

# MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

**Featuring pictures from the 2015 Fall Conference at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.**



WINTER 2015 VOL. 31, ISSUE 1

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## Message from the President

I am honored to serve as your MMTA President. I am already feeling the effects of the learning curve associated with this new position. And I am deeply grateful to Barbara Tracy who has helped me with my numerous questions. I hope that she will prepare for many more! MMTA is very fortunate to have had her leadership for the past two years, and I have some big shoes to fill.

A special welcome to our new officers. We are here to answer any questions that you have along the way, and to help smooth the transition as you begin your new position. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need help.

## Message from the President (continued)

I had the pleasure of attending the Southern Division competitions which were held January 16-19 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The competitions were very well organized, thanks to the Southern Division officers and staff. I monitored the Chamber Music Strings, Senior Brass, and Senior Woodwinds divisions. Because of schedule conflicts I was unable to hear any of our Mississippi competitors. But, I know that they represented Mississippi beautifully. While I was there I accompanied one of the USM saxophone students who competed in the Young Artist category. I also enjoyed seeing Carol Mahler, who was there in support of one of our high school strings competitors. I also had a chance to visit with Rachel Heard, who serves as Southern Division Senior Coordinator of Competitions, and Theresa Sanchez, who serves as one of the Southern Division official accompanists.



*Ellen Elder*

I attended the Southern Division banquet and business meeting. Dr. Jeffrey Pappas, Director of the UT-Knoxville School of Music was our guest speaker, and the University of Tennessee Flute Choir performed for us before the banquet. Each President was asked to give a report during the banquet. It was nice to meet the other Presidents from Southern Division (nine states total, including MS) and to hear about the exciting things that are happening in their respective states.

I am energized and ready to begin this new year. We look forward to the MMTA collegiate competitions which will be held on February 28 at USM. We welcome Sheri Falcone to this position. Please give her your support and encouragement, and help us to get the word out by reminding your University colleagues about this opportunity. These competitions can be a wonderful learning experience for the students and serve as preparation for the MTNA competitions in the fall. The competition application deadline is February 15. We need greater participation in our MMTA and MTNA competitions.

We also look forward to our MMTA Pre-College District Evaluations which will be held March 28 (Group B) and April 11 (Group A). The MMTA Pre-College Finals Competitions will be held May 16 at Millsaps.

Plans for the 61<sup>st</sup> MMTA State Conference are already underway. Please give your support to Alice Ballard as she begins to make preparations for the conference. She will also submit the MAC grant application on our behalf.

Thank you to all of our officers for your work. I look forward to working with you all and appreciate everything you are doing on behalf of our organization.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ellen Elder**

MMTA President

ellen@ellenelder.com

## President-Elect's Message



*Alice Ballard*

This report will combine elements of my new position as President-Elect and my old job as Vice-President for Pre-College Performances. It is a time of transition as we create a new Executive Board. Since I have been a Board member, I have found that our MMTA leaders are a warm, inviting bunch! In my first year as VP for Pre-College Performances, I wore out Ian Hominick and Ellen Elder with questions, but they were both consistently gracious in helping me. Barbara Tracy has been a vigorous president, and I admire her wisdom and generous spirit.

But, back to business! As I conclude my duties in my former position, I would like to update you on the MMTA Pre-College Concerto Competitions, which were held Saturday, November 1, 2014 during the Conference at USM. Following are statistics for the 2014 competitions: 2 entrants in Strings Concerto (2 less than in 2013); 1 entrant in Piano Elementary A and 10 in Piano Elementary B (compared to a total of 8 elementary entrants in 2013); in Junior Piano Concerto, there were 8 entrants (2 more than last year) with seven in the actual competition; in Senior Piano Concerto there were 2 entrants but unfortunately, neither entrant was able to attend the competition. It was a good, successful event. Be sure and see the listing of Concerto winners and teachers in this edition of the MMT.

I am sure that teachers all across Mississippi are preparing their students for the upcoming Pre-College Evaluations and Finals. I am happy to say, in "print," that Millsaps College in Jackson is hosting our Finals this year.

