

Official publication of Mississippi Music Teachers Association  
Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

# Mississippi Music Teacher

Winter 2010, Volume 26, Issue 1

## Featuring Highlights from the November Conference



Thanks, Tae Young Hong, Student at William Carey University



Winter 2010 p1

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Winter 2010 photo1

Winter 2010 photo2

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

Page Title

**To: Members of the MMTA Board**

**From: Rachel Heard**

**Re: President's Report to the Board**

**Date: January 30, 2010**



This report marks the end of my first year as MMTA President, and I must say it has truly been an honor to serve such a professional group of musicians and teachers. I recently returned from the Southern Division conference which was held at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama; and as I reported on all that you do as teachers, mentors and musicians, everyone in attendance could not help but be impressed. Our membership numbers are holding steady, students are participating in our many festivals, conferences and workshops are being held and enjoyed. I've always felt that the very best reason to be active in MMTA and MTNA is not only for professional and musical growth, but the wonderful sense of camaraderie that truly permeates our group. With every conference I attend, new friendships are made and ideas are shared.

And even as I say this, I also know that we still have work to do. As professionals, we must continue to learn, grow, and change with the ever evolving world around us. We must especially mentor to our fellow colleagues who may feel at times "burned out" from the many, many students who come through their doors. And so remember to not only take advantage of such commonality and friendships, but to reach out to those who may not have attended a meeting or conference in a while or involved their students in recent festivals. Give them a call and offer a ride to the next meeting. Take a look at a membership list from a few years back to see if there is someone who has not been active in a while. Maybe they just need a little nudge to become involved again. See if they are willing to accept a small position or job within your local.

And as always, please feel free to share your needs and goals with me as I continue to serve my two-year term. It is after all, my primary job to serve the local organizations in any way I can, in order that you may realize your goals. I continue to believe that we will have a strong future with such a firm foundation.

Finally, I mentioned earlier that the Southern Division Conference was held in Birmingham, Alabama, January 15-18, and as President I gladly helped with monitoring for the MTNA divisional competitions. What a treat! All of our state winners performed so well. We had FIVE Mississippi competitors to be recognized at Southern Division:

Young Artists Chamber Music group, **The Krang Quartet** (saxophone quartet, coached by Lawrence Gwozdz) from USM was **alternate**,  
Senior Voice **Grace Claire Cordes** (student of Jeanne Evans) was **alternate**,  
Senior Piano **Taide Ding** (student of Ian Hominick) was **honorable mention**,  
Young Artists Composer **Stephen Kachenovich** (student of Karen Fosheim) was **honorable mention**, AND  
Young Artists Voice **Brad Gilmore**, tenor (USM and student of J. Taylor Hightower) was the **winner** and will advance to the national MTNA competition.

And congratulations to not only the students mentioned above but to ALL of our state representatives as they served us well in Birmingham!

Again, I look forward to serving Mississippi Music Teachers Association for the next year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Heard

Page 2 of MMT



*Editor's note. I left out the Hattiesburg Music Teachers League's report from the last MMT and am printing it in this edition. We did send it out as an e-mail to all MMTA members earlier so they would know about these wonderful events. My apologies for the omission.*

The fall semester promises to be a very busy one for HMTL teachers and our students. We will begin our year with a general meeting on September 12 in March Auditorium at USM. Dr. Dana Ragsdale, harpsichordist and retired professor for the USM School of Music, will present a program entitled, "*Performing Baroque and Early Classical Music for the Pre-College Student.*" This program will be sponsored by the Hattiesburg Music Teachers League and the Jones County Music Teachers Association and should be very informative and most enjoyable for all who can attend. Several HMTL student recitals are scheduled for October 31 in USM Marsh Auditorium. The MMTA State Conference will be held November 5-7 at William Carey University, and the league will be doing our part to help host this event.

Our largest event for this fall will be our biennial Composer Festival on November 20 & 21, featuring Robert Vandall and his music. The Composer Festival will begin on Friday morning, November 20, with a workshop for teachers at Wolfe Gang Music presented by Robert Vandall. Students recitals of Mr. Vandell's music are scheduled for Friday night and Saturday at Mississippi Music, with autograph parties for participating students following each student recital. The commissioned piece for the 2009 festival is an intermediate level suite for piano with Southern themes. One of the highlights of the festival is the final recital, which always features ensemble music of the guest composer. The final recital of this year's festival will showcase not only our students performing the ensemble music of Robert Vandall, but several of our teachers as well. It promises to be an exciting two days for the HMTL!

