

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Featuring Pictures from the 2015 MMTA
Collegiate Competitions

**Plan to attend our 2015 Conference
November 6-7 at Mississippi
College in Clinton.**

Message from the President

Hello everyone! I hope you are all enjoying your summer break and able to enjoy some down time with friends and loved ones.

This spring has been busy but very rewarding. I had the opportunity to attend and monitor the MMTA Collegiate Competitions held on February 28 at USM. Special thanks to Sheri Falcone who did an excellent job with this event and took care of every detail. The students who competed were very gracious and seemed to enjoy and benefit from the experience. Everything flowed smoothly thanks to Sheri's hard work in preparation for this event. Once again this year we had to combine several students into one category so that we could hold the competitions. This is not ideal, and we need to work to improve our competition numbers.

I had a wonderful time at the MTNA Conference in Las Vegas. It was my first trip to Vegas. I enjoyed reconnecting with several former professors as well as graduate school friends. I had the opportunity to attend portions of the Senior and Collegiate Artist piano competitions as well as the Canadian Brass concert which were all outstanding. I also enjoyed attending the Gala Banquet, where I was invited to sit at the South Dakota table! I was honored to accept the Foundation Fellow Award on behalf of Ellen Gunn who was unable to attend. It wasn't until my last official night in Vegas that I was able to do a little sightseeing. I ran into my friend from New York at the Gala who is a Yamaha recording artist. Her Yamaha entourage were very gracious and took both of us to the Bellagio fountains--the true Vegas experience! Mississippi contributed a \$50 gift card

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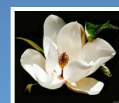
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Message from the President (continued)

to the Indianola Pecan Factory for the State Pride Raffle, and we received a nice thank you note from the winner of that raffle. I also attended the Southern Division Business Meeting and reception where I gave the President's Report for our state.

Our spring Pre-College Evaluations were held on May 16 and were a great success. Special thanks to Karen Murphy for her hard work in preparation for this event. She did a wonderful job and the day went off without a hitch. A special thank you to Alice Ballard who stepped in to serve as Karen's proxy on that day. Thanks also to Rachel Heard and the faculty and staff of Millsaps College who served as our gracious hosts. Congratulations to all of the students who competed and to the parents who supported them! A special thank you to all of the district chairs and teachers who helped organize the district evaluations and to Dixie Lawson who provided the materials and organization for each of the evaluations.



Ellen Elder

A special thank you to our new officers who have done wonderful work in transitioning into their new roles this spring. I appreciate you all! I look forward to our 61st annual conference this November. Alice Ballard has done a wonderful job in preparation for this event and I know that you will make plans to attend and invite a friend!

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Elder

MMTA President
ellen@ellenelder.com

President-Elect's Message



Alice Ballard

Since I had the opportunity to be “Karen Murphy for the day” at the Pre-College Finals, I would like to thank several people, in particular. Karen had to miss the culmination of all her dedicated work, due to a prior commitment at MSU. It was easy to step in on Finals day because of her expert planning and preparation, and because of Rachel Heard’s generous gift of time in preparing Millsaps for the competitions. Although Karen will be extending thanks in her report, I would like to keep thanking, too! We were fortunate to have a variety of student helpers, such as Rachel Heard’s daughter Gillian and Gillian’s friend Emma. From Hinds

CC, Beau French volunteered his day. Formerly from Hinds and currently from Belhaven, Susan Smallwood came to serve all day, too. Ruth Keyes and Brenda Sullivan kept us all comfortable and well-fed with lunch and hospitality generously provided by the Music Forum of Jackson. In the workroom, we sincerely missed Carolina Whitfield-Smith, who was ill on Finals day. Jacquelyn Thornell, Edna Mae McCoy, Dixie Lawson and Brenda Sullivan served faithfully. Carol Durham brought her personal computer and printer for use in the workroom and typed all day. Our President, Ellen Elder was onsite every moment, running awards along with Stephanie Holmes, photographer. The successes of the day came about because of everyone’s hard work!

