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# MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

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## MMTA Pre-College Finals

The University of Southern Mississippi • May 13, 2017

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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.**



**Micah James Foster**, 17, is the second oldest son of Stephen and Joann Foster of Starkville, Mississippi. Micah has been homeschooled since kindergarten along with his nine siblings. He began piano with the late Ms. Dixie Sue Clark and then transferred to Ms. Edna Mae McCoy. Micah won 4<sup>th</sup> place in Piano Solo and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ensemble D previously at SSRR and various local awards. He has been a runner up for the University of Mississippi's Summer Piano Camp and has participated in the local Federated Festival and MMTA each year. Micah has also served as an officer in the Golden Triangle Junior Music Club.

Micah enjoys playing on the SCHE football team and basketball team. He also enjoys swimming and learning lifeguard skills under the instruction of Dr. Jack Blendinger of Starkville, MS. In his spare time, Micah enjoys listening to all types of music, playing the piano, reading, playing any kind of sport with his friends and family, and picking on the banjo. He has a landscape business with his brothers, works in town for a supply company, and helped build his grandmother's apartment last year. Micah would like to pursue a degree in physical therapy or mechanical engineering. Psalm 119:9-11 are favorite verses of his: "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart that I may not sin against You."

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**Anna Reed Hairston** is the daughter of Mr. Trip and Dr. Bethany Hairston of Columbus, Mississippi. She has been a piano student of Edna Mae McCoy since the age of six. Reed has participated in the Mississippi Music Teachers Association Pre-College Auditions in piano annually since 2006 and has a total of 32 superior ratings in the categories of Performance, Written Theory, Sight Reading, and Technical Skills.

Reed performed in the Mississippi State Recognition Honor Recital in Jackson, Mississippi in 2015. She recently received her 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive

superior rating in Piano Solo in the National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Festivals and is eligible for the 60 point Federation Gold Cup. She also has a combined 23 superior ratings in Piano Solo, Theory, Hymns, and Ensemble in the National Federation Music Festivals annually since 2006.

In addition to piano, Reed has been trained in vocal performance and is a soprano member of the Columbus Girlchoir. She has performed in the National Association of Teachers of Singing student auditions in Mississippi and received Second Place in High School Women in the Classical Division in 2016 and 2017.

Following her high school graduation in May from Heritage Academy, Reed will attend the University of Alabama as a Presidential Scholar and member of the Honors College, and pursue a degree in Music Therapy.



**Logan Reese Knight** is a 16-year-old junior at Regents School of Oxford. He began taking piano in a classroom setting alongside his mom and other kindergarteners at Yamaha Music School in Jackson, MS. For the next 10 years, Logan studied piano with Mrs. Sandy Coutoumanos in Tupelo, MS. He recently began lessons under Mrs. Adrienne Park at The University of Mississippi.

Logan participates annually in MMTA, MS Federation of Music Clubs, and the MS State Keyboard (Hymn) Festival, where he has earned various ribbons

and scholarships over the years. Most recently he was awarded the top piano scholarship at Mississippi College Music Camp 2016. He will be honored by being the only high school piano soloist to perform at the close of MCMC 2017.

In addition to piano, Logan also took Suzuki Violin for 8 years under Greg Morris at The University of Memphis Community Music School. Along his musical journey, he has enjoyed playing for others at churches, nursing homes, weddings, and various venues. He enjoys attending summer camps, such as MCMC and Piano Discoveries at Ole Miss, where he and friends can have fun with their music while gaining valuable skills. This year he chose to research the effects of music on people as the topic for his junior thesis at RSO.

Logan and his family are grateful for the continued opportunity to be involved in MMTA.



**Jacob C. Runnels** is the 15-year-old son of Ronnie and Karen Runnels of Vicksburg, Mississippi. He is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and home educated.

