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# MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

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## MMTA Pre-College Finals

The University of Mississippi • May 5, 2012

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### Outstanding Pre-College Student Achievement Award Winners

**These outstanding students have achieved eight years of eligibility for the Pre-College Finals, five of which must be in Solo Performance.**



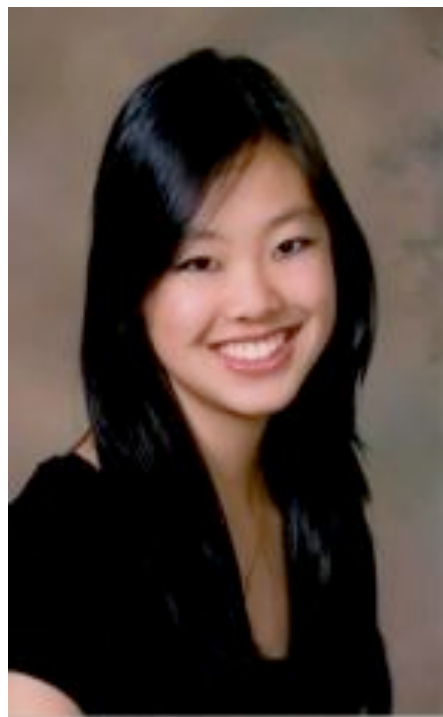
**Dora Chen**

Age 17, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

From Oxford

Student of Stacy Rodgers

Daughter of Shiuhlon Duncan Chen and Yuhling Connie Hwang



**Ariel J. Cheng**

Age 17, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

From Madison

Student of Rachel Heard

Daughter of Hwai-Ping and Jing-Ru Cheng

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**Rosalie Doerksen**

Age 16, 11th grade

From Oxford

Student of Ian Hominick

Daughter of Robert and Yu-chu Doerksen



**Lauren Simpson**

Age 16, 10th grade

From Scobey

Student of Ouida Thomas

Daughter of Gilbert and Aletha Simpson



**Dustin T. Runnels**

Age 18, 12th grade

From Vicksburg

Student of Susan Gambrell

Son of Ronnie and Karen Runnels



**Ty Stewart**

Age 17, 12th grade

From Hattiesburg

Student of Ellen Y. Gunn

Son of Kerry Stewart and Kru Fairey



**Cici Zhang**

Age 12, 7th grade

From Starkville

Student of Harold Thompson

Daughter of Jilei Zhang and May Han



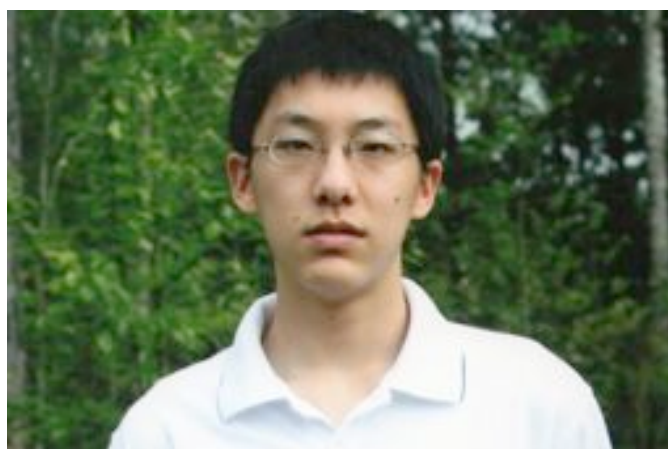
**Melinda Xu**

Age 15, 9th grade

From Starkville

Student of Dixie M. Clark

Daughter of Jianzhong Xu and Ruiping Yuan



**Benny Zhang**

Age 17, 11th grade

From Hattiesburg

Student of Edna Mae McCoy/Cristina Moreland

Son of Drs. Joe Zhang and Hong Lan

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### Biographies of 8 Year Achievement Winners

Dora Chen is a junior at Oxford High School. She has played piano since 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and loves anything involving music, whether it is playing an instrument or singing along to the radio. At school, Dora is a member of the swim team and the newspaper staff. In her free time, Dora can be found blogging on her website or watching Ferris Bueller with her friends.