Our 2015 MMTA Conference will be November 6-7 at Mississippi College in Clinton. We have the rare treat to have two conference recital artists, Kyoung and Won Cho. Kyoung Cho is an internationally acclaimed Korean soprano with many solo appearances in Europe to her credit. Dr. Cho is a faculty member at the University of South Florida. Korean-Canadian Bass Won Cho has directed and produced over 30 operas and opera scenes and he currently serves as Assistant Professor of Voice at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The Cho concert is free and open to the public, and will take place Friday, November 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Aven Hall. I appreciate Phyllis Lewis-Hale’s work in securing these fine guest artists.

Our guest piano clinician is Melody Bober, who has become a household name in the United States for her motivational piano compositions. Our commissioned composer is one of our own members, Valentin Bogdan. He will write a piece, most likely for cello and piano, to be premiered Friday afternoon. Dr. Bogdan currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music at Mississippi University for Women. Dr. Susanna Garcia, Coordinator of Keyboard at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette will be our IMTF luncheon speaker and will judge the pre-college piano concerto competition. Thank you, Ellen Elder and Victoria Johnson for securing the commissioned composer and IMTF speaker for this year’s conference!

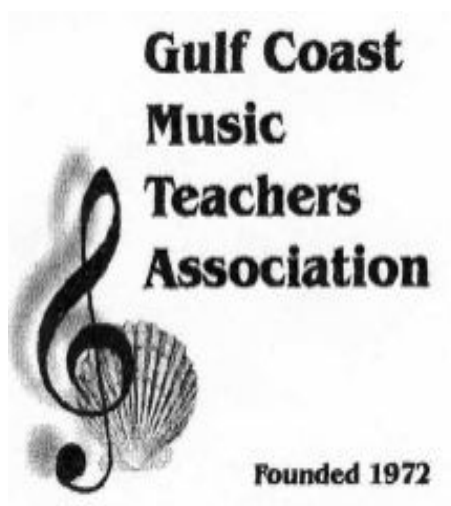
Ellen Elder and Stephanie Holmes helped me a great deal as I prepared to submit the MAC Grant. They shared video and pictures of many of the 2014 conference sessions and concerts, which Chris Ballard and I used to create a summary DVD for inclusion with our 2015 MAC grant request. This request for \$5000 was submitted on March 1 and I am awaiting word on the MAC review committee's decision.

The conference committee met June 3 to plan for the November conference. We want to include events relevant to our colleagues who specialize in areas other than piano. Another goal is to have as many members and interested non-members attend as possible, to share MMTA's musical offerings throughout the community and state.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Ballard

MMTA President-Elect



Vice President for Pre-College Performances

As I think about this past Pre-College State Finals I would like to share a quote by Johann Sebastian Bach: *I was obliged to be industrious. Whoever is equally industrious will succeed equally well.* An interesting comment and perhaps not one you would expect from a genius of a composer! In thinking about MMTA State Finals, the success of this event was certainly due in part to the hard work of the student performers and dedicated MMTA members. For me, it was an amazing event to coordinate. I have lived in several states, and MMTA's State Finals is one of the finest pre-college events I have experienced.



Karen Murphy

The State Finals event was held at Millsaps College on May 16 with over 300 eligible student entries; 219 High Composite Score winners; six Outstanding Achievement Award winners; and 55 participating teachers. Many families came to support and encourage their performing children.

The success of the event would not have happened without the help of certain individuals: Dr. Rachel Heard - Facilities Coordinator for Millsaps; Alice Ballard - helped in my absence on the day of Finals as well as securing all judges; Dr. Ellen Elder - Awards Presenter; the Jackson Music Forum for Hospitality; Brenda Sullivan - Lunch Coordinator; Stephanie Holmes - Photographer and all the many teacher and student workers who helped with duties in recital rooms, the workroom, at the information table and in making themselves available to guests who might have various questions or specific needs. We were also fortunate to have Amro Music of Memphis donate two Boston grand pianos for the day's performances.

