

# MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Featuring Pictures from the 2019 MMTA  
Collegiate Competitions

**Plan to attend our 2019 Conference  
November 1-2 at Mississippi  
University for Women in  
Columbus.**

## Message from the President

By the time you read this another school year will have come and gone! I hope you are enjoying a well-deserved summer vacation.

The 2019 Pre-College Finals, held Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Mississippi University for Women, were a big success as usual. A HUGE thanks goes to Trent Smith for organizing and running the finals with terrific enthusiasm and style. Thanks, too, to Valentin Bogdan, Julia Mortyakova, and their MUW colleagues for hosting us this year – they really rolled out the red carpet. We also owe much gratitude to Jung-Won Shin, VP for Pre-College Evaluations, and all the district chairs for their efforts. And of course, the day would not run smoothly without our devoted, professional workroom staff, information table workers, announcers, monitors, and timekeepers who made the trek to Columbus. The Pre-College Finals, like everything we do, is a team event.

The MMTA Collegiate Competitions were held March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Belhaven University was a perfect venue and Stephen Sachs was a most gracious host. My sincere appreciation is due to Jackie McIlwain for accepting the VP for Collegiate and National Competitions position and organizing the competitions in a record amount of time. Unfortunately, participation was very low this year (only eight competitors). We will be doing some serious brainstorming on ways to increase the number of entrants. On the bright side, everything went very smoothly, and we held masterclasses for the first time in several years that were enjoyed by all. If you are a college faculty member,

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## Message from the President (continued)

please consider entering your students next year and urge your colleagues, MMTA members and non-members alike, to do the same. We will be at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Jan Mesrobian and I had the pleasure of attending the MTNA National Conference in beautiful Spokane, Washington in March. Jan was honored as an MTNA Foundation Fellow at the gala, where we enjoyed sitting at one of the Oklahoma MTA tables. We attended many stimulating sessions and inspiring competitions. My favorite was the keynote address by Alan Walker, author of a new Chopin biography, which I highly recommend. It was also wonderful to connect with former teachers/students/colleagues and meet new friends. I hope we will have good MMTA presence at the 2020 MTNA National Conference in Chicago March 21-25.

Finally, I hope you are planning to attend our 65<sup>th</sup> Fall Conference, MTNA Competitions, and Pre-College Concerto Competitions November 1-2 at the Mississippi University for Women. MUW and Columbus are such a lovely location for the conference/competitions and worth the drive if you live a distance away. Valentin Bogdan has already put in a tremendous amount of work, especially in completing the Mississippi Arts Commission grant application to help support the conference. He and Elizabeth Moak, Portia Davis, and Jonathan Mitchell have secured a stellar line-up of guest artists – see Valentin's report for details. Please come and bring your colleagues, students, and friends!

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Johnson



*Victoria Johnson*

## Vice President for Collegiate and National Competitions



*Jackie McIlwain*

The Mississippi Music Teachers Association held its Collegiate Competitions on March 2, 2019 at Belhaven University in Jackson, MS. It was organized by Jackie McIlwain, VP for Collegiate and National Competitions and supervised by Victoria Johnson, President of MMTA. We have great appreciation of everyone involved, including Dr. Stephen Sachs for the preparation and use of Belhaven University's facilities, members of MMTA present at the competitions, everyone involved in the planning process, the teachers of the competitors, the competitors themselves, and the judges who gave support and feedback to our competitors. Additionally, the judges taught master classes following the competitions, which were enjoyed by the competitors and their teachers.

MTNA competitions will take place on November 1, 2019 during the MMTA Fall Conference (November 1-2) that will be held at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, MS.

The next MMTA Collegiate Competitions will take place on February 29, 2020 at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS. Please save the date and share this information with your students! We are excited for next year's competition and hope to attract more participation with earlier advertisements.

