
MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

MMTA Pre-College Finals
Millsaps College • May 16, 2015

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.



Taylor Dodd



Gabrielle Foster



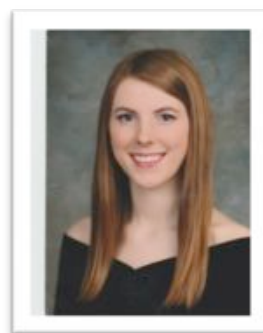
Jesse Li



Alexis Sibley



Sam Stewart



Margaret Ann Street

BIOGRAPHIES OF EIGHT YEAR STUDENTS

Taylor Dodd, a piano student of Janet D. Gray, is a junior from Corinth, Mississippi. Her parents are Will and Jeana Dodd, also of Corinth. She has been playing the piano for nine years and plays and signs in a church praise band. Taylor has attended piano camp at Mississippi College for two years and was also awarded scholarships both years. She is a nine-year superior national winner at auditions help by the American College of Musicians.

Taylor is a member of the Eagle Home School Group and enjoys playing on the Varsity Volleyball team. As a member of Oakland Baptist Church, Taylor is active in the youth group, choir and Worship Praise Band. Taylor's future plans include continuing her piano studies while attending Northeast Community College after high school graduation.

Gabrielle Foster, 17, is the daughter of Stephen and Joeann Foster of Starkville, Mississippi and the eldest of nine siblings. She is currently in the 11th grade and has been homeschooled since kindergarten.

Gabrielle took piano from the late Ms. Dixie Sue Clark for her initial eight years of lessons before transferring to Ms. Edna Mae McCoy. She was the 8th grade Gold Medalist in 2010. Gabrielle has been a part of the local Golden Triangle Junior Music Club serving in various offices each year.

Gabrielle enjoys playing volleyball for Starkville Christian Home Educators, swimming, skating, and is an avid reader. She plays the piano for weddings and events as needed. She also enjoys cooking desserts, spending time with her family and friends, and going on annual campouts. Her future plans include attending a local college and pursuing her love of music, perhaps as a teacher.

Gabrielle's favorite Bible verses are: Hebrews 12:1-2a—

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith....

Jesse Li is the son of Yadong and Lei Li. He is a rising junior at Madison Central High School. He has studied piano for ten years with Mrs. Isabella Ivshin and is currently taking piano lessons from Dr. Rachel Heard.

Jesse has qualified for the MMTA Pre-College Finals every year since he first entered the competition in 2007. He has won gold medals for Solo Performance, Sonata/Sonatina, and Ensemble Divisions. He has also participated in the Bach Festival and the Sonata/Sonatina Festival.

At Madison Central High School, Jesse plays keyboard for the band. He is a member of Mu Alpha Theta Club, Beta Club, and Ultimate Frisbee Club. Outside of school, Jesse

enjoys reading and playing frisbee. In addition, Jesse regularly plays piano for the worship service of the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Jackson.

Alexis “Lexi” Sibley is the 13 year old daughter of Travis and Dianne Sibley of Brandon, Mississippi. She began taking piano lessons at the age of five under Susan Gambrell of Vicksburg, MS. Lexi has performed in numerous recitals each year, and has used her talents in other venues such as church services, weddings, and nursing homes. She has participated in the MMTA Pre-College Finals for eight years with high composite scores every year. In 2013, Lexi won second place in the State MMTA Competition in Piano Performance. At a young age, she had the privilege to play for the gifted pianist, Dino Kartsonakis.

Lexi is an 8th grader and has been homeschooled since preschool. She is a member of the IMPACT Homeschool group where she participates in missions and other projects. She is an active member of Pinelake Church in Brandon. Lexi has a passion for serving and leading. She leads a 2nd grade Sunday School Class and takes every opportunity she is given to step up and lead. Her love for God, family, and friends, is contagious.

Sam Stewart, 18, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, is the son of Kerry Stewart and Kru Fairey. Sam began his piano studies with Ms. Lorrie Stringer in 2003 and transferred to Ms. Ellen Gunn in 2006. Sam has received Superior ratings and awards in the Annual Regional Bach Festival, the Jones County Solo-Sonata Festival, the Mississippi Music Teachers Association Ensemble Festival, and the MMTA Pre-College State Finals.

Sam has received numerous awards for swimming including the Mississippi Swimming Most Outstanding Senior Swimmer, the USA Swimming Scholastic All-American, and an Olympic Trial Qualifier for 2016. In addition, Sam has received an athletic scholarship in swimming to attend Auburn University.