Jacob is completing his ninth year of piano lessons. His first seven years of study were under Mrs. Susan Gambrell, formerly of Vicksburg. The past two years have been under Mrs. Judy Buys of Vicksburg. Jacob has qualified for MMTA Pre-College Finals all 9 years. In 2014, he received first place in Solo Performance. In 2015, he received 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Solo Performance. He has also received first place in Ensemble Performance

with his sister, Rachel. Jacob takes advantage of every opportunity to play the piano – recitals, nursing homes, festivals, church, and accompanying choirs. He has also performed many of his own compositions.

Jacob puts creativity in all that he does. A few of his other interests include robotics, tennis, golf, and ultimate. Jacob plans to one day pursue a career in engineering, but music will always be a huge part of his life. Two meaningful verses to Jacob are Psalm 37:5-6, “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.”



**Michelle Sun**, 13, is the daughter of Drs. Jonathan Sun and Kebin Xu. She is currently a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Oak Grove High School. She has been taking piano lessons from Mrs. Janice Mesrobian since the age of four. Michelle has participated MMTA state finals for 9 consecutive years and won 3 plaques, 5 gold medals, and 12 ribbons of 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> places, for solo, sonata, concerto, and ensemble. In 2016, she won the MTNA Junior Piano Performance Competition on state level and advanced to the Southeastern Regional Competition. In 2017, she attended Mississippi Bach Festival for the first time and won two ribbons of 2<sup>nd</sup> places. She has been awarded scholarships to Mississippi College’s Summer Music Camp for the past three years in a row. She has been

playing hymns for her church for the past five years, after being baptized at the age of eight.

Michelle attended Oak Grove schools from kindergarten, skipped a grade, and achieved all A’s in all years. In her 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, she won 8 and 6 of the school’s annual awards on a variety of themes for being among the top students in her grade. Moreover, she was on the school’s team of Mathcounts and won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team in the State Competition. As a member of the Oak Grove Band, she was the first chair flute player and has performed solos for concert band. She has also auditioned successfully for the JCJC honor band clinic for the past two years. Currently, being a freshman in high school, Michelle enjoys math and science, and is a member of Mu Alpha Theta and Oak Grove Science Club. She takes PSAT as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader and qualifies for being a National Merit Semifinalist if measured as a 11<sup>th</sup> grader. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, reading, computer programming, and photography.



**Hannah "Pippa" Weems**, 17-year-old daughter of Tim and Deana Weems of Laurel, Mississippi, has been a student of Ms. Janine Beasley for over 10 years. Pippa has participated in the Baptist Keyboard Festival for 10 consecutive years, ranking superior in every category each time. Additionally, Pippa composed a special hymn arrangement for the Baptist Keyboard Festival last February (*I Will Sing of the Mercies in the setting of Chopin's Prelude "Raindrop" Op. 28 No. 15*), which received superior scores at both regional and state events. Passionate for glorifying God through music, Pippa dedicates her time as the official pianist for Gospel Light Baptist Church since she was 12 years old.

Of the 10 years Pippa participated in the MMTA District Evaluations, she qualified 9 years for the MMTA Pre-College State Finals. Furthermore, Pippa has performed in the Solo-Sonata Festival, Ensemble Festival, and the regional Showcase Recital. Pippa hopes to continue her studies by majoring in music at Jones County Junior College.

Although music is a major aspect of Pippa's life, she enjoys Lomography and playing with her Yorkie, Mikki.



**Gloria Zhang** is the daughter of Dongmao Zhang and Dongping Jiang. She is currently in her sophomore year at Starkville High School. Gloria began taking piano lessons under Dr. Harold Thompson in August of 2008 and transferred to Ms. Edna Mae McCoy in June of 2010. In all the previous MMTA Pre-College Finals, she has won 3 consecutive gold medals in Theme and Variations, 4 second places in Solos, a gold medal in Ensemble, and twice Highest Composite Score. Besides MMTA, Gloria has also received many Superior ratings in the Bach Festival and Federation Festival.