Next year, Pre-College State Finals will be held on May 21 at the University of Mississippi, Oxford. Also, we will be trying something new with the recital performance order. In 2016 all recitals will be in A-Z performance order. Then in 2017, all recitals will be reversed to Z-A performance order. This unified change will simplify scheduling and the typing of the Program Booklet! In addition, the State Finals Recital Schedule will be made available on the MMTA website so that everyone can view this important information at their convenience.

With this being my first year coordinating State Finals, I would personally like to thank those who offered information and suggestions including the District Chairs who got all their paperwork to me so quickly after Evaluations! I also owe a great deal to Alice Ballard for her assistance throughout the past several months; she was invaluable!

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy, NCTM

Vice-President for Pre-College Performances

Vice President for Pre-College Evaluations



Dixie Lawson

The 2015 Pre-College Evaluations were held March 28 and April 11, 2014. 407 students participated and 270 of those students qualified for the state finals held May 16 at Millsaps. Across the state, there were 371 piano students, 12 strings students, 14 voice students. Evaluations seemed to go smoothly at all venues and many thanks to all the teachers, judges and parent volunteers who made this possible.

Looking forward to next year, since Easter falls on March 27, 2016, I believe the following should be the dates for next year's evaluations, according to the syllabus:

April 2, 2016 Group A: Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian and Tupelo, and

April 9, 2016 Group B: Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Oxford, and Vicksburg.

Respectfully submitted,
Dixie Lawson

Jones County Junior College Music Department

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Ellisville, Mississippi 39437
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Susan A. Smith, Chair

Sammy Barr, Band

Mike Boyd, Guitar

Jeff Brown, Percussion

Kay Guiles, Piano/Organ

Nikki Johnson, Theater/Voice

Victoria Johnson, Piano

Meri Newell, Woodwinds

Matthew Pickering, Low Brass/Band

Patrick Richards, High Brass

Theresa Sanchez, Piano

Susan A. Smith, Voice/Theory/Choir

Gregory Wascoe, Voice

www.jcjc.edu/programs/finearts

Vice-President for Collegiate and National Competitions



Sheri Falcone

Greetings Everyone!

The MMTA Collegiate Competitions were held on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. There were a total of 22 entries, of the 22, 18 competed. Unfortunately, we had no Brass contestants and we had to cancel the Voice and Chamber Ensemble Competitions and combine the Guitar and Strings due to a low number of entrants. I would like to personally thank Dr. Ellen Elder, for helping and assisting me with the duties as the new Vice President and taking over while I was performing with our local symphony orchestra. I could have not done it without her help! I would also like to extend a

heart-felt thank you to the faculty/staff, members of the board, and student workers of University of Southern Mississippi for graciously hosting and assisting the MMTA competitions and for your commitment in making this event so successful. Thank you all so much, it truly was greatly appreciated!

There were a total of 4 judges this year that not only adjudicated their division, but also adjudicated the Graduate Solo competitions. I commend them on their hard work and dedication on a long day of adjudicating.

Below is the breakdown of entries in each division:

Fr/Soph Piano: 2

Jr/Sr Piano: 3

Guitar and Strings: 3

Woodwinds: 2

Graduate Solo Division: 8

There has been a concern for student participation over the years and we believe that it needs improvement. We hope that future competitions will have more entrants and attendees since this is a great opportunity for students to hone their musical skills and gain performance experience. This event also affords the students the opportunity to discover their musical potential and work towards their future goals and career plans as aspiring musicians. I would like to encourage you to enter your students in the MMTA as well as the MTNA Competitions for the upcoming year. Please encourage your colleagues to be a part of Mississippi Music Teachers Association.

Have a great summer!