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## MMTA STATE COLLEGIATE COMPETITION RESULTS

Ranking	Competitor	Teacher
<b>Freshman/Sophomore Piano Division</b>		
1st Place	Yeim Kim	Jung-Won Shin
<b>Junior Piano Piano Division</b>		
1st Place	Lorena Surducan	Julia Mortyakova
<b>Graduate Piano Division</b>		
1st Place	Carlos Augusto Varela Coll	Elizabeth Moak
2nd Place	Jorge Gonzalez	Elizabeth Moak
<b>Freshman/Sophomore Brass Division</b>		
1st Place	Joseph Brian Mayfield	Anthony Kirkland
<b>Junior Brass Division</b>		
1st Place	Quin Gray	Anthony Kirkland
2nd Place	Adeline Holston	Anthony Kirkland

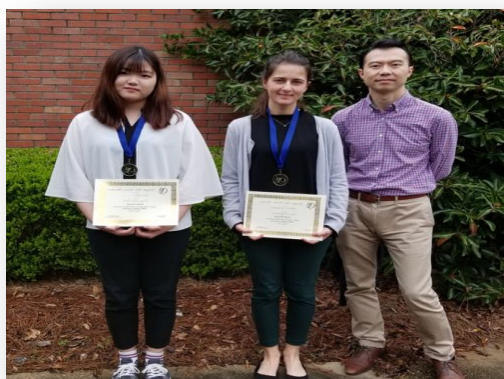
Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie McIlwain

## Competition Winners



**Graduate Piano**



**Piano Winners with judge  
Brian Hsu**



**Brass Winners with  
judge Geoffrey Durbin**

## Vice-President for Membership and Web Management



*Janine Beasley*

As of May 2, 2019, 33 members are listed for the 2019-2020 year.

Website changes:

Uploaded the MMTA Collegiate Competitions booklet to the website (from Stephanie)

Uploaded Evaluations Testing Documents (from Jung-Won)

Uploaded various auditions report forms containing updates (from Jung-Won)

Uploaded the Winter 2019 newsletter (from Stephanie)

Updated additional officer information

Uploaded the Outstanding Teacher Award documents and created a tab/page for access (documents from Barbara)

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 finances as we enter into the last part of the fiscal year are in excellent shape. I anticipate we will come in under budget as the fiscal year ends on July 31. Thanks to all of you for helping maintain our financial stability by your efforts to be prudent in the spending of MMTA money.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Ballard

A green poster for Delta State University's Department of Music 2018-2019 Music Audition Days. The text is white and yellow. At the bottom, there are three stylized piano keys (two white, one black) on a yellow background.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC  
2018-2019

MUSIC AUDITION DAYS  
NOV 30 2018 ★ FEB 27 2019 ★ APR 1 2019

HONOR BAND  
JAN 17-19 2019

HONOR CHOIR  
FEB 8-10 2019

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHEDULE AN AUDITION  
662-846-4615/MUSIC@DELTASTATE.EDU  
MUSIC.DELTASTATE.EDU

## 2019 MTNA Conference Spokane, Washington

Jan Mesrobian and Victoria Johnson attended the MTNA National Conference in Spokane, Washington, in March. Congratulations to Jan Mesrobian on being selected as the Foundation Fellow for Mississippi!



## Newly Certified

Congratulation to Susan Smith on achieving NCTM status!



Dr. Susan A. Smith currently teaches voice, music theory, chamber choir, vocal jazz, and recital class at Jones College, and is the former Fine Arts Division Chair at Jones County Junior College. Prior to coming to Jones, Dr. Smith was the Director of Choral Activities at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, TN. While in Tennessee, she conducted and travelled internationally with her choral ensembles as well as The Tennessee Ambassadors. She has taught at both the high school and college levels in Florida, Tennessee, and Mississippi. She has degrees from The Florida State University in Vocal Performance, Music Theory, and Choral Music Education. Dr. Smith is active as a judge and clinician and has presented and/or published articles on vocal technique, sight singing, and the use of the *International Phonetic Alphabet* in the high school choral program. Dr. Smith received the Clayton Krehbiel conducting award while in Florida, and was chosen as a recipient of the *Lamplighters* award and received the Teacher of the Year award at JCJC. In addition to teaching responsibilities, Dr. Smith is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and serves as Vocal Area Chair for Mississippi Music Teachers National Association.