Regarding my work as President-Elect, as the Carpenters would sing.... "We've Only Just Begun"! Actually, I am still pinching myself, being surprised that I have been placed in this position. Therefore, I do not have much to report as President-Elect, except to say that the deadline for the MAC grant is approaching and taking care of it is my first order of business.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Ballard

President-Elect

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## Vice President for Membership and Web Management



*Janine Beasley*

As of January 23, 2015, 171 members are listed for the 2014-2015 year. Among these are 3 new collegiate members, 2 new collegiate members from the MTNA conference, 9 new members, 1 reinstating collegiate member (Transfer from UT), 9 reinstating members (1 status change from collegiate to active, 1 transfer from Texas, 1 transfer from North Dakota, 1 transfer from Arizona), and 1 transfer of membership from Kentucky.

Website changes:

Uploaded Winter MMT.

Added approved minutes.

Updated officer information (new officers)

Ongoing: miscellaneous updates as needed.

Continue to send mass emails to members as requested.

Updated member list with most current information; continuing to add new members as I get information. Unpaid members have been deleted.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Beasley

## Vice President for Collegiate and National Competitions



*Sheri Falcone*

Greetings MMTA members,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for electing me to serve as the new VP for Collegiate and National Competitions. I am honored by your selection and very pleased to have the opportunity to work with such great people and prestigious musicians! I hope that this year finds us as good as past years. The deadline to apply for MMTA is February 15<sup>th</sup>, which is approaching rather quickly and I would like to encourage teachers to have their students participate. We hope to get a great representation from as many programs as possible. Forms are available online under *Student Activities*, under the *College Competition Application* or *College Chamber Application*. For more detailed information about competitions please visit the MMTA website:

<http://www.msmusicteachers.org>. As the new VP this year, it has been a learning but most rewarding experience organizing such an event. I would like to give a special thanks to our past VP officer, Dr. Rosângela Sebba as well as our current President, Dr. Ellen Elder for helping me and making this transition smooth. If you have any further questions, please contact Sheri Falcone, VP for Collegiate & National Competitions at [sfalcone@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:sfalcone@colled.msstate.edu). Thank you for your continued support in MTNA and MMTA!

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri A. Falcone  
MMTA VP for Collegiate & National Competitions  
Applied Clarinet & Saxophone  
Mississippi State University  
Department of Music  
E-mail: [sfalcone@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:sfalcone@colled.msstate.edu)

## Treasurer's Report



*Chris Ballard*

As of January 1, 2015 I have taken over the duties of being the new MMTA Treasurer. I look forward to working with all of the very talented teachers and musicians in our state organization. I am particularly excited to work with such an outstanding group of MMTA officers.

As of January 24, we have \$17, 206.54 in our checking account, two certificates of deposit totaling \$18,348.24, and \$3953.18 in our PayPal account for a grand total of \$39,507.96. As I move forward in this new position and become more familiar with my responsibilities I will present more detailed reports on all of our financial matters. If any of you have questions or concerns about anything dealing with MMTA money issues please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here to serve you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Ballard

MMTA Treasurer



## Piano Area Chair



*Elizabeth Moak*

The first daffodil of the season just appeared, bringing its cheer and giving wonderful expectation of the others to follow. The piano teaching world is similar. Unlike any other time of year, the next few months will see not just a handful but the majority of piano students bringing their energies to blossom in various performances and events around the state.

For the collegiates, teachers, and anyone else coming February 28<sup>th</sup> to Southern Miss for the MMTA competitions, please let me know if I can make your stay better in any way.

For all, cheers to the burgeoning season!

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Moak  
Performance Area Chair - Piano

In our recent board meeting, Barbara Tracy presented Ellen Elder with her presidential tiara. Thank you, Barbara, for your service as MMTA president the last two years, and congratulations on your new position, Ellen!