In 2013, Sam was a National Peace Essay Contest Finalist and received a scholarship award that included a trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in a week-long simulation and workshop. His essay topic was *Gender and Peacebuilding*.

Sam was also awarded the black belt in the Purple Dragon Don-Jitsu Ryu in 2012. He has been a member of the YMCA Hub Fins Swim Team since 2003 and served as Captain of the Team during 2014-2015.

Margaret Ann Street, 18, of Columbus, Mississippi, is the daughter of Russell and Donna Street. Margaret Ann began her piano study with Mrs. Frankie Harpole in 2004 and is currently studying with Ms. Edna Mae McCoy. She has participated in the Baptist Keyboard Festival for ten years, the NFMF Festival for eleven years, and the MMTA District Evaluations for nine years. Margaret Ann has earned the large Gold

Cups in hymns, solos, and theory for the NFMC Festival. She is a member of Fairview Baptist Church in Columbus and participates in both youth and adult handbell choirs.

Margaret Ann is a senior at Heritage Academy in Columbus, where she is an honors student. She has earned the highest cumulative average in her grade for the past five years. She has recently been named STAR Student, earning the highest ACT score at Heritage Academy. She is a member of the National Honor Society, National Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, and Quill and Scroll. She has been a member of the Robotics Team for the past three years. Margaret Ann was appointed Yearbook Editor in 2013. This fall she will be attending the University of Mississippi in Oxford, where she has been accepted into the Early Entry Pharmacy Program and the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

Congratulations to these students!

PRE-COLLEGE FINALS WINNERS - 2015

Piano Performance Level 3 and below

Gold Medal:

Claire Rhee (Katie Wallace)

2nd Place:

Sarah Kim (Edna Mae McCoy)

Gabrielle Sun (Janice Mesrobian)

3rd Place:

Jaclynn Park (Katie Wallace)

4th Place:

Will Bassett (Ruth Keyes)

Honorable Mention:

Jade Agler (Carol Mahler)

Allie Dodd (Janet Gray)

Andy Lu (Kay Johnson)

Virginia Powell (Laura Broughton)

Piano Performance Level 4

Gold Medal:

Yolanda Tian (Janice Mesrobian)

2nd Place:

Christina Glover (Annette Joe)

Leo Mei (Jacquelyn Thornell)

Minhye Park (Jung-Won Shin)

3rd Place:

Vivek Nagarajan (Edna Mae McCoy)

Isabella Ngai (Rachel Heard)

4th Place:

Ishan Datta (Stacy Rodgers)

Richard Li (Isabella Ivshin)

Richard Zheng (Carol Durham)

Honorable Mention:

Grace Douglas (Janine Beasley)

Katye Freeman (Janine Beasley)

Samuel Han (Isabella Ivshin)

Beau Hinton (Janice Mesrobian)

Rae McGregor (Annette Joe)

Piano Performance Level 5

Gold Medal:

Sam Powell (Laura Broughton)

Christina Danford (Ellen Elder)

2nd Place:

Jaren Lee (Edna Mae McCoy)

3rd Place:

Hannah Kim (Edna Mae McCoy)

4th Place:

Ian Zhang (Katie Wallace)

Honorable Mention:

Raymond Huang (Debbie Barnes)

Piano Performance Level 6**Gold Medal:**

Matthew Li (Rachel Heard)

2nd Place:

Edmund Doerksen (Ian Hominick)

Max Zhang (Ellen Elder)

3rd Place:

Karlene Deng (Katie Wallace)

Madeleine Yu (Ellen Elder)

4th Place:

Jiyoung Seo (Jung-Won Shin)

Matthew Yin (Karen Laubengayer)

Piano Performance Level 7**Gold Medal:**

Edward Hu (Ian Hominick)

2nd Place:

Sam Gaines (Donna Reed)

3rd Place:

Jacob Runnels (Susan Gambrell)

4th Place:

Kevin Miao (Ellen Elder)

Izak Hanson (Karen Murphy)

Honorable Mention:

Carter Elliott (Carolina Whitfield-Smith)

Michelle Sun (Janice Mesrobian)

Wil Estes (Marilyn Huff)

Alexandria Deans (Carolina Whitfield-Smith)

Victoria Wang (Isabella Ivshin)

Jackson Creel (Laura Broughton)

Victor Yen (Rachel Heard)

Phoebe Xu (Rachel Heard)