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Ariel Cheng, a seventeen-year-old senior, is the daughter of Drs. Hwai-Ping and Jing-Ru Cheng. She has taken piano for twelve years, and she currently studies with Dr. Rachel Heard of Millsaps College. She has attended Music Camp at Mississippi College (MC@MC) for three years and has participated in the State Finals in the Solo Performance, Sonata, and Theme and Variations categories. Additionally, she regularly participates in the Sonata Festival and the Bach Festival. This year, she was awarded with the nine year Superior trophy at the Bach Festival.

Ariel currently attends Jackson Preparatory School. At Prep, she is the president of Mu Alpha Theta, Vice President of National Honor Society, Consul of the Junior Classical League, and Senior Class Vice President. She is also involved in Service Club, Mock Trial, and One Act competitions. She attends the First Baptist Church of Jackson and the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Jackson where she plays piano for the choir.

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Rosalie Doerksen, 16, is the daughter of Yu-Chu and Robert Doerksen. A junior at Oxford High School, she is studying violin with Dr. Robert Riggs and piano with Dr. Ian Hominick. Rosalie has won multiple state championships on the violin and piano since 2005. She recently won 3<sup>rd</sup> place playing the Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor in the American Protégé International Concerto Competition and will perform at Carnegie Hall in December 2012. She has also won her high school and elementary school talent shows; was concertmaster, featured soloist and piano accompanist for her high school orchestra; was a member of the Lafayette-Oxford-University (LOU) Orchestra; and has played for churches, at weddings, and for the developmentally disabled. She was selected to join the National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute in Washington, DC, in 2011 with full scholarship.

Apart from music, Rosalie is devoted to science research: besides being the first high school student in the state to use Mississippi Center for Supercomputer Research for

calculations, on carbon sequestration, her current project is to use computational biochemistry to help develop a preventative medicine for malaria, and she was a finalist at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair in 2010, 2011 and in 2012. She is a member of Christ Presbyterian Church. She is a leader and secretary/treasurer of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a member of the varsity track team. She is a member of the Anchor Club, Key Club, National Honor Society, Math & Science Team, and German Club, as well as of the City of Oxford's Mayor's Youth Council. She is captain of her Science Olympiad team; business manager, advertising manager, and award-winning writer for her school newspaper *The Charger*; 2011-2012 secretary/treasurer of the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association.

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Dustin Tyner Runnels of Vicksburg, Mississippi is the 18-year-old son of Ronnie and Karen Runnels and the brother of Rachel and Jacob. Dustin is a 2012 homeschooled honors graduate and plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi on academic scholarship in the fall, majoring in audio-engineering.

Dustin has studied piano for 8 years at the studio of Susan Gambrell. Dustin's love for music began here at 10 years old. He has performed in numerous recitals each year as well as sharing his gift of music in nursing homes, church services and other special events. Dustin played keyboard in his church's youth worship band for more than 2 years. Along with his sister, Rachel, Dustin won first place at State MMTA Piano Duet Competition in 2009. They have also won second place in Mississippi College's Duet Festival. In the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Dustin began composing music for solo, duet, and trio performances that he and his siblings played in recitals. He has also written and recorded several songs with friends.

Dustin has also excelled as a 9-year Bible Driller with All Superior ratings at State level. He earned second place in 2009 State Bible Quick Drill.

Dustin played starting guard on the varsity Basketball team for 5 years, earning "Most Valuable Player of the Year" in 2009, 2011, and 2012.

Along with being active in Speech/Debate Club for 4 years, Dustin was a political campaign volunteer for several elections, from County Supervisor to State Senator. He also volunteered as a Living History Civil War Re-enactor at our National Military Park for two summers. Dustin has enjoyed working as summer camp counselor for three years at the YMCA.

For his future, Dustin hopes to honor God and entertain others with his music.

Lauren Simpson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Simpson, is a tenth grade student at Grenada High School, where she is on the Principal's List. She is a member of Visions, the high school show choir, and plays the flute in the band. She is also in the color guard, Key Club, and Crown Club. At Emmanuel Baptist Church, she is in the Youth Group, the orchestra, youth ensemble, rings handbells, and participates in Bible Drills. She has studied piano since third grade and has participated in Hymn Festivals, DuetFest, and National Piano Guild auditions. In addition, Lauren has appeared in several stage productions of the Panola Playhouse. Hobbies include singing, reading, and dancing. Future plans include the study of music in college and a career as a music teacher in the school system.