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## Mississippi's 2015 MTNA Foundation Fellow



**Ellen Young Gunn**, NCTM, has maintained an independent piano studio in Ellisville, Mississippi, since 1959. She received her Bachelor of Music with a major in Piano Performance from Mississippi State College for Women (MSCW) in 1957. Her major professor was Dr. Sigfred Matson, a pioneer and past president of both Miss. Music Teachers Assoc. (MMTA) and Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). She received certification to teach Gifted and Talented Students in 1980 and a Master of Music Education in 1991, both from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). She taught class piano and Allied Arts classes at USM for 5 years in addition to maintaining her piano studio. She also served as church organist for more than 30 years at Ellisville First United Methodist Church.

Ellen is a charter member of the Jones County Music Teachers Association (Mississippi's first local association) and has been a member of Miss. Music Teachers Assoc. since 1964. She received her 50 year pin in 2014. She has held many state and local offices, served as adjudicator for state and local festivals in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi and given workshops to various music teachers' groups.

She was presented with an Alumnae Achievement Award from Mississippi University for Women in 2006, a Permanent Professional Certification from MTNA in 1993, a Certificate of Professional Advancement from MTNA in 1985 and a Certificate of Experience in 1964. She presently serves as Pre College Chairman for Ellisville Area MMTA Auditions and helps with various local and state events.

It is indeed an honor to be named an MTNA Foundation Fellow. I feel privileged to teach young musicians and to know a large group of fine teachers and adult performers, many of whom are close friends.

### MusicLink Foundation has a new Mississippi State Coordinator: Jeanne Evans

Perhaps you've heard of the MusicLink Foundation, a National organization which works to "link" talented yet under-privileged music students with qualified music teachers. The MusicLink Foundation supports these "links" in a variety of ways. The MusicLink Foundation has now reached its goal of connecting with 6,000 students through the generosity of teachers across the country.

**How the program works:** Students who show an interest in taking music lessons, but cannot afford full-fee lessons, are linked with qualified music teachers willing to reduce their fee by at least half to make the lessons more affordable. Because of the partnerships that MusicLink shares with businesses, participating teachers are able to take advantage of discounts on music, materials, teaching aids, electronics, software, etc. for their MusicLink students. The MusicLink Foundation offers MusicLink students \$250 Summer Music Camp Scholarships, reimburses MusicLink teachers up to \$100 per year for out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of their MusicLink students, and assists MusicLink students with getting practice instruments.

My involvement with MusicLink went the other way around – I already had students receiving discounts or full scholarships. Connecting with MusicLink gave me a way to enumerate and evaluate these students. Benefits are available for MusicLink teachers from a growing list of Business Partners, including FJH Publishing, Alfred, Bose, and many more. Once a student is listed on MusicLink, teachers submit a brief annual evaluation by means of an online form provided by the organization. No other paperwork is required. Last Spring, one of my graduating students received the National Senior Student of Excellence Award – and \$200 Cash Prize, by providing a recording of her piano and vocal performance, and writing an essay.

I have been the only teacher in Mississippi connected to MusicLink for several years. It takes very little time, and the coordinators on each level are always happy to help. I encourage you to explore this idea and connect with MusicLink, especially if you are providing at least 50% discount or more to any students. The website is [www.musiclinkfoundation.org](http://www.musiclinkfoundation.org).

If you are on Facebook, please go to the Music Link Foundation page, where you can see what's happening. Plus, you will see "yours truly," as I was named MusicLink Teacher of the Month, for January 2015!

Please feel free to email me with any questions you have. I am new at this volunteer job, but believe in the mission of MusicLink, and hope to help. Thanks! Jeanne Evans, Vicksburg Music Teachers Association, email: [ajevans88@bellsouth.net](mailto:ajevans88@bellsouth.net).



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## Affiliate News

### Hattiesburg Music Teachers League

The HMTL began the spring semester with a business meeting on January 10 at USM. Following the business meeting, a clarinet recital was presented in Marsh Auditorium by USM School of Music faculty members, Dr. Jackie McIlwain, clarinet, and Dr. Ellen Elder, piano. Included on the recital program was the world premiere of *Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano* by American composer Charles Ingram.