Laura Broughton, D.M.A. President

### **Here is their most recent affiliate report:**

The spring semester promises to be a very busy one for HMTL teachers and our students. We will begin our year on January 23 with a meeting and work day at Mississippi Music for teachers participating in our NFMC Junior Festival, scheduled for February 20 at William Carey University.

HMTL student recitals are scheduled for both February 13 and April 17 in the recital hall at Mississippi Music. Our MMTA Pre-College Evaluations will be held on April 10 at William Carey University. A special highlight of our year is always the annual Spring Concert, scheduled for April 25 in the Lucille Parker Art Gallery at William Carey University. The Spring Concert showcases outstanding high school musicians who are students of league members. The MMTA Pre-College Finals will also take place at William Carey University on May 1. Our year will conclude with a business meeting and luncheon, scheduled for May 13.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laura Broughton*, D.M.A., NCTM

HMTL President



## Pre-College Evaluations

Jacquelyn Sullivan Thornell

November 2009

Greetings!

“Pre-College Evaluations,” previously known as “Pre-College Auditions,” will be held on March 27, and April 10, as determined by the syllabus, except as approved by VP of Evaluations.

**March 27:** Jackson (Kay Johnson), Goodman (Donna Banks), Meridian (Joyce Tillery), Tupelo (Sandy Coutoumanos & Janet Gray), Vicksburg (Barbara Tracy).

**April 10:** Columbus/Starkville (Edna Mae McCoy), Ellisville (Ellen Gunn), Gulf Coast (Carol Mahler), Hattiesburg (Cristina Moreland & Dixie Lawson), Oxford (Adrienne Park).

We hope that every local association and area chair will encourage teachers in their area to think of MMTA Evaluations as an opportunity to educate the parents of their students regarding the benefits of sight reading, technical skills and written theory to the success of their child’s music study. Most beginner students are capable of successfully completing the requirements for Grades 3 and Below. Such success is an invaluable motivator for continuing lessons. With transfers or older beginners, take advantage of “non-competitive” participation.

*Remember, any student may participate at the level considered appropriate by the teacher.*

[jsthornell@bellsouth.net](mailto:jsthornell@bellsouth.net).

**MMTA PRE-COLLEGE CONCERTO PARTICIPANTS  
AND THEIR TEACHERS (in order of performance)**

**Saturday, November 7, 2009**

<b><u>PERFORMANCE CATEGORY</u></b>	<b><u>ENTRANT</u></b>	<b><u>TEACHER</u></b>
<b>ELEMENTARY PIANO</b>	Caroline Lee Rhett	Ellen Price Elder
	Maggie Cayson	Sandy Coutoumanos
	Michelle Sun	Janice Mesrobian
	Peter Liang	Janice Mesrobian
	Sherisse Joy M. Carino	Dixie M. Clark
	Ruby Liang	Janice Mesrobian
	Logan Knight	Sandy Coutoumanos
	Allen Huang	Janice Mesrobian
	Hailey Knight	Sandy Coutoumanos
	Rhyan Plumlee	Janice Mesrobian
	<b>JUNIOR PIANO</b>	Taide Ding
Samantha Ong		Rachel Heard
<b>SENIOR PIANO</b>	Erin Leigh Dyer	Stacy Rodgers
	Catherine Feng	Edna Mae McCoy
<b>ELEMENTARY STRINGS</b>	Dylan Howard	Susan Gaston
	Wynter Hilbun	Gail Fox
	Bailey Ann Neal	Gail Fox
	Zachary-Scott Neal	Gail Fox
<b>JUNIOR STRINGS</b>	Rosalie Doerksen	Robert Riggs
	Alex Fan	Gail Fox
<b>SENIOR STRINGS</b>	Rebekah Taylor	Alexander Russakovsky

**Noon  
Conference  
Photos  
begin  
here!**



New Faculty Showcase (L to R) Bernardo Scarambone, pianist from Alcorn State University; Ellen Price Elder, accompanist for Rudy Gatlin; Nikki Melvin Johnson, soprano from Jones County Junior College; Joseph La Rosa, pianist from Copiah Lincoln Community College, Michael Rushing, accompanist for Nikki Johnson; and Rudy Gatlin, tenor from William Carey University



Reception after the New College Faculty Showcase was sponsored by Delta Omicron Music Fraternity. Thanks so much.