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Ty Stewart, 17, has studied piano for 10 years, is home schooled and has set numerous records in swimming in the state and in the U.S. In September, 2011, he competed in Japan as part of a USA National Youth Swimming team. In addition, he has qualified for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials in six events. The Competition will be held in Omaha, Nebraska. In martial arts, Ty has achieved a Brown Belt 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu in Purple Dragon Don Jitsu Ryu.

He has participated in the Jones County Music Teachers Ensemble Festival for 6 years. He has played in the Jones County Music Teachers Solo-Sonata Festival for 8 years and has been a winner or alternate for 6 of those years. Ty has received a medal from Music Forum's Bach Festival for 6 years of Superior ratings. He has participated in MMTA Auditions and Evaluations for the past 10 years and qualified for the State Finals competitions each of those years. This year he played in Performance, Ensemble, and Theme and Variations.

Ty has been selected as a National Merit Finalist and awarded a 2012 National Merit scholarship. His future plans are to attend the University of Georgia on a Swimming Scholarship and to major in English.

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Melinda Xu, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader in Starkville High School, is in her 8<sup>th</sup> year of piano lessons in the studio of Ms. Dixie M. Clark. Melinda has earned 8 superiors in the Mississippi Music Federated Festivals and has qualified for MMTA (formerly SSRR) Pre-College Finals for 8 consecutive years.

In 2011 Melinda won the Mississippi Federation of Music Clubs state scholarships for the Mississippi College Music Camp. In 2012 Melinda won the 1<sup>st</sup> alternate to audition for the Piano Discoveries Camp in Oxford.

Melinda is a member of the Starkville High School Freshman Choir and the Freshman Sextet directed by Regina Weeks. The SHS Choir performs in concerts, competitions, and has recently performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Teacher Dixie M. Clark says that Melinda is a very consistent, disciplined, and talented student with a great attitude and she brings joy into the teaching and learning experience. Melinda is the daughter of Jianzhong Xu and Ruiping Yuan of Starkville, MS.

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Cici Zhang has many accomplishments, especially in the areas of piano, academics, and swimming. She has taken classical piano lessons from Dr. Harold Thompson since 2005 when she was the age of 5. Cici won Gold Medals in MMTA Solo Performance in 2006-2008 and in 2010. She won a Gold Medal in the Sonata/Sonatina division in 2006, as well as Gold Medals in Theme and Variations in 2007, 2008, and 2010. In addition, she has scored the highest Composite score twice.

Cici Zhang has been on the All-A's honor roll since the first grade. Other accomplishments at school include becoming Champion of the Elementary Spelling Bee and serving on the Student Council. She has been 1<sup>st</sup> place State Winner of the MS PTA's Reflection Program numerous times in the areas of Literature, Music, and Visual arts. Cici was named 'Scientist of the Year' by the CFR & Starkville Science Club in 2009. In 2011 and 2012, she won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the State National History Day in the category of Web design. She has received a Space Camp Scholarship from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center Foundation. Currently, she is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and has been the Honor Speaker at her school. Photography is another of Cici's interests, and she won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Cotton District Arts Festival this year.

At age 5, Cici Zhang began swimming lessons with Coach Robert Gonzalez, later joined the competitive swim team Shockwave, and is a member of the USA Swimming athletes. In 2006, she set a new state record for the 25 meter backstroke, a record which remains unbroken. Also in 2006, Cici was named Female Athlete of the Year. Over the years, she has received 14 gold medals at the Stamm Family Invitational swim meet, and 13 gold medals in the State Games of Mississippi. At Mississippi State, she received the title of Outstanding Swimmer in 2007-2008. Most recently, she was the Coca-Cola Invitational high point award winner in her age group.

Born in China, Benny Zhang, at age 3, moved with his parents, Drs. Joe Zhang and Hong Lan to America. He has lived in Hattiesburg since age 8, when he began his piano study with Cristina Moreland. Currently he is a Junior, attending the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus where he now studies with Edna Mae McCoy.

Benny has won numerous medals and awards in Federation Festivals, Music Camps and MMTA Pre-College events, as well as three consecutive 1<sup>st</sup> places at the State Bach Festival. He plays three instruments and is pianist in the school orchestra.

He has won various academic awards including the top AMC 10 score in the state of Mississippi. Benny also received the highest percentile in the MS Science and Math Tournament's Math and Chemistry exams.