Student recitals will be held in the recital hall of Mississippi Music on February 7 and the MFMC District III Junior Festival will be held on February 14 at WCU. Upcoming events for late spring include the MMTA Pre-College Evaluations for Hattiesburg, the annual HMTL Spring Concert for outstanding high school students, the HMTL Summer Music Camp Scholarship auditions and additional student recitals, all scheduled for April.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Broughton, D.M.A., NCTM

HMTL President

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### MUSIC FORUM OF JACKSON

- **SONATA/SONATINA Festival was held on Saturday, November 22, 2014, Millsaps College, with 69 student participants registered.**
- **Membership enjoyed a CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON @ Anjou Restaurant in Ridgeland, Friday, December 5, 2014. A brief board meeting was held prior to our luncheon.**
- **Membership enjoyed an insightful program presented by Dr. Igor Iwanek, Friday, January 16, Municipal Art Gallery in Jackson. He examined the motives in Bach's D minor Chaconne, sharing thoughts from Albert Schweitzer & Helga Thoene.**
- **We look forward to hosting the BACH FESTIVAL, Saturday, February 14, 2015, Hinds Community College, Raymond.**

- I look forward to attending the National Conference in Las Vegas, March 21-25, 2015.
- We will host the Jackson area MMTA Evaluations on Saturday, April 11, 2015, Hinds Community College, Raymond.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sullivan

President, Music Forum of Jackson





## JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

January 24, 2015

The JCMTA annual Showcase Recital was held on Sunday, November 16, 2014. Student performers were highlighted at this event.

The JCMTA annual Solo and Sonata Competition will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2015. The competition is for students sixth through twelfth grade. 25 students are entered for this event.

JCMTA will hold its annual Ensemble Festival on February 28, 2015.

Business meetings will be held prior to the above events.

Jones County Music Teachers Association will participate in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations March 28, 2015, at Jones County Junior College.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Beasley

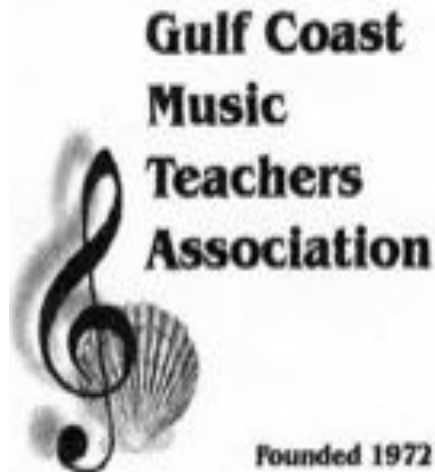
***Jones County Junior College  
Music Department***

900 S. Court St.  
Ellisville, Mississippi 39437  
(601) 477-4094

**Susan A. Smith, Chair**

<b>Mike Boyd</b> , Guitar/Music Survey	<b>Victoria Johnson</b> , Piano
<b>Jeff Brown</b> , Percussion/Music Theory	<b>Lindsey Keay</b> , Flute/Band
<b>Joel Dunlap</b> , Concert Choir	<b>Meri Newell</b> , Woodwinds
<b>Kay Guiles</b> , Piano/Organ	<b>Patrick Richards</b> , High Brass
<b>Jennifer Hart</b> , Voice/Theater	<b>Theresa Sanchez</b> , Piano/Music Literature
<b>Jonathan Helmick</b> , Low Brass/Band	<b>Susan A. Smith</b> , Voice/Theory/JC Voices
<b>Nikki Johnson</b> , Voice/Theater	<b>Gregory Wascoe</b> , Voice/Ear Training

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



The **Vicksburg Music Teachers** has kicked off a busy spring season of recitals, and we are preparing for our annual Evaluations. A recital of Sacred Music was presented on January 25, with traditional piano and vocal music for the church. The audience really appreciated the students' performances of favorites. On February 8, we presented a special recital just for the girls (since the boys had a recital around Halloween). The theme, "Music of Dreams and Disney," was light-hearted fun, with some girls dressed "as inspired by" the character's songs they sang or played. While the music of movies and theatre isn't part of the regular MMTA repertoire, we answered the request of parents and students to offer this type of theme. A recital of Ensemble music will take place on March 1, and our Evaluations are on March 28.

