

# MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Featuring Pictures from the 2017 MMTA  
Collegiate Competitions

**Plan to attend our 2017 Conference  
November 3-4 at Millsaps College  
in Jackson.**

## Message from the President

Happy summer, MMTA Colleagues!

I can imagine that you are as delighted as I am to finish the school term. I think we dearly love to teach, but a reprieve is certainly refreshing and perhaps sorely needed. When I look back at all our activities this spring, I am amazed. Every spring, we undertake very large projects, and we always finish them in good style. Following is a brief run-down of some of the great things we accomplished by working together.

The MMTA Collegiate Competitions were held on March 4 at Millsaps College in Jackson. Phyllis Lewis-Hale did a beautiful job of coordinating the event. Be sure and read her report for details. The Pre-College Evaluations were successfully implemented by the District Chairs once again. Dixie Lawson and Melinda Porter had carefully prepared the theory tests for the students' testing. Then the Pre-College Finals culminated

our competition season on May 13th at USM. Jung-Won Shin worked intensively to make the Finals a grand success. And we must never forget to thank our hosts for each event: Rachel Heard and Millsaps College for the Collegiate competitions, each District Chair and host location throughout the state for the District Evaluations, as well as Ellen Elder and USM for the Pre-College Finals.

Certainly, a highlight of my musical year was being able to attend the MTNA Conference in Baltimore in March! I enjoyed the ambiance of the waterfront and the many presentations and performances, but my favorite part of the entire conference was being able to hear Leon Fleisher perform. He and his wife, Katherine Jacobson, presented an intimate program of piano favorites. Also, I was able to hear Mr. Fleisher give a dynamic and insightful masterclass, which was unforgettable.

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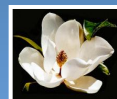
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## Message from the President (continued)

Attending the Gala Banquet was quite special, as I received the Foundation Fellow award on behalf of our very own Sandra Polanski. The attendees from the state of Louisiana graciously shared their table with Carol Durham and me. While at the conference, I attended the Southern Division Business Meeting and reception where I gave the President's Report for our state.

Mississippi contributed a \$50 gift for the State Pride Raffle. I chose a collection of books written by personal friend and author Jane Nickerson. Jane is a resident of Aberdeen, and each of her romantic, suspenseful mysteries is set in Mississippi during past eras.



*Alice Ballard*

Mark your calendars now to attend our 63rd annual conference at Millsaps College this November 3-4. Victoria Johnson and the Conference Committee are planning months ahead to make it a great experience for you! I would like to express gratitude to Vickie for all of her preliminary work, as well as for all the work she is going to do! Also, she submitted the MAC grant application on our behalf, so she has invested a great deal of time in MMTA. Negotiations are under way with a host for the 2018 Pre-College Finals, and the location will be announced in the near future.

Thanks to every teacher and leader in MMTA, for your sacrifices to further the art of music.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Ballard

MMTA President

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## President-Elect's Message



*Victoria Johnson*

The 63<sup>rd</sup> annual MMTA conference (November 3-4, 2017) is fast approaching! I am excited that we will be at Millsaps College this year. Many thanks to Rachel Heard, conference host, for her help thus far and upcoming.

We have a wonderful slate of conference guests. Dr. Jane Magrath (University of Oklahoma), a longtime leader in the field of piano pedagogy, will present a masterclass and sessions entitled "Fresh Classics: Motivating Students While Finding Meaning," "Early Lessons on Burgmüller, Heller, and Schumann," and "The Top 40: Intermediate to Lower-Advanced Core Piano Literature." Sue Steck-Turner, a wonderful teacher from Lafayette, Louisiana, is the IMTF guest presenter, and will speak about teaching sight-

reading skills. And, it seems that we have a bit of a guitar slant this year, appropriate for our state. The Athens Guitar Duo will present the guest artist recital Friday evening, Nov. 3, and Dr. Joe L. Alexander (MUW), commissioned composer, is writing a piece for guitar. I am very appreciative to John Jackson and Valentin Bogdan for securing these guests.

I spent the month of February preparing the application for the MAC grant – what an undertaking! I could not have accomplished this without Alice Ballard's immense help, and I am most grateful. We requested \$5000, and eagerly await the council's response in early July.