In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, playing Frisbee, ping pong, and occasionally chess. Benny also enjoys performing and helping at his hometown Retirement Home. After graduation, he hopes to attend MIT, majoring in engineering and minoring in math and music.

*Congratulations to these students!*



## PRE-COLLEGE FINALS WINNERS - 2012

### Piano Performance Level 3 and below

**Gold Medal:** Sam Powell (Laura Broughton)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Hannah Kim (Ricki Prewitt)

Lucy Mellen (Ellen Elder)

Matthew Yin (Karen Laubengayer)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Matthew Li (Isabella Ivshin)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Gracie Bassett (Ruth Keyes)

**Honorable Mention:** Karlene Ding (Ricki Prewitt)

Elizabeth Ellis (Edna Mae McCoy)

Ava Murphy (Carol Mahler)

Yolanda Tian (Janice Mesrobian)

Madeleine Yu (Ellen Elder)

Max Zhang (Ellen Elder)

### Piano Performance Level 4

**Gold Medal:** Edward Hu (Ian Hominick)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Nezhiah Igwebuike (Carol Durham)

Jackson Creel (Laura Broughton)

Alisha Carino (Dixie M. Clark)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Rachel Zheng (Carol Durham)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Victoria Wang (Isabella Ivshin)

Annie Thomas (Isabella Ivshin)

Rebecca Pan (Edna Mae McCoy)

**Honorable Mention:** Michell Liu (Judith Allen)

Alex Stradinger (Jacquelyn Thornell)

Emma Yant (Sandy Coutoumanos)

### Piano Performance Level 5

**Gold Medal:** Victoria Gong (Judith Allen)

Caleb Owens (Jung-Won Shin)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Gloria Zhang (Edna Mae McCoy)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Indu Nandula (Karen Fosheim)

John Rhys Plumlee (Janice Mesrobian)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Meagan Green (Laura Broughton)

Amy Pang (Isabella Ivshin)

**Honorable Mention:** Timothy Lewis (Tae Young Hong)

Myles Little (Carolina Whitfield-Smith)

Cody McHardy (Christopher Winston)

Hwansoul Park (Dixie M. Clark)

Andreas Pavlides (Ouida Thomas)

### Piano Performance Level 6

**Gold Medal:** Tracey Singer (Edna Mae McCoy)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Carrie Shi (Edna Mae McCoy)

Angela Tang (Ricki Prewitt)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Jane Fan (Edna Mae McCoy)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Karen Gao (Edna Mae McCoy)

### Piano Performance Level 7

**Gold Medal:** Cici Zhang (Harold Thompson)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Nathan Yin (Karen Laubengayer)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Lewis Park (Karen Fosheim)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** William Yingst (Edna Mae McCoy)

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**Honorable Mention:** Nicholas Gagliano (Laura Broughton)

Logan Halbert (Ruth Keyes)

Calvin Hu (Edna Mae McCoy)

Allen Huang (Janice Mesrobian)

Jesse Li (Isabella Ivshin)

Chelsea Musgrove (Marilyn Huff)

Rhyan Plumlee (Janice Mesrobian)

Elizabeth Wang (Izabella Ivshin)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** Helen Shi (Edna Mae McCoy)

Jesse Tutor (Sandy Coutoumanos)

John Tillman Thomas (Susan Gambrell)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Anna Lam (Ruth Keyes)**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Nicholas Kaltchenko (Peggy Oakes)

Sarah Maher (Rachel Heard)

Sam Stewart (Ellen Gunn)

Margaret Ann Street (Edna Mae McCoy)

Melinda Xu (Dixie M. Clark)

**Honorable Mention:** Tom Pan (Edna Mae McCoy)**Piano Performance Level 8****Gold Medal:** Joy Carino (Dixie M. Clark)**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Ben Wiggins (Ellen Y. Gunn)**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Sadie Henderson (Ellen Price Elder)**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** James Zhou (Karen Laubengayer)**Honorable Mention:** Ashley Chang (Isabella Ivshin)

Taylor Dodd (Janet Gray)

Zoe Fokakis (Pamela Finch)

Hailey Knight (Sandy Coutoumanos)

Wilson Liano (Ricki Prewitt)

Caroline Rhett (Ellen Price Elder)

Tyler Wadkins (Janet Gray)

Marina Zhou (Isabella Ivshin)