Vicksburg teacher, Jeanne Evans, has just accepted the volunteer position of State Coordinator for the MusicLink Foundation. Please see the article included in this issue of the MMT for more information.

Below are photos of our students at the Sacred Recital, and the Girls Recital.





Gulf Coast Music Teachers Association  
Affiliated with Mississippi Music Teachers Association  
and Music Teachers National Association  
Est. 1972

January 24, 2015

GCMTA ended year 2014 with 20 members, down from 23, with 1 member returning after several years absence. A large part of our August planning meeting was devoted to reviewing the new FTC Compliance Guideline that was received from MTNA in the Spring. Two subsequent called meetings dealt with the strong reaction many members expressed regarding the requirements of the Compliance Guideline. At the January 2015 meeting, our members expressed full confidence in the MTNA leadership's having represented our interests as independent music teachers in full-faith and diligence throughout the Consent Decree process. We are moving forward now.

Our September meeting was well-attended in anticipation of a program presented by Dr. Barbara Smith of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College – JD Campus in Gulfport. Her well-developed program entitled "Teaching Piano Students How to Memorize" was enthusiastically received.

Mississippi Music, Inc. of Biloxi again hosted GCMTA's Student Recital, which was held on October 19<sup>th</sup> this year. Twenty-three student pianists, violinists, and vocalists performed, representing the efforts of four teachers. Betty Hopkins of Ocean Springs chaired the event.

At least two GCMTA members were able to attend MMTA's Fall Conference. A week later, GCMTA held its November meeting. For the program, Dr. Stephen Redfield, violin professor at University of Southern Mississippi, conducted a violin masterclass. He was able to hear and provide instructive comments to all nine violin students who performed! These students represented three GCMTA members. Piano teachers who attended commented on the valuable teaching tips gleaned from observing Dr. Redfield work with the students. Bible Fellowship Church in Pass Christian hosted the meeting.

GCMTA returned to MGCCC-JD Campus for the January 10 meeting. GCMTA member Khara Molsbee, independent studio teacher and adjunct faculty member at JD, conducted a lovely vocal masterclass, helping four vocal students of two teachers, as well as all who were present, to understand the anatomy of tone production. We appreciate Vice-President and Program Chairman Elsie Barnes for her efforts in continuing to bring excellent programs to our group.

Upcoming events include Music Festival, chaired by Dawn Nelson, on February 28; Pre-college Evaluations, chaired by Rebekah Lipscombe, on March 28; Senior Awards Recital, chaired by Elsie Barnes, on April 27; and National Guild of Piano Teachers auditions, in May, all of which will be held at MGCCC-Jeff Davis campus in Gulfport. The year will conclude with election of officers at our Spring Luncheon, which will be held at the home of Peggy Peterson. We look forward to the opportunity to see our fellow MMTA members at State Finals!

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Mahler, GCMTA president

## 2015 Fall Conference Snapshots

### The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg





## Competition Winners



**Young Artist Woodwinds**

Daniel Backe (winner), Andrew Demolat (honorable mention), & Charles Young (alternate)