In school, Gloria has been an all A's honor roll student since the first grade. Some of her accomplishments are winning the spelling bee, multiplication bee, and a regional second place in the Science Fair. She has been the second place state winner of the MS PTA's Reflection Program in the area of visual arts. She was also part of the Mathcounts Team, which won a first place in the district competition and a second place in the state competition. In addition, Gloria attended the Science Olympiad program and won a gold medal at state level. Now, she is the HOSA team at SHS. HOSA stands for the *Health Occupational Students of America*.

In her spare time, Gloria likes to hang out with her friends at the movies or go somewhere to eat. She also enjoys listening to music or playing volleyball with her friends. In the future, Gloria either hopes to follow in her parents footsteps of fulfilling a chemistry major or becoming an orthodontist. After she graduates in the year of 2019, she hopes to attend UCLA.

*Congratulations to these students!*

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## PRE-COLLEGE FINALS WINNERS - 2017

### Piano Performance Level 3 and below

#### **Gold Medal:**

Katie Chung (Katie Wallace)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Matthew Hatchett (Donna Reed)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Andrew Meng (Katie Wallace)

Mirae Nishikawa (Katie Wallace)

Bruce Pang (Isabella Ivshin)

Angelina Tan (Edna Mae McCoy)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Place:**

Anya Rai (Joshua Trent Smith)

Linda Zhang (Adrienne Park)

### Piano Performance Level 4

#### **Gold Medal:**

Ann Magee Stradinger (Jacquelyn Thornell)

Gabrielle Sun (Janice Mesrobian)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Jenina Huang (Rachel Heard)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Kaela Carino (Katie Wallace)

James Chapman (Brenda Sullivan)

Gabrielle Hernandez (Jacquelyn Thornell)

Sophia Huang (Debbie Barnes)

Martin Jelinek (Joshua Trent Smith)

Caroline Luccasen (Edna Mae McCoy)

**Piano Performance Level 5**

**Gold Medal:**

David Brett (Janice Mesrobian)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Brody Creel (Laura Broughton)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Sarah Major (Michael Rushing)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:**

Genevieve Kuehn (Dixie Lawson)

**Piano Performance Level 6**

**Gold Medal:**

Andrew Liu (Kay Johnson)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Joseph Agler (Carol Mahler)

Yolanda Ni (Janice Mesrobian)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Leo Mei (Jacquelyn Thornell)

Richard Zheng (Carol Durham)

**Piano Performance Level 7**

**Gold Medal:**

Christina Danford (Theresa Sanchez)

Sam Powell (Laura Broughton)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Ian Marks (Victoria Johnson)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Tom Henry Brister (Sandy Coutoumanos)

Enyonam Dzathor (Kay Johnson)

Sarah LeRoux (Carolina Whitfield-Smith)

Evelyn Mills (Annette Joe)

Ian Zhang (Katie Wallace)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:**

Anabel Morgan (Donna Reed)

Jessica Yan (Edna Mae McCoy)

**Piano Performance Level 8**

**Gold Medal:**

Jiyoung Seo (Jung-Won Shin)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Gracie Bassett (Ruth Keys)

Matthew Li (Rachel Heard)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

David Jelinek (Joshua Trent Smith)

Max Zhang (Ellen Elder)

**Piano Performance Level 9**

**Gold Medal:**

Samuel Gaines (Donna Reed)

John Kees (Rachel Heard)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Edward Hu (Ian Hominick)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Izak Hanson (Rosangela Sebba)

Vinson Lu (Rachel Heard)

Kevin Miao (Ellen Elder)

Michelle Sun (Janice Mesrobian)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:**

Isaiah Way (Carol Mahler)

**Honorable Mention:**

Meredith Wessel (Jung-Won Shin)

**Piano Performance Level 10**

**Gold Medal:**

Victoria Gong (Judith Allen)

Caleb Owens (Ian Hominick)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Amy Zhang (Carolina Whitfield-Smith)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Lori Feng (Rosangela Sebba)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:**

Gloria Zhang (Edna Mae McCoy)

**Piano Performance Level 11**

**Gold Medal:**

Julia Jia (Annette G. Joe)