**Piano Performance Level 9****Gold Medal:** Elizabeth Liu (Rachel Heard)**Piano Performance Level 10****Gold Medal:** Joelle Young (Adrienne Park)**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Julie Laurenzo (Adrienne Park)**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Casey Park (Karen Fosheim)**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Samantha Ong (Rachel Heard)**Honorable Mention:** Yoomin Jo (Adrienne Park)

Austin Li (Karen Fosheim)

Hwanhee Park (Dixie M. Clark)

**Piano Performance Level 11****Gold Medal:** Rosalie Doerksen (Ian Hominick)**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Benny Zhang (Edna Mae McCoy/Cristina Moreland)**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Christina Vilar (Cristina Moreland)**Piano Performance Level 12****Gold Medal:** Brian Xu (Dixie M. Clark)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Ariel Cheng (Rachel Heard)  
Catherine Feng (Edna Mae McCoy)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Joshua Banks (Edna Mae McCoy)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Mary Margaret Hyer and John Baxter (Laura Broughton)  
Tristan Crockett and Michael Hankins (Ouida Thomas)

#### Piano Ensemble Division A

**Gold Medal:** Karlene Ding and Hannah Kim (Ricki Prewitt)

#### Piano Ensemble Division B

**Gold Medal:** Jane Fan, Carrie Shi, and Tracey Singer (Edna Mae McCoy)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Gloria Zhang and Carrie Shi (Edna Mae McCoy)

#### Piano Ensemble Division C

**Gold Medal:** Sadie Henderson and Caroline Rhett (Ellen Elder)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Jesse Li and Elizabeth Wang (Isabella Ivshin)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Alisha Carino and Joy Carino (Dixie M. Clark)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Kelsay Elarton and Katelyn Lott (Brenda Sullivan)

#### Piano Ensemble Division D

**Gold Medal:** Elizabeth Liu and Samantha Ong (Rachel Heard)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Micah Foster and Gabrielle Foster (Dixie M. Clark)  
Rachel Kane and Lauren Simpson (Ouida Thomas)

#### Piano Ensemble Division E

**Gold Medal:** Melinda Xu and Brian Xu (Dixie M. Clark)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Sam Stewart and Ty Stewart (Ellen Y. Gunn)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Emily Damm and Caleb Foster (Dixie M. Clark)

#### Sonata/Sonatina Division A

**Gold Medal:** Matthew Li (Isabella Ivshin)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Matthew Yin (Karen Laubengayer)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Minhye S. Park (Jung-Won Shin)

#### Sonata/Sonatina Division B

**Gold Medal:** Jane Fan (Edna Mae McCoy)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Edward Hu (Ian Hominick)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Tracey Singer (Edna Mae McCoy)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Alisha Carino (Dixie M. Clark)  
Victoria Gong (Judith Allen)  
Gloria Zhang (Edna Mae McCoy)

**Honorable Mention:** Anna Dodd (Janet Gray)  
Amy Pang (Isabella Ivshin)  
Victoria Wang (Isabella Ivshin)

#### Sonata/Sonatina Division C

**Gold Medal:** Jesse Li (Isabella Ivshin)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Ben Wiggins (Ellen Y. Gunn)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Elizabeth Wang (Isabella Ivshin)  
Kelly Xu (Rachel Heard)  
Marina Zhou (Isabella Ivshin)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:** Joy Carino (Dixie M. Clark)  
Ashley Chang (Isabella Ivshin)

**Honorable Mention:** Katelyn Lott (Brenda Sullivan)

**Sonata/Sonatina Division D****Gold Medal:** Joelle Young (Adrienne Park)**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Jesse Tutor (Sandy Coutoumanos)**Sonata/Sonatina Division E****Gold Medal:** Ariel Cheng (Rachel Heard)**Theme and Variations Division A****Gold Medal:** Gracie Bassett (Ruth Keyes)**Theme and Variations Division B****Gold Medal:** Tracey Singer (Edna Mae McCoy)**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Indu Nandula (Karen Fosheim)**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Jane Fan (Edna Mae McCoy)**Theme and Variations Division C****Gold Medal:** Kayla Shelby (Elsie A. Barnes)**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Logan Halbert (Ruth Keyes)**Theme and Variations Division D****Gold Medal:** Anna Lam (Ruth Keyes)**Theme and Variations Division E****Gold Medal:** Ty Stewart (Ellen Y. Gunn)**Vocal Performance Level 9****Gold Medal:** Donovan Barner (Shawn Morgan)**Vocal Performance Level 10****Gold Medal:** Tamela Tucker (Shawn Morgan)**Vocal Performance Level 11****Gold Medal:** Hannah Stevens (Laura Broughton)**Strings Solo Division B****Gold Medal:** Ada Fulgham (Shandy Phillips)**Strings Solo Division D****Gold Medal:** Daniel Jones (Shandy Phillips)**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Lillian Fulgham (Shandy Phillips)**Strings Solo Division F****Gold Medal:** Rosalie Doerksen (Robert Riggs)