Finally, feel free to contact me with proposals, suggestions, and ideas for the fall conference. The contributions of MMTA members are integral to the success of the conference. Our conference planning committee will meet again in August.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Johnson

## Vice President for Pre-College Performances

The 2017 MMTA Pre-College Finals event was held on Saturday, May 13, at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg. Seven 8-year Outstanding Achievement Awards (OAA) were given and 216 High Composite Score certificates were awarded with ties for the highest scores in Levels 3 and 7. A total of twenty-three plaques were awarded: sixteen for the highest composite scores and seven for the OAA winners. Ten judges worked during the day: eight piano judges, one voice judge, and one strings judge. One of our MMTA members, Dr. Ian Hominick, served as a piano judge because one of the original judges was absent due to an emergency. All recitals on the day ended by 3:20pm. The number of participants /participating groups in each category is as follows:

Piano – Solo: 156  
Ensemble: 26  
Sonata/Sonatina: 30  
Theme & Variations: 8

Strings – Solo: 12  
Ensemble: 2  
Theme & Variations: 1

Voice – Solo: 11

The success of this year's Pre-College Finals is thanks to the cooperation and hard work by many persons including: Dr. Alice Ballard – President and Awards Presenter, Dr. Ellen Elder – Host of the finals and Awards Presenter; the teachers for their hard work in the workroom all day without having shifts; the District Chairs for their meticulous work and cooperation in providing me with the necessary paperwork; and all of our teachers and USM student helpers who worked hard in recital rooms and at the information table. We are also appreciative to Dr. Richard Kravchak, Director of the USM School of Music for allowing us to use the music buildings for this annual event. A big thank you to everyone!

Box lunches by Lenny's were available for purchase for \$8 and Program Booklets for \$4. The Pre-College Finals for next year will be held on May 19, 2018. The location for the finals will be announced on the MMTA website soon. The performance order for all recitals next year will be A-Z.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make the 2017 Pre-College Finals a success!

Respectfully submitted,

*Jung-Won Shin*

Vice-President for Pre-College Performances



*Jung-Won Shin*

## Vice-President for Collegiate and National Competitions



*Phyllis Lewis-Hale*

Dear MMTA Members,

Greetings from the VP for Collegiate and National Competitions! As my first year in this position, I welcome and encourage teachers and students to prepare for next year's events. Thanks to Alice Ballard, Sheri Falcone and Ellen Elder for helping me through the transition. It has truly been a learning experience.

This year's MMTA Collegiate Competitions were held at Millsaps College. I would like to thank Rachel Heard and the Millsaps Department of Music for hosting the event. The numbers were not large this year even though the deadline was extended. I am sure that next year we will have more time to advertise and to

recruit more teachers and competitors. Please encourage your MMTA colleagues to enter students in these events.

Here is the report regarding the participation in our Spring 2017 MMTA Competitions:

Fr/So Piano - 8

EA Piano - 2

Fr/So Voice - 3

Jr/Sr Voice - 4

P Concerto - 2

Gr Voice - 2

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Lewis-Hale, D.M.A.

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## Vice-President for Membership and Web Management



*Janine Beasley*

At the end of the 2016-2017 year MMTA had 170 members. As of May 18, 2017, 61 members are listed for the 2017-2018 year.

### Website changes:

Uploaded November meeting minutes

Updated guitar chair (John Jackson) information

Uploaded new MMTA Evaluations application form

Uploaded new guitar requirements

Uploaded Evaluations Testing Documents

### Ongoing:

Miscellaneous updates as needed

Continue to send mass emails to members as requested

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Beasley

## Treasurer's Report



*Chris Ballard*

The MMTA budget is in fine shape following the Pre-College Auditions and Pre-College Finals. These two events taken together generally provide the most net income of all the MMTA yearly sponsored events. Below is a general synopsis of the income and expense report covering the period of 1/28/17 to 5/20/2017. The profit of \$2,273.08 is largely made up of income from the Pre-College Auditions/Finals. As always, if I can help any of you in anyway as your treasurer, please let me know.