Sheri A. Falcone
VP for Collegiate and National Competitions

Treasurer's Report



Chris Ballard

District Evaluations Income and Expense Report for 2015

<u>District</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Entrants</u>	<u>Profit</u>
Ellisville	2635.00	1165.08	79	1469.92
Golden Triangle	1250.00	635.87	43	614.13
Goodman	142.00	65.00	5	77.00
Gulf Coast	1003.00	385.89	32	617.11
Hattiesburg	1362.00	634.15	46	727.85
Jackson	3586.00	1953.13	127	1632.87
Oxford	465.00	188.66	14	276.34
Tupelo	1062.00	756.20	33	305.80
Vicksburg	1077.0	763.19	38	313.81
<u>TOTALS</u>	12,582.00	6547.17	417	\$6034.83

Pre College Finals Income and Expense Report for 2015

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
District Evaluations	6034.83	Judges	2700.00 (Ten Judges)
Program	784.00	Karen Murphy	1068.53 (Programs, Awards, Office Supplies)
Lunches	203.00	Piano Tuning	525.00 (Six Pianos Tuned)
<u>Total Income</u>	7021.83	Lunches	337.75 (Lenny's Sub Shop - 45 lunches plus tip)
		<u>8 Year Winners</u>	150.00 (6 winners)
		<u>Total Expenses</u>	4781.28

Total Income 7021.83
Total Expenses - 4781.28

PROFIT \$2240.55

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Income and Expense Report 1/1/15 to 6/1/2015

\$18,476.54 - Beginning Checking Account Balance - January 1, 2015

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
District Evaluations	12,582.00	District Evaluations	6547.17
Pre College Finals	987.00	Pre College Finals	4781.28
PayPal transfer	2500.00	National Convention	2045.13
Polanski Donation	300.00	MAC Grant returned	1900.00
Miscellaneous	<u>1125.50</u>	Southern Division Travel	1833.49
<u>Total Income</u>	17,494.50	Collegiate Competitions	1200.00
		Ellen Gunn: "Fellow"	1150.00
		Miscellaneous	<u>1065.16</u>
		<u>Total Expenses</u>	20,522.23

\$15,448.81 - Ending Checking Account Balance - June 1, 2015

1758.80 - PayPal Balance - June 1, 2015 (\$320 from collegiate competition fees)

11,631.74 - Certificate of Deposit #1

6721.83 - Certificate of Deposit #2

\$35,561.18 - Total All Accounts



Mississippi Music Teachers Association

COLLEGIATE COMPETITIONS

February 28, 2015

University of Southern Mississippi

Woodwinds Competition:

First place: Melanie Ferrabone, bassoon, student of Dr. Kim Woolly (USM)

Second place: Michael Hayden, clarinet, student of Dr. Jacqueline McIlwain (USM)

Freshman/Sophomore Piano:

First place: Sarah Jenkins, student of Dr. Rosângela Sebba (MSU)

Second place: Basia Thomas, student of Dr. Jung-Won Shin (DSU)

Junior/Senior Piano:

First place: Minji Kim, student of Dr. Jung-Won Shin (DSU)

Second place: Patience Coats, student of Dr. Elizabeth Moak (USM)

Honorable Mention: Creighton Holder, student of Dr. Ellen Elder (USM)

Guitar/Strings Competition:

First place: Camila Patino, viola, student of Dr. Hsiaopei Lee (USM)

Second place: William Huddleston, guitar, student of Dr. Nicholas Ciraldo (USM)

Honorable Mention: Jerry Cruse, guitar, student of Dr. Nicholas Ciraldo (USM)

Graduate Solo Competition:

First place: Alexis Euclides Fong Casillo, clarinet, student of Dr. Jacqueline McIlwain (USM)

Second place: Ramon da Silva Moraes, flute, student of Dr. Danilo Mezzadri (USM)

Honorable Mention: Leonardo Moreira Silva, guitar, student of Dr. Nicholas Ciraldo (USM)

Competition Winners



Woodwinds Solo



Freshman/Sophomore Piano Solo



**Guitar and Strings
Solo**



Junior/Senior Piano Solo



Graduate Solo

Affiliate News

Vicksburg Music Teachers League

Vicksburg music students made us all proud, with 15 students eligible to play in the State Finals. Several students placed. Lexi Sibley, student of Susan Gambrell, earned the 8 year outstanding student award. We also held a local Honors Recital for all students who earned a Superior rating on performance, which showed how wonderfully each student was prepared. Congratulations to all students and teachers who participated in Evaluations!