Bruce Tychinski from The University of Southern Mississippi led a great session on using Hi-Tech in any type of music studio. Very practical



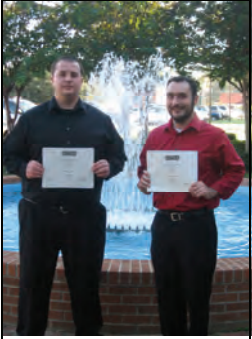
Sr. Division Voice State Representative, Grace Claire Cordes



Frederick Harris Music Clinician, Cathy Albergo, led three sessions featuring the Celebrate Piano! Method as well as teaching tips for group piano.



Young Artist Voice Class Winner: Anastasia Talley and Alternate: Brad Gilmore



Young Artist Brass  
Winner: Patrick  
Richards (right) and  
Wayne Schmidt,  
Alternate (on left)



Guest Presenter: Anna  
Hamilton on subject  
of: "Piano for the  
Young Beginner"



Registration went very smoothly.....thanks to  
everyone who helped out at the front desk.



MMTA Executive Committee  
Meeting-Thursday —President  
Rachel Heard, presiding



Okay, should we have a  
competition for who can make-  
up the best caption for this shot?



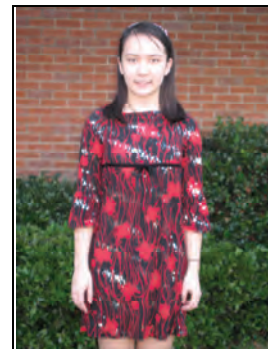
Special thanks to all the  
WCU staff who worked so  
hard to help during our  
Conference . . . especially  
Fine Arts Administrators!



Waiting for results outside the  
Gillespie Art Museum at WCU



Taide Ding, Senior Piano Division  
State Representative



Junior Piano Division  
Winner: Rosalie  
Shinwei Doerkson  
(not pictured, Austin  
Li, Alternate)



Young Artist Div., Woodwinds  
 Winner: Thomas Giles  
 and Alternate: Lindsey Key



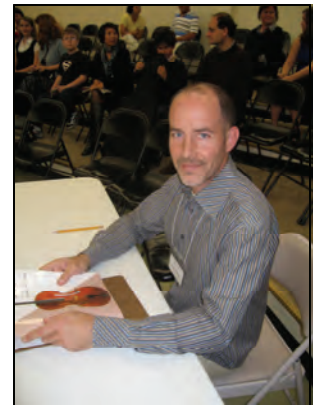
Justin Sharp was our Commissioned Composer for the 2009 Conference. His work, "Phantasiemusik," was performed admirably by Angela Willoughby



Donna Banks (on right), MMTA President from 1990-1992, was recognized for her leadership in MMTA by being named a "Fellow" in MTNA. Angela Willoughby, Past President, made the presentation at the Conference.



Angela Willoughby (on right), presented "Unexpected Meets Uncommon," at the Conference. She was assisted by Janet Taylor (on left) in the performance of "Suite en Valse" by Dohnanyi



Dr. Stephen Redfield, USM, served as judge for the MMTA Pre-College Strings concerto on Saturday afternoon.

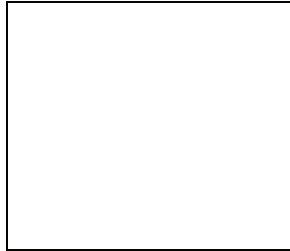


**2009 MMTA Conference**  
**Artist:** Ann Marie McPhail, Soprano, and her accompanist for the program: Carol Joy Sparkman, of Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi. They were assisted by a student chorus from Hattiesburg High School, N.R. Burger Middle School and Choral students of Professor John Flanery, USM.

Amanda Penick, University of Alabama, spoke at the IMTF Luncheon on Saturday in the Lucille Parker Art Gallery



Reception sponsored by the Jones Co. Music Teachers Association and the Hattiesburg Music Teachers League following Concert by Ann Marie McPhail. Our local affiliates are wonderful.