Chris Ballard

### **Income and Expense Report 1/28/17 to 5/20/17**

**\$24,156.72 - Beginning Checking Account/PayPal Balance - January 28, 2017**

**\$26,429.80 - Ending Checking Account/PayPal Balance - May 20, 2017**

**\$2,273.08**



# *Mississippi Music Teachers Association*

## **COLLEGIATE COMPETITIONS**

**MARCH 4, 2017**

**MILLSAPS COLLEGE**

### **Freshman/Sophomore Piano Competition:**

First place: Sung-Eun Ryu, student of Dr. Karen Fosheim (DSU)  
Second place: Yu Wang student of Dr. Rachel Heard (Millsaps)  
Honorable Mention: Brittany Parry, student of Dr. Angela Willoughby (MC)  
Honorable Mention: Young Hye Min, student of Dr. Jung-Won Shin (DSU)

### **Concerto Competition:**

First place: Young Hye Min, student of Dr. Jung-Won Shin (DSU)  
Second place: Angela Powell, student of Dr. Rachel Heard (Millsaps)

### **Emerging Artist Competition:**

First place: Dino Gerardo Henriquez Rios, student of Dr. Ellen Elder (USM)  
Second place: Jeonai do Nascimento Batista, student of Dr. Rosangela Sebba (MSU)

### **Freshman/Sophomore Vocal Competition:**

First place: Ginaia Black, student of Dr. Phyllis Lewis-Hale (JSU)  
Second place: Keitra Wilson, student of Dr. Phyllis Lewis-Hale (JSU)  
Honorable Mention: Laura Pitts, student of Dr. Phyllis Lewis-Hale (JSU)

### **Junior/Senior Vocal Competition:**

First place: Hillary Watkins, student of Dr. Phyllis Lewis-Hale (JSU)  
Second place: Aja Brimm, student of Dr. Phyllis Lewis-Hale (JSU)  
Honorable Mention: Kayla Wilson, student of Dr. Phyllis Lewis-Hale (JSU)

### **Graduate Vocal Competition:**

First place: Brian Golden, student of Dr. Kimberley Davis (USM)  
Second place: Jacyn Gibbs, student of Dr. Kimberley Davis (USM)

## Competition Winners



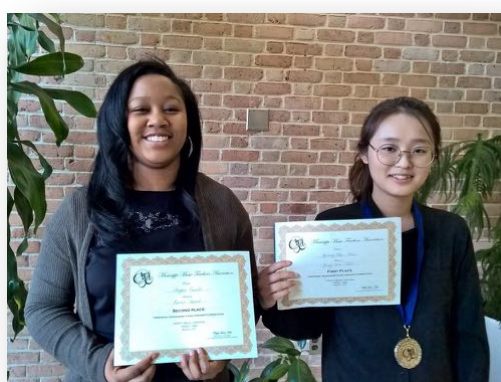
Freshman/Sophomore Voice



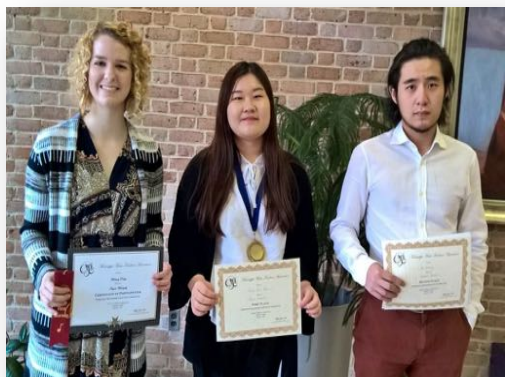
Junior/Senior Voice



Graduate Voice



Freshman/Sophomore Piano



Concerto



Emerging Artist

## Affiliate News

### Vicksburg Music Teachers League

Vicksburg Music Teachers wrapped up the season with our local, annual Honors Recital for all students who earned a Superior in Performance at Evaluations. A dozen students performed, and more were eligible.

Victoria Gong, piano student of Judith Allen, won the NTMA State Advanced division with a 20-minute program. She went to the Regional Competition in South Carolina and played beautifully, but did not place. At the MMTA State Finals in Hattiesburg this Spring, Victoria won first place in the Level 10 piano solo, and third place in piano sonata. Jeanne Evans had vocal students compete in the MMTA State Finals in Hattiesburg. In Level 12, her students swept First, Second, and Third places: Gabrielle Green in first place, Evan Cochran in second, and Vera Ann Fedell in third place. Heather Almekdad took second place in Level 11. Jacob Runnels, grade 8, piano student of Judy Buys, received the MMTA outstanding student award for eight years of state finals eligibility.