Gabriella Sutherland (Jacquelyn Thornell)

Piano Performance Level 8**Gold Medal:**

Caleb Owens (Jung-Won Shin)

2nd Place:

Lori Feng (Katie Wallace)

Victoria Gong (Judith Allen)

3rd Place:

Gloria Zhang (Edna Mae McCoy)

4th Place:

Lexi Sibley (Susan Gambrell)

Piano Performance Level 9**Gold Medal:**

Calendula Cheng (Ian Hominick)

2nd Place

Julia Jia (Annette Joe)

3rd Place:

Julianna Hinton (Susan Fairchild)

Steven Chung (Isabella Ivshin)

4th Place:

Tamjeed Azad (Ian Hominick)

2nd Place:

John Thomas (Susan Gambrell)

Piano Performance Level 10**Gold Medal:**

Jesse Li (Rachel Heard)

2nd Place:

Nathan Yin (Karen Laubengayer)

3rd Place:

Jim Yen (Rachel Heard)

Piano Ensemble Division A**Gold Medal:**

Will Bassett and Lilly Faith Bassett (Ruth Keyes)

2nd Place:

Mia Grace Huff and Baily Walker (Marilyn Huff)

Piano Performance Level 11**Gold Medal:**

Joy Carino (Valentin Bogdan)

2nd Place:

Caroline Rhett (Ellen Elder)

3rd Place:

Sadie Henderson (Ellen Elder)

Kryshun Chaffin (Carolina Whitfield-Smith)

4th Place:

James Zhou (Karen Laubengayer)

Piano Ensemble Division B**Gold Medal:**

Brett Johnson and Brice Johnson (Marilyn Huff)

2nd Place:

Jade Agler and Joseph Agler (Carol Mahler)

Lucy Mellen and Madeleine Yu (Ellen Elder)

3rd Place:

Anna Myers and Emily Valentine (Marilyn Huff)

Piano Performance Level 12**Gold Medal:**

Gabriella Loiacano (Carol Mahler)

Piano Ensemble Division C**Gold Medal:**

Karlene Deng and Lori Feng (Katie Wallace)

2nd Place:

Nia Jasper and Madison Ridgeway (Marilyn Huff)

3rd Place:

Wil Estes and Aaron Schauer (Marilyn Huff)

4th Place:

David Barnes and Derick Taylor (Elsie Barnes)

Piano Ensemble Division D**Gold Medal:**

Lindsey Simpson and Samantha Simpson (Janet Gray)

2nd Place:

Jesse Li and Matthew Li (Rachel Heard)

Piano Ensemble Division E**Gold Medal:**

Jacob Runnels and John Thomas (Susan Gambrell)

Sonata/Sonatina Division A**Gold Medal:**

Gabrielle Sun (Janice Mesrobian)

2nd Place:

David Brett (Janice Mesrobian)

Jade Agler (Carol Mahler)

Sonata/Sonatina Division B**Gold Medal:**

Edmund Doerksen (Ian Hominick)

2nd Place:

Matthew Li (Rachel Heard)

Hannah Kim (Edna Mae McCoy)

3rd Place:

Joseph Agler (Carol Mahler)

4th Place:

Laura Simpson (Janet Gray)

Ian Marks (Ellen Gunn)

Honorable Mention:

Reese Plumlee (Janice Mesrobian)

Kinley Hogue (Ellen Gunn)

Sonata/Sonatina Division C**Gold Medal:**

Victoria Gong (Judith Allen)

2nd Place:

Edward Hu (Ian Hominick)

Sonata/Sonatina Division D**Gold Medal:**

Jesse Li (Rachel Heard)

2nd Place:

Julia Jia (Annette Joe)

3rd Place:

Nathan Yin (Karen Laubengayer)

Sonata/Sonatina Division E

Gold Medal:

Katelyn Lott (Brenda Sullivan)

Theme and Variations Division B

Gold Medal:

Gracie Bassett (Ruth Keyes)

2nd Place:

Alex Roberson (Jacquelyn Thornell)

Theme and Variations Division C

Gold Medal:

Gloria Zhang (Edna Mae McCoy)

2nd Place:

Michelle Sun (Janice Mesrobian)

3rd Place:

Grace Miller (Ruth Keyes)

Theme and Variations Division D

Gold Medal:

Emma Adkins (Ruth Keyes)

Theme and Variations Division E

Gold Medal:

Ashley Chang (Rachel Heard)