## Affiliate News

### Vicksburg Music Teachers League

The Vicksburg Music Teachers Association had a good year in 2018-2019, featuring three recitals, and Evaluations. We held a Halloween recital last Fall, and a "Music Through the Ages" recital in the Winter. Our new member, Hannah Christiansen, led the latter recital, and featured a brief historical overview of the composers whose works were performed. It was a well-attended event, and a good model for the coming year's plans. Finally, we held a "Sacred Songs, Solos, and Ensembles" recital this Spring, which is always a nice way to encourage learning church music for young musicians. For Evaluations, We had 26 registered for Vicksburg evaluations and 19 going on to finals. We will hold a planning meeting in June for the coming teaching season.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Evans  
Vicksburg Music Teachers Association



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## Music Forum of Jackson

For Music Forum of Jackson, 2019 opened with a bang and feet on the floor! Our 50th Bach Festival was held again at Hinds Community College, with the able Kathie Lott in charge again. 394 students participated, with 49 teachers and 8 judges from all across the state participating. Twenty-five 5-year medals were awarded; sixty-nine students were also celebrated for achieving 6 to 9 years of Superiors. For students of MFJ members, six 5-year medalists were offered a partial scholarship to a Music Camp in Mississippi; five of these did accept and have registered for camps.

Jacquelyn Thornell chaired the MMTA pre-college evaluations again on April 13 at Belhaven University for the second year, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Stephen Sachs and the BU music faculty. This year 120 students (including twelve vocal students), some entering two categories, took part. More than sixty students were eligible to participate at State Finals at MUW on May 18. Fifteen 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored 270 and above, and forty-six students in levels 4-12 scored 360 or above.

MFJ celebrated the end of the year with our Spring Luncheon at Anjou Restaurant, organized by Social Chairperson Ruth Keyes. The 2019-2020 slate of officers submitted by the Nominating Committee was elected: President: Kay Johnson; Past President: Carol Durham; President Elect: Patsy Simpson; Vice President for Programs: Dorothy Claire Glover; Treasurer/ Vice President for Membership: Dot Bittick; Corresponding Secretary: Susie Cook; Recording Secretary: Sarah Little; Certification Chairperson: Donna Banks; Historian: Debbie Barnes; Social Chairperson: Ruth Keyes; Publicity Chairperson: Anna Smira; Sonata/Sonatina Festival Co-Chairpersons: Donna Reed and Patsy Simpson; Bach Festival Chairperson: Kathie Lott; MMTA Evaluations Chairperson: Jacquelyn Thornell.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Johnson, President



## JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

May 4, 2019

The JCMTA annual Solo and Sonata competition was held on January 26, 2019. There were 17 entries, ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Many thanks to Jung-Won Shin for adjudicating.

The JCMTA annual Ensemble Festival was held on February 16, 2019. There were 12 duet entries for Elementary I, 11 for Elementary II, 16 for Intermediate I, 8 for Intermediate II, and 8 for Advanced.

A business meeting was held prior to the events.

Jones County Music Teachers Association participated in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations on April 6, 2019, at Jones College. There were 57 entries, which included 55 for piano and 2 for voice.