Two students from our group presented Senior Recitals in May. Susan Gambrell's piano student, John Tillman Thomas, gave a compendium of classical, compositions, and videos he created. He will attend Belmont University in the fall. Jeanne Evans' vocal student, Jacob Lloyd, presented a mix of Art Songs and Music Theatre songs, plus his band called, "The Adjective Nouns." As he explains it, most bands are called something like 'The Black Cats,' so they just used the grammatical terms. Jacob will attend USM as a music and theatre education major this Fall.

Our Vicksburg Association is sad to say farewell to Susan Gambrell, who has been a vital and creative member of MMTA. She and her family are moving to Collierville, Tennessee this summer. We are hoping to recruit a few more members. We will meet again in August, to plan the new season.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Evans



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

MUSIC FORUM OF JACKSON**Brenda Sullivan, President**

- For the 2014-2015 year, we were 41 members strong.
- We hosted the 46th annual BACH FESTIVAL on February 14, 2015, Hinds Community College, Raymond. There were 391 students registered from 55 participating teachers. A total of 24 five-year superior medals were awarded that day. Our chairman, Carol Durham, and her associate husband, David, are *passing the torch* as head of this event after many years. We've stood in amazement at their skills of organization and efficiency. A simple *thank you* is very inadequate in describing our gratitude to them. We are extremely happy that Carol is our President-Elect.
- I attended the MTNA Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 21-25, 2015. I gained insight from master classes led by Lady Jeanne & Sir James Galway, Scott McBride Smith, and Lang Lang. I marveled at the talent of young people from across our nation by witnessing the recitals of national winners. I attended numerous classes engaged in fine-tuning my teaching skills. I daily visited the Exhibit Hall and thus added pounds of more music to my library. I savored the performances of the Galway's, the Canadian Brass, and my favorite, Ann Schein. It was an eventful and most enjoyable experience.
- We hosted the Jackson area MMTA Auditions on Saturday, April 11, 2015, Hinds Community College, Raymond. We had a record 20 teachers who participated, with 127 students registered. Much to our dismay, Kay Johnson, who has graciously chaired this event for many years, is also *passing the torch*. We offer her our most sincere appreciation and immense gratitude, for the many hours of time and energy each year spent in devotion to this daunting task.
- Membership enjoyed a Spring Luncheon at HIGH BISCUITS TEA in Ridgeland, Friday, May 8, 2015.
- A Budget Committee meeting was held Tuesday, June 2, 2015, to plan the budget for the 2015-2016 year.
- A Board Meeting is planned for June 29, 2015, to plan festivals and events for the 2015-2016 year.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sullivan

Hattiesburg Music Teachers League

As always, the months of April and May have been extremely busy for our membership. Our district MMTA Pre-College Evaluations were held on April 11 and Dixie Lawson did a great job serving as our district chair. A large number of students who participated in our district evaluations advanced to Finals.

Student recitals were held in the recital hall of Mississippi Music on April 18, which are always a great performance opportunity to help prepare our students for spring adjudications and recitals.

Auditions for our summer music camp scholarships were held at Mississippi Music on April 23. Janice Mesrobian served as the coordinator of the camp scholarship auditions and Dr. Lois Leventhal as the adjudicator. Three fine students were awarded partial scholarships to attend the summer music camp of their choice. Meagan Green (piano student of Laura Broughton) and Michelle Sun (piano student of Janice Mesrobian) will both attend the Music Camp at Mississippi College. Yolanda Tian (violin student of Gail Fox) will attend the Festival South Orchestra Academy at USM.

The annual Spring Concert for outstanding high school students was held on April 26 in the Winters School of Music at William Carey University. Karen Bates did a great job chairing this special event and three graduating seniors were presented with senior awards from the league.

Our business meeting and luncheon on May 14 served as the last official function of this academic year and was held at Purple Parrot Café with a number of teachers present.