2nd Place:

Elijah Allen (Elsie Barnes)

3rd Place:

Ashton Gage (Elsie Barnes)

4th Place:

Caleb Shelby (Elsie Barnes)

Vocal Performance Level 9

Gold Medal:

Raphael Barner (Shawn Morgan)

2nd Place:

Perry Leffler (Shawn Morgan)

Vocal Performance Level 10

Gold Medal:

Angel Graham (Shawn Morgan)

Vocal Performance Level 11

Gold Medal:

Takira Dixon (Shawn Morgan)

Vocal Performance Level 12

Gold Medal:

Donovan Barner (Shawn Morgan)

Strings Solo Division A

Gold Medal:

Joseph Sun (Gail Fox)

2nd Place:

Jade Agler (Carol Mahler)

Kate Lansford (Carol Mahler)

Strings Solo Division B

Gold Medal:

Yolanda Tian (Gail Fox)

2nd Place:

Ella Lansford (Carol Mahler)

Strings Ensemble Division B

Gold Medal:

Kate Lansford and Ella Lansford (Carol Mahler)

*Congratulations to these
students!*

MMTA

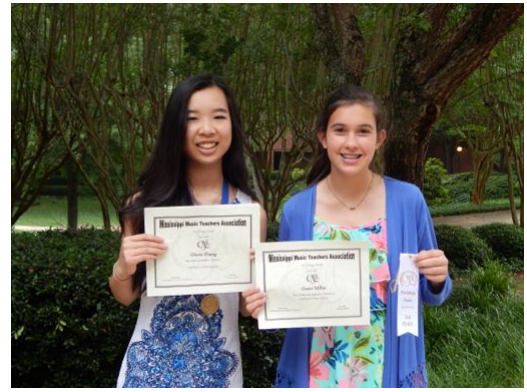
HIGHEST COMPOSITE SCORE

2015

Level	Student	Teacher	Score
Piano: Level 3 & Below	Erin Eastlack	Carol Mahler	299
Piano: Level 4	Richard Zheng	Carol Durham	397
Piano: Level 5	Sam Powell	Laura Broughton	399
Piano: Level 6	Max Zhang	Ellen Elder	397
Piano: Level 7	Jacob Runnels	Susan Gambrell	396
Piano: Level 8	Victoria Gong	Judith Allen	397
Piano: Level 9	Steven Chung	Isabella Ivshin	394
Piano: Level 10	Lewis Park	Karen Fosheim	394
Piano: Level 11	Sadie Henderson	Ellen Elder	395
Piano: Level 12	Gabriella Loiacano	Carol Mahler	389
Piano: Level 12	Sarah Maher	Rachel Heard	389
Strings: Division B	Yolanda Tian	Gail Fox	400
Strings: Division F	Daniel Jones	Christopher Thompson	398



Piano Ensemble C



Theme and Variations C



Piano Level 9



Piano Level 5



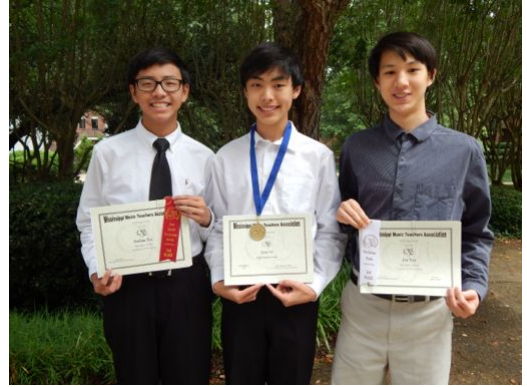
Strings A & B



Strings A & B



Piano Ensemble A



Piano Level 10



Piano Level 3



Sonata/Sonatina B



Piano Ensemble D



Theme & Variations B



Piano Level 7



Vocal 9, 10, 11, & 12



Piano Level 8



Sonata/Sonatina A



Theme & Variations D



Piano Level 4



Piano Level 12



Piano Level 6



Sonata/Sonatina C



Sonata/Sonatina D



Piano Ensemble B



Piano Level 11



Piano Ensemble E



Sonata/Sonatina E



Theme and Variations E



The officers and membership of Mississippi Music Teachers Association extend our congratulations to all those who participated in the 2015 Pre-College Evaluations at the local levels and to those who are honored in this Special Edition of the MMT as participants in the 2015 Pre-College Finals at Millsaps College in Jackson on May 16, 2015.

A special thank you to Karen Murphy, 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!

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