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**High Composite Score Winners**

Piano Level 3 and below (tie) - Sam Powell (299) and Matthew Yin (299)

Piano Level 4 (tie) - Michelle Sun (398) and Edward Hu (398)

Piano Level 5 - Gloria Zhang (398)

Piano Level 6 - Tracey Singer (398)

Piano Level 7 - Jesse Li (392)

Piano Level 8 - Joy Carino (398)

Piano Level 9 - Elizabeth Liu (397)

Piano Level 10 - Joelle Young (398)

Piano Level 11 - Taide Ding (400)

Piano Level 12 - Brian Xu (393)

Strings Division B - Ada Fulgham (354)

Strings Division D - Daniel Jones (384)

Strings Division E - Angelica Maiers (357)

Strings Division F - Rosalie Doerksen (389)

**Eight-Year Outstanding Achievement Award Winners**

Dora Chen – student of Stacy Rodgers

Ariel Cheng – student of Rachel Heard

Rosalie Doerksen - student of Ian Hominick

Dustin Runnels - student of Susan Gambrell

Lauren Simpson - student of Ouida Thomas

Ty Stewart – student of Ellen Y. Gunn

Melinda Xu – student of Dixie M. Clark

Benny Zhang – student of Edna Mae McCoy/Cristina Moreland

Cici Zhang – student of Harold Thompson



Level 3 Piano Performance



Level 4 Piano Performance



Level 5 Piano Performance



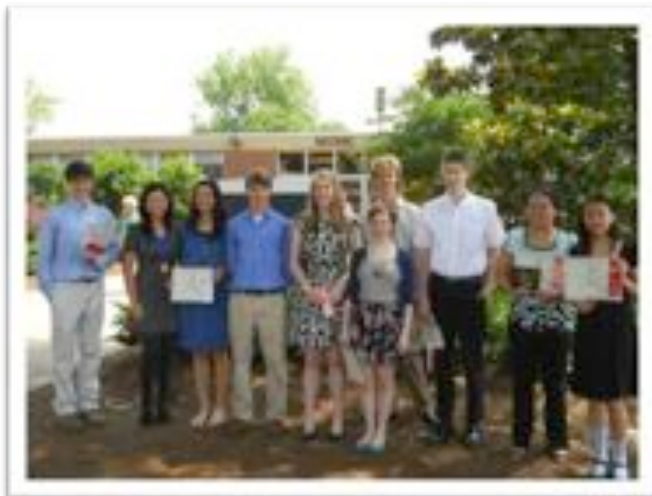
Level 6 Piano Performance



Level 7 Piano Performance



**Level 8 Piano Performance**



**Level 9 Piano Performance**



**Level 10 Piano Performance**



**Level 11 Piano Performance**



**Level 12 Piano Performance**



**Levels 9, 10, & 11 Vocal Performance**



Piano Ensemble E



Strings Levels B, D, & F



Theme and Variations D



Piano Ensemble A, B, C, & D



Piano Sonata A



Theme and Variations A, B, & C



Sonatina C



Theme and Variations E



Sonatina B



The officers and membership of Mississippi Music Teachers Association extend our congratulations to all those who participated in the 2012 Pre-College Evaluations at the local levels and to these who are honored in this Special Edition of the MMT as participants in the 2012 Pre-College Finals at The University of Mississippi in Oxford on May 5, 2012.

A special thank you to Alice Ballard, our Vice President for Pre-College Performances, for her help in putting together this edition of the MMT.

If anyone has been omitted or if any names have been misspelled, please let me know so it can be corrected.  
Congratulations to all of these wonderful music students!

Stephanie E. Holmes

226 Hillcrest Drive

Kosciusko, MS 39090

seholmes2@hotmail.com