We are all happy to welcome a new teacher member to our group, Julia Blake. Julia teaches piano, and serves as church musician at St. Michael's Catholic Church. She and her husband, Nicholas (violin), specialize in Celtic and Gospel music, and perform in many venues. A summer planning meeting will be set, for a fun year ahead. Happy summer, one and all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Evans



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



Music Forum of Jackson continued this year's events with holding our Forty-Eighth Bach Festival on February 4 at Hinds Community College in Raymond, again chaired by Kathie Gunn Lott. Of 377 pre-college students who registered, 322 participated. We presented twenty-two 5-year Superior medals, one 9-year Superior trophy, and new this year, three Senior Awards for Superiors beyond 9. Watch for the mailing of the 2018 brochure!

Music Forum of Jackson members' students who receive their 5-Year Superior Bach Festival medal are offered a minimum \$100 scholarship to attend a Music Camp in Mississippi, with any balance in our allotted amount being divided by those who accept. This year we had 15 eligible, with 2 accepting, which allowed us to give fully-paid scholarships to them.

As president, I was privileged to represent Music Forum of Jackson at the MTNA Conference in Baltimore in March. I was delighted to witness our long-time member Sandra Polanski honored as a MTNA Fellow in absentia, with the award received on her behalf by Alice Ballard.

Nineteen of our members entered a total of 115 participating students in our local MMTA Auditions held at Hinds Community College on April 8; we had 7 highly qualified and experienced judges, and 19 faithful workers to carry out the event, chaired by Jacquelyn Thornell. A number of these qualified to participate in the State Finals in Hattiesburg.

We ended our year on May 12 with a luncheon at Anjou Restaurant. Officers for 2017-2018 were elected; the slate was unchanged from this year. Plans for the new year are already underway with a Budget Committee scheduled for June 13, and subsequent Board meeting. We look forward to celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a local affiliate during 2018. Our chairman for this is Patsy Simpson.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol S. Durham  
President, MFJ

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**HATTIESBURG MUSIC TEACHERS LEAGUE****PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The past semester has come and gone in a flash! The HMTL's first event of the spring was the annual NFMC Festival. Our new chair, Creighton Holder, did a wonderful job, assisted by Jan Mesrobian. Total participation in five events was 128. Special thanks to Ellen Elder, who managed to reserve rooms at USM at the last minute. We look forward to being back at William Carey University next year.

Spring Evaluations were held April 8 at USM. Dixie Lawson, chair, ran everything beautifully as usual, assisted by Kay Guiles, who provided us a delicious lunch, and Elizabeth Moak, who took care of room reservations. 51 students participated; 41 qualified for State Finals.

In April, we were disappointed to cancel the Spring Concert due to low participation, and Music Camp Scholarship Auditions due to a lack of entries. At our spring meeting, we discussed how we might increase participation in the future, and will continue this discussion in the fall.

We wrapped up the semester with our annual luncheon and business meeting at Purple Parrot Seafood and Steaks.

On a sad note, Pat Tuley, longtime HMTL member, passed away February 21. Pat was influential at the local, state, division, and national levels, serving as local and state president, Southern Division Director, and National Certification Chair. We miss her terribly. In her honor, the HMTL donated \$250 to the MTNA Foundation's Patricia Tuley Memorial Fund. Several of us piano teachers also performed (SANG!) the "Pat Tuley Polka" (to the tune of the "Beer Barrel Polka") at Pat's memorial service. This was a reprise of a performance at Pat's retirement party in the 90's. Our thoughts continue to be with Pat's family, especially her daughter and our colleague, Joanna Burnside.

Finally, looking ahead, our biannual Composer Festival will take place November 17-18 at Mississippi Music. We are thrilled to welcome Glenda Austin as the featured composer. The commissioned solo, "Jazz Waltz," is already available for purchase. We are grateful to Laura Broughton, Composer Festival Chair, for the huge amount of work she has put into organizing this event.

Best wishes to all for a rejuvenating summer!