Krang Quartet: Chamber Winners  
Thomas Giles, Noah Madison,  
Ryan Raziano, David Wozniak



IMTF Luncheon on Saturday was enjoyed by all



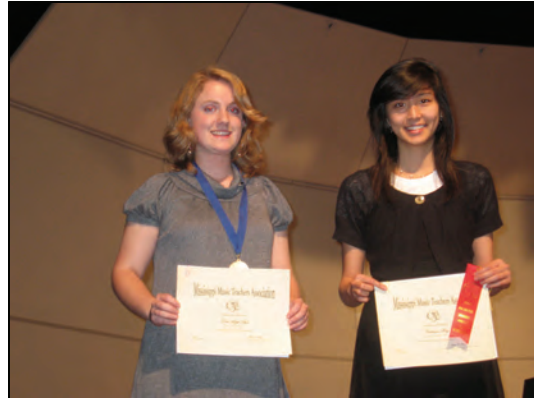
Pre-  
College  
Concerto  
2009  
MMTA



Elem. Pre-college Concerto: 1st place tie:  
Rhyan Plumlee and Sherisse Joy Carino;  
1st Alternate: Ruby Liang



Pre-college Junior Piano Winner: Tiade Ding; 1st Alt.: Samantha Ong



Pre-college Senior Piano Winner: Erin Leigh Dyer, 1st Alternate: Catherine Feng



Dr. Ellen Price Elder, our local Conference Liaison and Host . . . Thanks!



Elementary Strings: Dylan Howard, winner; Wynter Hilbun and Zachary-Scott Neal, tied for 1st alternate and Bailey Ann Neal, 2nd alternate



Junior Strings: Rosalie Doerksen, winner and Alex Fan, 1st Alternate



Senior Strings winner: Rebekah Taylor; Pre-college



Young Artist Division, Piano: Winner, Gustavo Schafachek (on right), Alternate, Vera Zholondz (middle) and Matthew Pettigrew (left in photo)



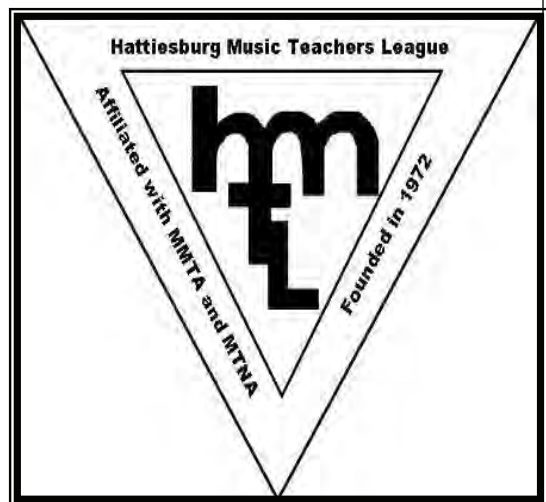
Gustavo Schafaschek, Winner of Young Artist in the Piano Division



The African Drumming session on Friday, led by MMTA Member, Karen Fosheim, was a lot of fun.



Some of the audience at the "Strengthening Musicianship Skill through African Drumming" session



## 2009 Pre-College Winners and their teachers

### *Elementary Piano:*

Sherisse Joy M. Carino and Rhyan Plumlee, winners (tie) [Dixie M. Clark and  
Janice Mesrobian are the respective teachers]  
Ruby Liang--1st alternate (Janice Mesrobian, teacher)

### *Junior Piano:*

Tiade Ding--winner (Ian Hominick, teacher)  
Samantha Ong--1st alternate (Rachel Heard, teacher)

### *Senior Piano:*

Erin Leigh Dyer--winner (Stacy Rodgers, teacher)  
Catherine Feng--1st alternate (Edna Mae McCoy, teacher)

### *Elementary Strings:*

Dylan Howard--winner (Susan Gaston, teacher)  
Wynter Hilbun and Zachary-Scott Neal--1st alternate (tie) (Gail Fox, teacher)  
Bailey Ann Neal--2nd alternate (Gail Fox, teacher)

### *Junior Strings:*

Rosalie Doerksen--winner (Robert Riggs, teacher)  
Alex Fan--1st alternate (Gail Fox, teacher)

### *Senior Strings:*

Rebekah Taylor--winner (Alexander Russakovsky, teacher)

## **Did you know that MTNA offers these opportunities for local associations?**

MTNA Local Associations provide special educational programming, festivals, and opportunities to meet new friends with common interests, connecting members to a powerful network of teaching professionals. MTNA provides its Local Associations with many benefits, as well.

**General Liability Insurance**--MTNA offers general liability insurance coverage for every MTNA-affiliated state and local association. Every state and local association is covered under this policy for an unlimited number of events at no cost to any individual association. MTNA has agreed to pay the cost of this premium.