Samantha Simpson (Ian Hominick)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Calendula Cheng (Ian Hominick)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Emma Adkins (Ruth Keyes)

Shelby Davis (Ruth Keyes)

**Piano Performance Level 12**

**Gold Medal:**

Jesse Li (Rachel Heard)

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Nathan Yin (Karen Laubengayer)

**Piano Ensemble Division A**

**Gold Medal:**

Kaela Carino and Claire Rhee (Katie Wallace)

Katie Chung and Angelina Tan (Katie Wallace and Edna Mae McCoy)

**Piano Ensemble Division B**

**Gold Medal:**

Jade Agler and Joseph Agler (Carol Mahler)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Aaron Lu and Isabella Ngai (Rachel Heard)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Andrew Meng and Max Feng (Katie Wallace)

**Piano Ensemble Division C**

**Gold Medal:**

Gracie Bassett, Lilly Faith Bassett, and Will Bassett (Ruth Keyes)

David Brett and Will Brett (Janice Mesrobian)

Sam Powell and Virginia Powell (Laura Broughton)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Sidharth Nagarajan and Vivek Nagarajan (Edna Mae McCoy)

Anna Myers and Emily Valentine (Marilyn Huff)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Karlene Deng and Ian Zhang (Katie Wallace)

**Piano Ensemble Division D**

**Gold Medal:**

Gracie Bassett and Landon Maughon (Ruth Keyes and Michael Rushing)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Lori Feng and Izak Hanson (Rosangela Sebba)

Gabrielle Sun and Michelle Sun (Janice Mesrobian)

**Piano Ensemble Division E**

**Gold Medal:**

Jesse Li and Matthew Li (Rachel Heard)

**Sonata/Sonatina Division A**

**Gold Medal:**

Andrew Meng (Katie Wallace)

Bruce Pang (Isabella Ivshin)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Gabrielle Sun (Janice Mesrobian)

**Sonata/Sonatina Division B**

**Gold Medal:**

Yolanda Ni (Janice Mesrobian)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Jade Agler (Carol Mahler)

Andrew Liu (Kay Johnson)

**Sonata/Sonatina Division C**

**Gold Medal:**

Will Brett (Janice Mesrobian)

Ian Zhang (Katie Wallace)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Enyonam Dzathor (Kay Johnson)

Ian Marks (Victoria Johnson)

Laura Simpson (Adrienne Park)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Evelyn Mills (Annette G. Joe)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:**

Luke Zhang (Adrienne Park)

**Sonata/Sonatina Division D**

**Gold Medal:**

Caleb Owens (Ian Hominick)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Michelle Sun (Janice Mesrobian)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Victoria Gong (Judith Allen)

Harrison Speed (Donna Reed)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:**

Alexis Pellegrin (Carol Mahler)

Likhitha Polepalli (Isabella Ivshin)

Lindsay Simpson (Adrienne Park)

**Sonata/Sonatina Division E**

**Gold Medal:**

Jesse Li (Rachel Heard)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Calendula Cheng (Ian Hominick)

Julianna Hinton (Susan Fairchild)

**Theme and Variations Division A**

**Gold Medal:**

Katie Chung (Katie Wallace)

**Theme and Variations Division B**

**Gold Medal:**

Katy Freeman (Janine Beasley)

**Theme and Variations Division C**

**Gold Medal:**

Bonnie Littlejohn (Sandy Coutoumanos)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Trinitee Augustine (Elsie Barnes)

**Theme and Variations Division D**

**Gold Medal:**

Lori Feng (Rosangela Sebba)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Grace Miller (Ruth Keyes)

**Theme and Variations Division E**

**Gold Medal:**

Emma Adkins (Ruth Keyes)

**Strings Solo Division A**

**Gold Medal:**

Owen Lin (Gail Fox)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Joseph Sun (Gail Fox)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Katie Chung (Shandy Phillips)

**Strings Solo Division B**

**Gold Medal:**

Kate Lansford (Carol Mahler)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Jade Agler (Carol Mahler)

Claire Rhee (Shandy Phillips)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