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Johnson



## JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

May 21, 2017

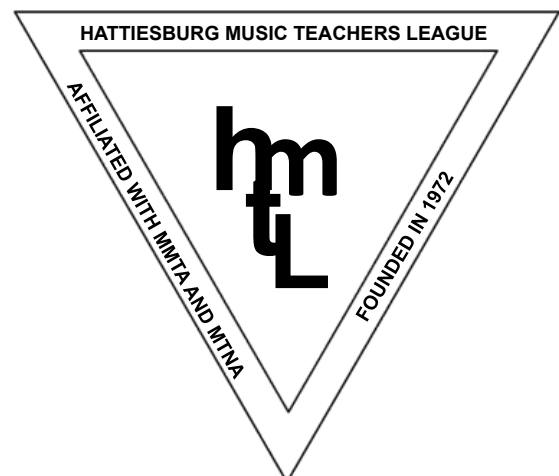
The JCMTA annual Ensemble Festival was held on February 25, 2017.

A business meeting was held prior to the event.

Jones County Music Teachers Association participated in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations on April 1, 2017, at Jones County Junior College.

A meeting will be held during the summer to choose new officers and committee members, and to determine dates for Showcase Recital, Solo-Sonata Competition, and Ensemble Festival. Music for Solo-Sonata Competition and Ensemble Festival will also be selected.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janine Beasley



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## Gulf Coast Music Teachers Association

**GCMTA's Music Festival** was held on February 18, 2017, at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Jeff Davis Campus in Gulfport. A total of 70 piano, strings, and vocal performances were turned in by 66 students from the studios of 11 teachers. Scoring High Superior were 42 of the performances. Six students, who have performed in the Festival Honors Recitals for at least 5 consecutive years, were presented with Five-Year Awards of \$25 each. We were delighted that Dr. Lois Leventhal and her husband Dr. David Evenson were willing to return to the Coast from Boston, Massachusetts to judge for our event! They were joined by Dr. Debra Atkinson, head of Choral Activities at MGCCC-JD.

**Our local MMTA Pre-college Evaluations** took place on April 1, at MGCCC-JD. Participating were 24 piano and strings students representing five teachers, and turning in a total of 34 performances. Qualifying for State Finals were 26 performances of 16 students representing three teachers. Fourteen students took 24 performances to Finals. Dividing up judging duties for our Local Evaluations were Rigoberto Murillo, violin instructor from the Dallas, Texas area, and Guy Bowering, who is a teacher and accompanist on the Gulf Coast. Carol Mahler and Bonnie Sheldon co-chaired our Local Evaluations.

This year, three high school seniors competed in GCMTA's **Senior Awards Recital**, which took place at Fleming Auditorium at USM-Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach on Sunday afternoon, April 30. Vice-president Elsie Barnes organized the event. A total of \$850 in scholarship money was awarded to two students who tied for First Place and an Honorable Mention winner. Adjudicating for the event was Dr. Kadisha Onalbayeva, Steinway Artist and piano faculty member at University of Mobile.

Our **June Luncheon Meeting** and officer elections will be held at the home of Martha Mayeu, in Gulfport, on Wednesday, June 14.

Respectfully submitted by

Carol Mahler, GCMTA President

## Mark Your Calendar

**November 3-4, 2017 – MMTA State Conference – Millsaps College, Jackson**

**November 3, 2017 – MTNA State Competitions – Millsaps College, Jackson**

**November 4, 2017 – MMTA Pre-College Concerto Competition – Millsaps College, Jackson**

**March 3, 2018 – MMTA Collegiate Competitions – Jones County Junior College, Ellisville**

*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).*

**If you know of someone who would like to receive a hard copy of the *Mississippi Music Teacher* in the mail, please email Stephanie at [sholmes057@gmail.com](mailto:sholmes057@gmail.com).**

Mississippi Music Teacher is published online three times per year. Address all communications, articles, and pictures to the Editor. The MMT is available to the public on the MMTA website in PDF format.

**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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***Tracy Bedgood, Low Brass***

***Mike Boyd, Guitar/Music Survey***

***Ben Burge, Band/Woodwinds***

***Joel Dunlap, Concert Choir***

***Jonathan Jung, Piano/Theory***

***Jennifer Hart, Theater***

***Victoria Johnson, Piano***

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## From the MMT Editor

I am later getting the summer *MMT* out than I normally am. Many apologies! To quote the late, great Johnny Cash, "I've been everywhere, man." You can thank the start of a new school year for keeping me home long enough to get this newsletter finished.

As summer is winding down, I hope each of you had a wonderful summer. I hope you are all rested for the students coming your way very soon! Best wishes for the new school year!



*Stephanie Holmes*

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*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.*

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### MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

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## *Mississippi Music Teachers Association*

**Est. 1954**

*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.*