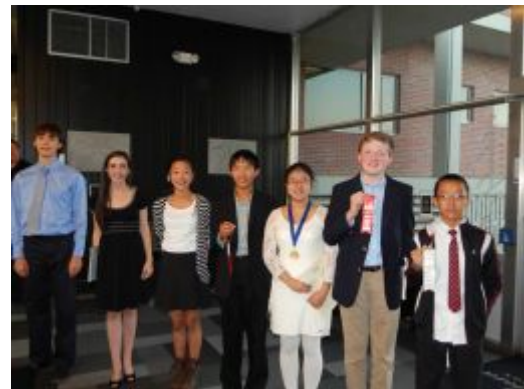


**Senior Piano Performance**

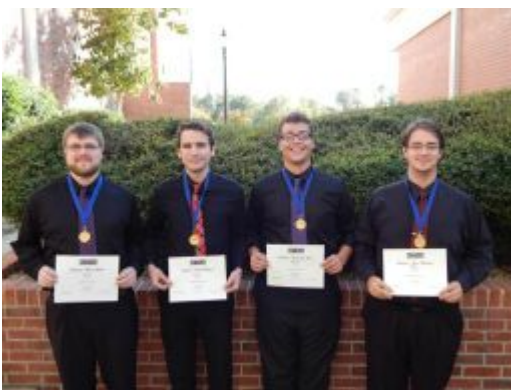
Jesse Li (winner), Kryshun Chaffin (honorable mention), Gabriella Loiacano (alternate), & Christopher Cunningham (honorable mention)



**Elementary Piano Concerto Participants**



**Junior Piano Concerto Participants**



**Chamber Music Wind Winners**

**Esthetics**



**Elementary and Senior Strings Concerto**

**Winners Edmund Doerksen and Daniel Truitt Jones**



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



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# MISSISSIPPI MTNA COMPETITIONS

## **MTNA CHAMBER MUSIC WIND**

Winner: Esthetics

Alternate: Electric Boogaloo

Honorable Mention: Aaru Quintet

## **MTNA YOUNG ARTIST WOODWIND**

Winner: Daniel Backe

Alternate: Charles Young

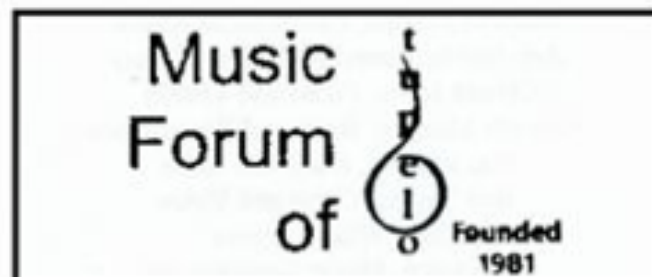
Honorable Mention: Andrew Demolat

## **SENIOR PIANO PERFORMANCE**

Winner: Jesse Li

Alternate: Gabriella Loiacano

Honorable Mention: Kryshun Chaffin and Christopher Cunningham



## Pre-College Concerto Competition Winners

November 1, 2014

### Elementary A Piano Concerto

Gold Medalist: Claire Rhee, student of Katie Wallace

### Elementary B Piano Concerto

Gold Medalist: Jiyoung Seo, student of Jung-Won Shin

1st Alternate: Madeleine Yu, student of Ellen Elder

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate: Christina Nicole Danford, student of Ellen Elder

### Junior Piano Concerto

Gold Medalist: Calendula Y. Cheng, student of Ian Hominick

1st Alternate (tie): Caleb Owens, student of Jung-Won Shin

Edward Yang Hu, student of Ian Hominick

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate: Kevin Miao, student of Ellen Elder

### Elementary Strings Concerto

Gold Medalist: Edmund Doerksen, cello, student of Sue Gaston

### Senior Strings Concerto

Gold Medalist: Daniel Truitt Jones, violin, student of Christopher Thompson

## Mark Your Calendar

**March 21-25, 2015 - 2015 MTNA Conference, Las Vegas, NV**

**March 28, 2015 - Pre-College District Evaluations, Group B (Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Oxford, and Vicksburg)**

**April 11, 2015 - Pre-College District Evaluations, Group A (Goodman, Gulf Coast, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian, and Tupelo)**

**April 18, 2015 -- MVSU Piano Festival, Itta Bena, MS**

**May 16, 2015- MMTA Pre-College Finals, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS**

*Do you have an event you would like to be placed in the Mississippi Music Teacher? Contact Stephanie Holmes at [sholmes057@gmail.com](mailto:sholmes057@gmail.com).*

*Membership in Mississippi Music Teachers Association is open to individuals professionally engaged in any field of musical activity. Since MMTA is a state affiliate of Music Teachers National Association, all membership is handled through national headquarters. Please check the MTNA website <http://www.mtna.org/home.htm> or the MMTA VP for Membership for membership information or application forms.*



# PIANO DISCOVERIES 2015

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**<http://msmusicteachers.org>**

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ADVERTISING: Limited advertising space is available for firms or individuals who have a product or service of specific interest or benefit to MMTA members. All correspondence regarding advertising should be sent to the VP for Public Relations.

