that this has helped me build credibility in my community. I have been able to maintain a very successful private studio in my community for over 50 years and have always taken pride in "proclaiming" that I am a national certified teacher of piano.

Aurelia Campbell, NCTM

JULY CERTIFICATION THOUGHTS *continued*

I noticed that all three teachers used the word "profession" or "professional." We don't need to pursue certification so we will be recognized as "professionals," but because we *are* "professionals." Feel free to use these teachers' thoughts as you encourage your non-certified members to pursue certification. Better yet, glean from the wisdom of other great certified teachers in your own chapters and states.

Robin Engleman, NCTM

GCMTA (Gwinnett County) Certification Chair

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MTNA Southern Division Certification Chair

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LOCAL AFFILIATE NEWS



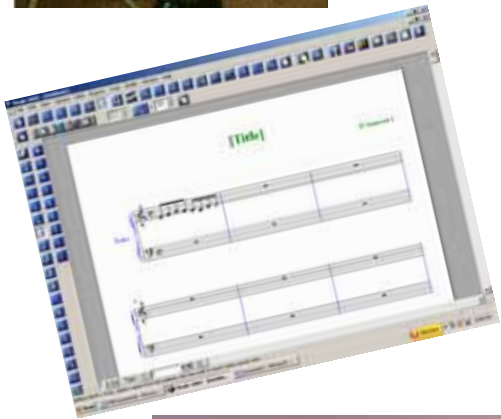
TUPELO - April 2, 2008

The Music Forum of Tupelo sponsored an introductory workshop, **“Noting” Notation through Finale**, with Dr. Cass Patrick, Fine Arts Division Chair, Itawamba Community College, Fulton, MS as guest clinician. Dr. Patrick’s presentation gave teachers an insight as to how the software program, Finale, would maximize their teaching to include music theory and composition assignments in their own teaching studios.

The workshop was held at Monument Drive Baptist Church, Tupelo, on Tuesday, April 1.



Dr. Patrick



Each year the Music Forum of Tupelo sponsors an educational workshop for it’s members, area teachers and advanced students. Music Forum of Tupelo is an affiliate of Music Teacher’s National Association and the local affiliate of Mississippi Music Teacher’s Association.

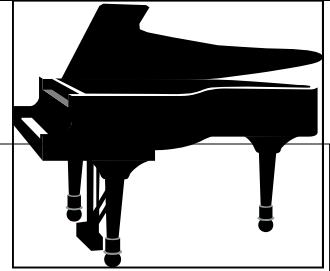
Sandy Coutoumanos



VICKSBURG— The photo above shows student participants in the 2008 VMTA Annual Beginners’ Recital. The recital was held in March in the chapel of First Presbyterian Church.

Barbara Tracy

FROM THE STUDIO: **MUSIC TEACHING PRODUCTS**



Please send your favorite successful teaching product information to the MMT Editor via email: tracy@vicksburg.com. Please include the title of the product, the company that produces it, cost, and a short description of the product and how it has been helpful in your studio.

Composition Teaching Material:

The FJH Piano Teaching Library has a series of Composition workbooks called “Music by Me” by Kevin Olson and Wynn-Anne Rossi. The series of workbooks progress from elementary to intermediate concepts. Each book includes units on rhythm, melody, harmony, lyrics, musical form, and modern music / modes. Each unit includes “Tool of the Trade,” Let’s Explore, “Scanning the Score” and “Compose Your Own.” Give your students an encouraging tool to create their own music. Each book costs about \$7.

Music Theory Teaching Material:

Kjos Music Company publishes a series of theory workbooks as part of the Neil A. Kjos Piano Library. The workbooks are called “Fundamentals of Piano Theory” by Keith Snell and Martha Ashleigh. Levels include Preparatory through Level 10. As an example: Level 1 covers note naming, time signatures, intervals, accidentals, half and whole steps, 5-finger patterns and triads, tetrachords and major scales, key signatures, primary triads, accompanying with I and V, transposing, signs and terms, form, an introduction to the four periods of music history, ear training and sight reading. The workbook includes many examples and exercises for the student, and a review test is included at the end. The books will coordinate with any teaching method and provide a good way to review for MMTA theory tests.

Student Incentive: \$\$\$\$\$\$’s

TCW Resources on the Kjos Music Company website has MUSIC MONEY available for student incentives. This set of printed money includes composer pictures instead of presidents and is a real find for \$7.95—it probably won’t work at the gas station but there are a lot of fun ways that you could use this in your studio. You could offer a couple hundred dollars on completion of a music theory workbook or a memorized piece...



FROM THE MMT EDITOR

I recently heard a news report about a golden retriever who had adopted a litter of tiger cubs that were not being taken care of by the mother tiger. Since my last two dogs were part golden, I could identify with the warm welcoming characteristics of a “golden.” As we start a new year in the studio especially when the temps are running close to 100 degrees, think about the golden’s enthusiasm when they meet a new person and how excited they are when they take their human for a walk. Take your students for a walk on the keyboard and help them develop their love of music and build their retrieving skills.

Put the 2008 MMTA Fall Conference on your calendar—you deserve a big bowl of fresh water and a large treat!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. Congratulations to our 2008 Outstanding students and congratulations to Sharon and Vincentine on their recent honors as music educators.

Barbara Tracy tracy@vicksburg.com

Calendar

**October 30-31, Nov. 1: 2008 Fall Conference at
Mississippi College, Clinton**

February 7, Bach Festival At Hinds CC

2009 Audition dates:

***April 4* for Group A: Jackson, Hattiesburg, Tupelo,
Cleveland, Meridian**

***March 28* for Group B: Ellisville, Gulf Coast,
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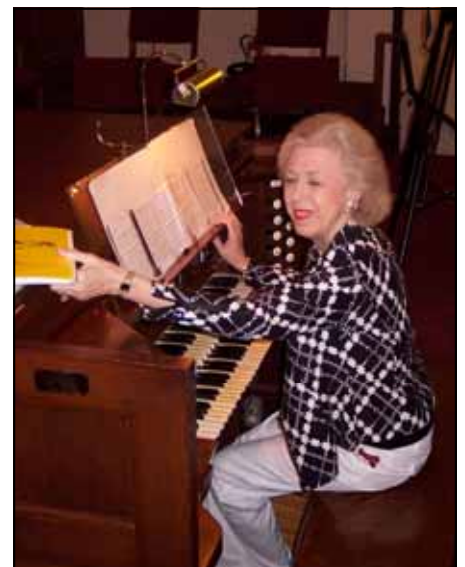
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Diane Bish rehearses for a recording session in Vicksburg in May.

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