**ASCAP Music Licensing**--MTNA has a blanket licensing agreement with the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). This agreement covers the licensing fees of all public performances of copyrighted music at all MTNA-related events--local, state, division and national. (The agreement does not cover individual members, public recitals or programs.)

**501(c)(3) Status**--State and local affiliates may apply for 501(c)(3) status through MTNA's group exemption process.

Among the advantages of 501(c)(3) status, affiliates can accept charitable contributions that will be tax deductible to the contributor and claim exemption from state sales tax.

To take advantage of this benefit, affiliates must review their constitutions for compliance with Code Section 501 (c)(3) requirements and submit a letter authorizing the national organization to include them on MTNA's "group exemption roster." The national headquarters provides guidelines for completing the process.

For more information on these three programs, click on this link:

<http://www.mtna.org/AboutMTNA/DivisionStateLocalInformation/AffiliateServices/tabid/246/Default.aspx> (<http://www.mtna.org/AboutMTNA/DivisionStateLocalInformation/AffiliateServices/tabid/246/Default.aspx>).

Each year, MTNA recognizes the local Music Teachers Association that makes the most significant contribution to the music teaching profession through participation in MTNA national programs and additional programs established within their state and local area each year. The MTNA Local Association of the Year Award is presented each year at the MTNA National Conference.

To find an application for this award, follow this link:

<http://www.mtna.org/Programs/Awards/MTNAAwards/tabid/582/Default.aspx> (<http://www.mtna.org/Programs/Awards/MTNAAwards/tabid/582/Default.aspx>).


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## Mississippi MTNA Competition Results 2009

- Piano:**
- Young Artist: Winner-Gustavo Schafaschek (Elizabeth Moak, USM)  
Alternate-Vera Zholondz (Bernardo Scarambone, ASU)  
Honorable Mention-Matthew Pettigrew (Bernardo Scarambone, ASU)
- Senior: State Representative-Taide Ding (Ian Hominick, UM)
- Junior: Winner-Rosalie Shinwei Doerkson (Ian Hominick, UM)  
Alternate-Austin Li (Karen Fosheim, DSU)
- Voice:**
- Young Artist: Winner-Anastasia Talley (Kimberley Davis, USM)  
Alternate-Brad Gilmore (J. Taylor Hightower, USM)
- Senior: State Representative-Grace Claire Cords (Jeanne Evans)
- Brass:**
- Young Artist: Winner-Patrick Richards (Heidi Lucas, USM)  
Alternate-Wayne Schmidt (Richard Perry, USM)
- Woodwinds:**
- Young Artist: Winner-Thomas Giles (Lawrence Gwozdz, USM)  
Alternate-Lindsey Keay (Danilo Mezzadri, USM)
- Senior: State Representative-Brittany Trotter (Danilo, Mezzadri, USM)
- Chamber:**
- Winner-Krang Quartet: Thomas Giles, Noah Madison, Ryan Raziano, David Wozniak  
(Lawrence Gwozdz, USM)
- Alternate-Power Trio: Zach James, Edward Muller, Jonathan Rowe (Bruce Tychinski, USM)
- Honorable Mention- 4 Aces Quartet: Bradley Ballard, David Cunningham, James Koestler, Jr.,  
David Mason (Douglas Mark, DSU)
- Not Performing:**
- State Representative, Junior Strings: Rosalie Sinwei Doerkson (Robert Riggs, UM)
- State Representative, Senior Strings: Jocelyn Zhu (Song Xie, Belhaven College)
- State Representative, Young Artist Strings: Shellie Brown (Song Xie, Belhaven College)
- State Representative, Young Artist Composition: Stephen Kachenovich (Karen Fosheim, DSU)

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***[www.jcjc.edu/programs/finearts](http://www.jcjc.edu/programs/finearts)***

# Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Balance Sheet as of Oct. 31, 2009

Michael Rushing, Treasurer



## ASSETS

### Current Assets

#### Checking/Savings

Regions Bank, Checking \$13,227.00

Total Current Assets \$13,227.00

### Fixed Assets

AmSouth CD \$11,271.34

AmSouth CD, 2 \$ 6,513.55

Total Fixed Assets \$17,784.89

**TOTAL ASSETS \$31,011.89**

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Opening Balance Equity \$21,399.51

Retained Earnings \$ 1,024.26

Net Income \$ 8,588.12

Total Equity \$31,011.89

**TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ Equity \$31,011.89**

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The Department of Music is a fully accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)

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January 30, 2010

MMTA Executive Board Meeting Report

### **VP for Pre-College Performances**



Ellen Price Elder  
Vice-President for Pre-  
College Performances

The MMTA Pre-College Concerto Competitions were held Saturday, November 7, 2009, during the MMTA Conference at William Carey University. In the piano competition there were 11 elementary entrants, 2 junior entrants, and 2 senior entrants. In the strings competition there were 4 elementary entrants, 2 junior entrants, and 1 senior entrant. All of the students were very well-prepared. Congratulations to all student winners, participants, and their teachers!