**YEARLY ADVERTISING RATES (size in inches)**

2 ¼ x 1	\$70	2 ¼ x 2 ¼	\$120
2 ¼ x 4 5/8	\$170	2 ¼ x 7	\$240
4 5/8 x 4 5/8	\$275	4 5/8 x 7 (half page)	\$500
	7 x 9 ¼ (full page)		\$900

Conference printed edition ads can be purchased for that one edition for 1/3 of the above prices.

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## MMTA Officers

**President**

Ellen Price Elder  
261 Timberton Dr.  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Phone: 601-467-9745  
[ellen@ellenelder.com](mailto:ellen@ellenelder.com)

**President Elect**

Alice Ballard  
Hinds Community College  
P.O. Box 1100  
Raymond, MS 39154  
Phone: 769-226-7038  
Work: 601-857-3528  
[Alice.Ballard@hindsc.edu](mailto:Alice.Ballard@hindsc.edu)

**Immediate Past President**

Barbara Tracy  
617 Holly Ridge Drive  
Vicksburg, MS 39180  
Phone: 601-638-6453  
[barbara9872@att.net](mailto:barbara9872@att.net)

**VP for Membership & Web Management**

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

**VP for Collegiate & National Competitions**

Sheri Falcone  
116 Poplar Road  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Phone: 601-467-9745  
Work: 601-318-6179  
[ellen@ellenelder.com](mailto:ellen@ellenelder.com)

**VP for Pre-College Performances****VP for Pre-College Evaluations**

Dixie Lawson  
29 Scarlett St.  
Purvis, MS 39475  
Phone: 601-268-6216  
[capriccio1@gmail.com](mailto:capriccio1@gmail.com)

**VP for Public Relations (Newsletter Editor)**

Stephanie Holmes  
226 Hillcrest Drive  
Kosciusko, MS 39090  
Phone: 662-417-1390  
[sholmes057@gmail.com](mailto:sholmes057@gmail.com)

**Secretary**

Yvonne Young-McGrath  
753 Canterbury Dr  
Biloxi, MS 39532-4303  
Phone: 228-617-9127  
[mcmomx4@hotmail.com](mailto:mcmomx4@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Chris Ballard  
220 Devenport Circle  
Raymond, MS 39154  
[gifblue@yahoo.com](mailto:gifblue@yahoo.com)

**Appointed Officers****Chair of Theory & Composition**

Benjamin Williams  
1221 Cliffdale Dr  
Clinton, MS 39056  
Phone: 601-925-7739  
[benwilliams@mc.edu](mailto:benwilliams@mc.edu)

**Chair of Independent Music Teachers Forum**

Victoria Johnson  
900 South Court Street  
Ellisville, MS 39437  
Phone: 601-477-2674  
[victoria.johnson@jcc.edu](mailto:victoria.johnson@jcc.edu)

**Chair of College Faculty Forum**

Angela Willoughby  
100 Murial St  
Clinton, MS 39056  
Phone: 601-906-8040  
[willough@mc.edu](mailto:willough@mc.edu)

**Chair of Certification**

Jacquelyn Thornell  
5929 Lake Trace Circle  
Jackson, MS 39211  
Phone: 601-952-0060  
[jsthornell@bellsouth.net](mailto:jsthornell@bellsouth.net)

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**Performance Area Chairs****Brass**

Douglas Mark  
Delta State University  
Department of Music  
PO Box 3256  
Cleveland, MS 38733  
Phone: 662-846-4607  
[dmark@deltastate.edu](mailto:dmark@deltastate.edu)