Finally, we are proud that a number of Hattiesburg students either won gold medals or placed as finalists and/or Highest Composite Score winners in the Pre-College Finals held on May 16 at Millsaps College. We express our deepest appreciation to Dr. Karen Murphy for the outstanding job she did chairing this special event and also to Dr. Alice Ballard, for serving as the coordinator for Finals on the day of the event.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Broughton, D.M.A., NCTM

HMTL President

Mark Your Calendar

August 15, 2015 - Board Meeting - Hinds Community College, Raymond, MS

September 11-13, 2015 - MTNA Summit for Leadership, Cincinnati, Ohio

November 6-7, 2015 - Fall 2015 MMTA Conference - Mississippi College, Clinton, MS

November 6, 2015 - MTNA State Competitions - Mississippi College, Clinton, MS

November 7, 2015 - MMTA Pre-College Concerto Competition - Mississippi College, Clinton, MS

January 15-18, 2016 - 2016 MTNA Southern Division - The University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

March 5, 2016 - MMTA Collegiate Competitions - Mississippi College, Clinton, MS

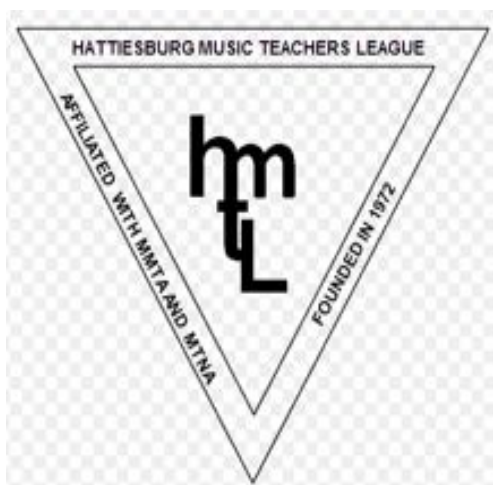
April 2 -6, 2016 - 2016 MTNA National Conference, San Antonio, TX

April 2, 2016 - Group A MMTA 2016 Pre-College Auditions - Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, and Tupelo

April 9, 2016 - Group B MMTA 2016 Pre-College Auditions - Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg

May 2016 - MMTA Pre-College Finals - TBD

Do you have an event you would like to be placed in the Mississippi Music Teacher? Contact Stephanie Holmes at sholmes057@gmail.com.



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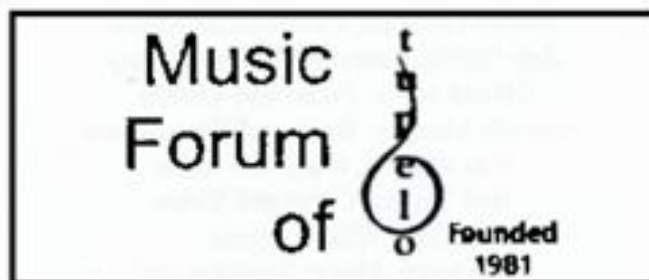
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2 ¼ x 4 5/8	\$170	2 ¼ x 7	\$240
4 5/8 x 4 5/8	\$275	4 5/8 x 7 (half page) \$500	
7 x 9 ¼ (full page) \$900			

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



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From the MMT Editor

I recently returned from another whirlwind European adventure with a coworker and a group of high school students. (Seriously, you really haven't lived until you have successfully navigated the London Underground during rush hour with 11 teenagers.) I have dreamed of visiting Ireland and the United Kingdom since I was my students' age, and it was really hard to come back to the Mississippi summer after spending two weeks in 60 degree weather! The students on this trip love music as much as I do, so they were more than willing to listen to me when I had my moments. It did my teacher heart good to see them excited about spending time in the great cathedrals and about seeing one of the original manuscripts of *The Messiah* in Dublin. I'm sure that as you are enjoying the summer, you are planning new ways to get your students excited about learning.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!



Stephanie Holmes in front of Buckingham Palace

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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.