A list of winners, participants, and their teachers will be available in this edition of the *MMT*. A special thanks to Darwin Brooks for his work on publishing this information!

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Pre-College Evaluation dates (formerly Pre-College Auditions). They are March 27 for Group A (Jackson, Meridian, Tupelo, Vicksburg, Goodman) and April 10 for Group B (Hattiesburg, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Columbus/Starkville, Oxford, Wesson). The MMTA Pre-College Finals (formerly SSRR) will take place Saturday, May 1, 2010, at William Carey University. Jacquelyn Thornell and I are in the process of updating the pre-college auditions forms on the website, as well as the forms that the District Chairs will use to submit their materials.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Price Elder

VP for Pre-College Performances

## MMTA Officers

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## Local Affiliate Presidents

### Golden Triangle Music Forum

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### Gulf Coast Music Teachers Association

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### Hattiesburg Music Teachers League

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### Jones County Music Teachers Association

Janine Beasley [music@beasinc.com](mailto:music@beasinc.com)  
3122 N. 5th Ave., laurel, MS 39440 (601) 649-9240

### League of Meridian Music Teachers

Currently, no President  
Joyce Tillery is serving as Audition contact person (601) 482-2810

### Music Forum of Jackson

Kathie Lott [Kclott@netzero.net](mailto:Kclott@netzero.net)

### Music Forum of Tupelo

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# M M T A A r e a C h a i r s

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## Piano

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## Voice

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P.O. Box 17055

## Woodwinds

Meri Newell [meri.newell@jcc.edu](mailto:meri.newell@jcc.edu)  
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## From the MMT Editor



L. Darwin Brooks, Editor  
MMT

I did not receive many local affiliate reports to include in this issue of the MMT. Affiliate Presidents, MMTA Officers, MMTA area chairmen and others who have matters that would benefit from being in the MMT please remember that each MMT comes out after a Board meeting so your report needs to be submitted by that time.

You will see a lot of photos in this issue from our November 2009 Conference held at William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Ms. We always appreciate so much the work that goes in each of our MMTA events.



President - Kathie Lott

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

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VP for Collegiate and national Competitions Report

Submitted by Daniel Kelly

November 5, 2009

MTNA state level competitions are Friday, Nov. 6 at William Carey University, Hattiesburg . Dr. Ellen Elder is Conference Host.

A total of 49 contestants entered

	Piano	Voice	Strings	Woodwinds	Brass	Chamber	Composition
Junior	3		1			n/a	1
Senior	1	1	1	1			
Young Artist	7	2	1	5	3		

To date, one entrant in Junior Piano has withdrawn (due to illness)

Where there is only one entrant in a caption, that person is named State Representative and automatically advanced to the Divisional Competitions (Samford University, Birmingham, AL, Jan. 15-18, 2010) and invited to perform at the state level for judge's comments. Two of the three State Representatives in the Strings Competitions elected not to perform for judge's comments so the decision was made to cancel that competition.

As stipulated in the competition rules, a solo even with seven or more entries requires a three-judge panel—we hired Robert Holm and Jung-Won Shin to join Faina Lushtak for the Young Artist Piano panel. And in the Chamber Competition, multiple entries involving more than one instrument family requires a three-judge panel that best represents those instruments—we hired Carrie Holden (violin) and Jonathan Noffsinger (who is also our Woodwinds judge) to join Brian Shaw (brass) for the Chamber Music panel. The rest of the judges for this year are Ann-Marie McPhail (voice) and John Mueller (brass).

All area chairs have agreed to act as inside Monitors for their respective competitions. Dr. Elder has arranged for WCU students to act as Outside Monitors and to assist with various other functions.

The VP would like to thank Ian Hominick and Ellen Elder for their invaluable efforts with the MTNA Performance Competitions!

Daniel Kelly  
V.P. for Collegiate  
and National  
Competitions