**Chamber Music/Jazz**

Jung-Won Shin  
Delta State University  
Department of Music  
PO Box 3256  
Cleveland, MS 38733  
Phone: 662-846-4123  
[jshin@deltastate.edu](mailto:jshin@deltastate.edu)

**Guitar**

Michael Patilla  
Mississippi State University  
Dept. of Music  
P.O. Box 6240  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
Phone: 662-325-2866  
[guitar@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:guitar@colled.msstate.edu)

**Piano**

Elizabeth Moak  
609 Woodbine Lane  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
Phone: 601-268-5524  
[elizabeth.moak@usm.edu](mailto:elizabeth.moak@usm.edu)

**Strings**

Alexander Russakovsky  
University of Southern  
Mississippi  
School of Music  
118 College Drive, # 5081  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406  
Phone: 601-266 6851  
[arussakovsky@hotmail.com](mailto:arussakovsky@hotmail.com)

**Voice**

Phyllis Lewis-Hale  
Jackson State University  
Department of Music  
P.O. Box 17055  
Jackson, MS 39217  
Phone: 601-979-2984  
[phyllis.lewis-hale@jsums.edu](mailto:phyllis.lewis-hale@jsums.edu)

**Woodwinds**

Shelley Collins  
Delta State University  
Department of Music  
PO Box 3256  
Cleveland, MS 38733  
Phone: 662-846-4617  
[scollins@deltastate.edu](mailto:scollins@deltastate.edu)

**Collaborative Arts**

Theresa Sanchez, NCTM  
907 N 34th Ave  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Phone: 601-271-8700  
[theresa.sanchez@jcc.edu](mailto:theresa.sanchez@jcc.edu)

**Local Affiliates****Golden Triangle Music Forum**

Katie Wallace  
1223 Meadowlark Dr.  
Starkville, MS 39759  
Phone: 662-341-5117  
[wallacepiano5@gmail.com](mailto:wallacepiano5@gmail.com)

**Gulf Coast MTA**

Carol Mahler  
9428 Hidden Acres Road  
Pass Christian, MS 39571  
Phone: 228-586-1879  
[jmdoc@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmdoc@bellsouth.net)

**Hattiesburg Music Teachers League**

Laura Broughton  
29 Park Place, Apt. 1101  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
Phone: 601-441-1248  
[drlaurab@comcast.net](mailto:drlaurab@comcast.net)

**Jones County MTA**

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

**Music Forum of Jackson**

Brenda Sullivan  
123 Summit Ridge  
Brandon, MS 39042  
Phone: 601-824-1301  
[brendaasullivan@bellsouth.net](mailto:brendaasullivan@bellsouth.net)

**Music Forum of Tupelo**

L. Darwin Brooks  
115 Locust Hill Rd.  
Belden, MS 38826  
Phone: 662-842-0673  
[dbrooks@network-one.com](mailto:dbrooks@network-one.com)

**Vicksburg MTA**

Jeanne Evans  
3140 Drummond St  
Vicksburg, MS 39180-4912  
Phone: 601-634-0826  
[ajevans88@bellsouth.net](mailto:ajevans88@bellsouth.net)

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## From the MMT Editor

As I sit here and listen to the rain while finishing up this edition of the *MMT*, I can't help but be grateful that I serve as the editor of this newsletter. I have the honor of reading all of your news before anyone else does. It's been a joy getting to work alongside my teaching colleagues from around our great state, and I look forward to continuing with my position the next two years.

If there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Holmes  
[sholmes057@gmail.com](mailto:sholmes057@gmail.com)



*Stephanie Holmes*

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## MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

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Stephanie Holmes, editor

226 Hillcrest Drive  
Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090



*Mississippi Music Teachers Association*

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*The purpose and goals of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association are to further the art of music, and promote the growth and professional development of its members by providing programs that encourage and support teaching, performance, composition and research. MMTA is a not-for-profit organization whose funds are used solely to accomplish these objectives.*