John Zhang (Gail Fox)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:**

Natalia Escobedo (Carol Mahler)

**Strings Solo Division C**

**Gold Medal:**

Ella Lansford (Carol Mahler)

**Strings Solo Division D**

**Gold Medal:**

Christina Danford (Stephen Redfield)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Ryan Wang (Gail Fox)

**Strings Solo Division E**

**Gold Medal:**

Cecilia Escobedo (Emily McClung)

**Strings Ensemble Division B**

**Gold Medal:**

Ella Lansford and Kate Lansford (Carol Mahler)

**Strings Theme & Variations Division D**

**Gold Medal:**

Cecilia Escobedo (Emily McClung)

**Vocal Performance Level 9**

**Gold Medal:**

Ashley Allee (Barbara Stephenson)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Ashlyn Pinkerton (Sarah Little)

**Vocal Performance Level 10**

**Gold Medal:**

Chloe Bell (Barbara Stephenson)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Gracie Richardson (Barbara Stephenson)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Jaci Murden (Jacqueline Meek)

**Vocal Performance Level 11**

**Gold Medal:**

Jodi Bullock (Sarah Little)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Heather Almekdad (Jeanne Evans)

**Vocal Performance Level 12**

**Gold Medal:**

Gabrielle Green (Jeanne Evans)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

Evan Cochran (Jeanne Evans)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

Vera Anne Fedell (Jeanne Evans)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place:**

Natalie Davis (Sarah Little)

*Congratulations to these students!*

**MMTA HIGHEST COMPOSITE SCORE  
2017**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Student</b>	<b>Score</b>
Piano: Level 3 & Below	Katie Chung	300
Piano: Level 3 & Below	Noah Adcock	300
Piano: Level 4	Anne Lu	400
Piano: Level 5	Andy Lu	397
Piano: Level 6	Yolanda Ni	397
Piano: Level 7	Christina Danford	397
Piano: Level 7	Sam Powell	397
Piano: Level 8	Matthew Yin	397
Piano: Level 9	Vinson Lu	395
Piano: Level 10	Caleb Owens	397
Piano: Level 11	Calendula Y. Cheng	387
Piano: Level 12	Jesse Li	393
Strings: Division A	Joseph Sun	290
Strings: Division B	John Zhang	373
Strings: Division C	Connor Carlisle	399
Strings: Division D	Christina Danford	395



Piano Level 12



Theme and Variations D



Piano Ensemble D



Strings D



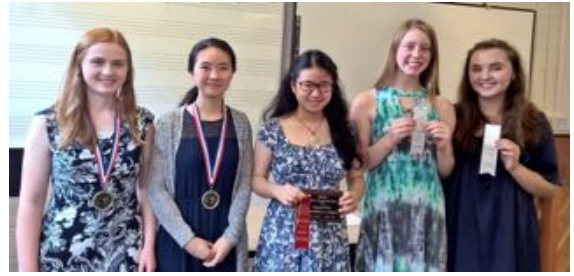
Strings E



Strings A



Strings B (Kate Lansford not pictured)



Piano Level 11



Piano Level 5



Piano Level 7



Piano Ensemble C



Piano Level 3 and Below



Piano Level 9



Piano Ensemble A



Theme and Variations A, B, C, E



Sonata/Sonatina C



Piano Level 10



Vocal Level 12



Vocal Level 11



Vocal Level 10



Vocal Level 9



Piano Level 4



Piano Sonata/Sonatina B



Piano Sonata/Sonatina A (with MMTA president, Alice Ballard)



Sonata/Sonatina D



Sonata/Sonatina E



Piano Level 6



Piano Level 8



Piano Ensemble B



The officers and membership of Mississippi Music Teachers Association extend our congratulations to all those who participated in the 2017 Pre-College Evaluations at the local levels and to those who are honored in this Special Edition of the MMT as participants in the 2017 Pre-College Finals at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg on May 13, 2017.

A special thank you to Jung-Won Shin, 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  
Sholmes057@gmail.com