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

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

900 S. Court St.  
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(601) 477-4094

**Mark Brown, Division Chair**

**Mike Boyd, Guitar/Music Survey**

**Jennifer Bruton, Theater/Voice**

**Ben Burge, Band/Woodwinds**

**Joel Dunlap, Concert Choir**

**David Goldblatt, Piano**

**Kristopher Grant, Percussion/Band**

**Victoria Johnson, Piano**

**Lindsey Keay, Flute/Band**

**Patrick Richards, High Brass**

**Theresa Sanchez, Piano/Music Literature**

**Susan A. Smith, Voice/Theory/JC Voices**

**Gregory Wascoe, Voice/Ear Training**

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

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## Gulf Coast Music Teachers Association

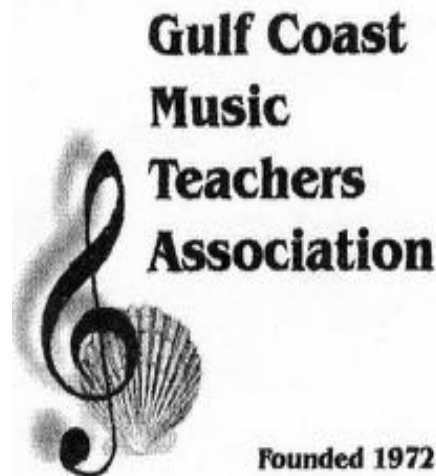
**GCMTA's Music Festival** was held on February 16, 2019, at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Jeff Davis Campus in Gulfport. Our Festival hosted 99 piano and strings performances, by 90 students, from the studios of 20 member and non-member teachers. Three Honors Recitals showcased 77 of these performances. Two students who have performed in the Festival Honors Recitals for at least 5 consecutive years were presented with Five-Year Awards of \$25 each. Judging for the event were Dr. Ellen Elder of University of Southern Mississippi; Jorge Gonzalez of William Carey University; Guy Bowering, Gulf Coast accompanist and teacher; and Yvonne Young-McGrath, Gulf Coast soloist and teacher. Bonnie Sheldon did an outstanding job as Festival Chair.

**Our local MMTA Pre-college Evaluations** took place on April 6, at MGCCC-JD. Participating were 52 piano and strings students representing seven teachers. These students turned in a total of 57 performances. Qualifying for State Finals were 29 students representing five teachers. Piano judges were Dr. Debra Atkinson, Dr. Michaelle Harrison, and Dr. Brian Murphy. Dr. Stephen Redfield served as strings adjudicator. Carol Mahler was assisted by Angela Hsu in chairing the Evaluations.

This year, one senior will perform in GCMTA's **Senior Awards Recital**, which will take place at Biloxi First United Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon, May 19. Dr. Joanna Burnside will adjudicate and make the scholarship award.

Our **June Salad Luncheon Meeting** and officer elections will be held at the home of Peggy Peterson, in Gautier, on Wednesday, June 12.

Respectfully submitted by  
Carol Mahler, GCMTA President



## Mark Your Calendar

**November 1-2, 2019 – MMTA State Conference - Mississippi University for Women, Columbus**

**November 1, 2019 – MTNA Competition - Mississippi University for Women, Columbus**

**November 2, 2019 – MMTA Pre-College Concerto Competition- Mississippi University for Women, Columbus**

**February 29, 2020 – MMTA Collegiate Competitions – The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg**

**March 21-25, 2020 – MTNA National Conference – Chicago, Illinois**

**March 28, 2020 – Group A MMTA Pre-College Evaluations – Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, and Tupelo**

**April 4, 2020 – Group A MMTA Pre-College Evaluations – Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg**

**May 16, 2020 – Pre-College Finals – Location TBA**

*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).*

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 ⅝	\$170	2 ¼ x 7	\$240
4 ⅝ x 4 ⅝	\$275	4 ⅝ 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

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## From the MMT Editor

Does anyone else feel like they need a few more weeks of summer, or is it just me? It's been a very busy summer, and I think the start of a new school year is the only thing that will settle things down!

As summer is winding down, I hope you are all rested for the students coming your way very soon! We have such an important job sharing music with the next generation. 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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Stephanie Holmes, editor

226 Hillcrest Drive  
Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090



**Find us on the web!**

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

## *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.*