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# MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

## Plan to attend our 2020 Virtual Conference November 6-7. Details to come!

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### Message from the President

Dear MMTA Members,

I hope that you and your loved ones are doing well and that the spring semester went as smoothly as possible for you. What a strange time this has been!

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost all our usual spring activities never came to be. The board made the difficult decision to cancel Pre-College Evaluations and Finals. In hindsight, I am sure we could have held those events virtually, but at the time (before we all were Zoom virtuosos), the challenges seemed too many and the time too short.

Considering the Evaluations cancellation, the board decided to give this year's Outstanding Achievement Awards based on seven, not eight, years of Pre-College Finals eligibility. Many thanks to Donna Reed, our new VP for Pre-College Performances, for gathering the bios and photos of this year's honorees and ordering their awards. Please read about these excellent students in this issue of the Mississippi Music Teacher.

The MMTA Collegiate Competition was the one event that took place as usual. Participation was up considerably from last year, and the judges all remarked on the high level of playing. Jackie McIwain did a wonderful job of organizing this event on her home turf, the University of Southern Mississippi. Thanks, Jackie!

I also wish to thank Valentin Bogdan, President-Elect and Conference Chair, for writing the Mississippi Arts Commission grant application in support of our Fall Conference and Competitions. This is a very time-consuming task and will require additional work now that we have moved our fall events online (see below).

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#### SUMMER 2020 VOL. 36, ISSUE 2

Table of Contents

Officer Reports

1

Competition  
Winners

7

Outstanding  
Achievement Winners

8

Affiliate Reports

11

Upcoming Events

15

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## Message from the President (continued)

The MMTA Board met May 30<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Here are the decisions we made about upcoming events:

**1. The November Conference and Competitions (MTNA and Pre-College Concerto) will be held virtually.** While we would prefer to gather in person as we have sixty-five times before, we feel that an online format is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our members, students, and other attendees. Making the decision early gives us plenty of time to work out numerous details. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas for our first online conference and competitions, please let me know. MTNA is providing support and we also we will also receive advice from states such as Alabama that are holding virtual events this summer. We will keep you updated on dates and other information. It will be an adventure, for sure!



*Victoria Johnson*

**2. At this time, all Spring 2021 events are planned to take place in person as usual. Here are the dates and locations:**

- MMTA Collegiate Competitions: March 6, 2021, Delta State University, Cleveland
- Group B Pre-College Evaluations (Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg): March 27, 2021
- Group A Pre-College Evaluations (Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, Tupelo): April 10, 2021
- Pre-College Finals: May 15, 2021 (tentatively at Millsaps College. Jackson)

**3. Students who would have competed in the Pre-College Evaluations in 2020 will receive the Outstanding Achievement Award for seven years of Pre-College Evaluations eligibility.** The usual requirement is eight years but we would hate for a student to miss out on receiving this award due to the 2020 cancellation.

**4. Website upgrades will be made soon.** These will make our site mobile-friendly and allow us to process secure payments for competition entry fees. So, if you encounter difficulties with the website in the near future, you'll know why. I am grateful to Janine Beasley, VP for Membership and Web Management, for arranging all of this.

Finally, I wish to congratulate Elizabeth Moak, the first recipient of our Outstanding MMTA Teacher Award! As I told her, I knew she was most deserving, but did not realize the half of her accomplishments until I read her materials. We will honor her at our virtual conference. Many thanks to Alice Ballard, Donna Reed, and Jackie McIlwain, for their work on the selection committee.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy, and restful summer!

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Johnson

## President-Elect



*Valentin Bogdan*

1. We secured a location for the 2020 MMTA Conference. It will be held at Hinds Community College, and the dates are November 6-7 2020. Thank you to Alice Ballard for serving as a liaison to the institution, and for her detailed proposal regarding what the college can offer.
2. I was able to secure Dr. Ken Renfrow as the 2020 clinician. Dr. Renfrow is and Alfred clinician/author, professor of piano pedagogy at Bob Jones University. His class piano method (co-written with E. L. Lancaster) is a staple for many class piano courses at the college level.
3. I was able to secure the services of UAB Chamber Trio (trumpet, clarinet, piano) as the guest artists. The trio performs nationally and internationally with concerts at events such as the College Music Society Conferences, International Trumpet Guild, National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors Conference, and a 2019 tour through Great Britain.
4. I completed the final report for the MAC Grant, which resulted in the last portion of the 2019 grant being sent to the MMTA account.
5. I completed the 2020 MAC Grant proposal. I was able to listen via Zoom to some of the MAC panel's discussion of our proposal, it seems to have been received well. We will find out the results in July.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentin M. Bogdan, DMA

## Vice-President for Membership and Web Management



*Janine Beasley*

As of May 28, 2020, 41 members are listed for the 2020-2021 year.

### **Website changes:**

- Uploaded the MMTA Collegiate Competitions booklet to the website (from Stephanie)
- Uploaded Evaluations Testing Documents (from Jung-Won and Roseangela)
- Uploaded the 2019 Evaluations tests as sample theory tests
- Uploaded the Winter 2020 newsletter (from Stephanie)
- Updated additional officer information (Donna Reed VP for Pre-College Performances)
- Updated meeting minutes from Fall Conference: Executive Committee/MMTA Board and General Business (from Yvonne)
- Handmade Designs has updated their servers; this has caused our website database calls to no longer work. Discussion for how to proceed will occur in the May 30 meeting. Handmade Designs has sent a proposal for the upgrades.

### **Ongoing:**

- Miscellaneous updates as needed
- Continue to send mass emails to members as requested

Respectfully submitted,  
Janine Beasley

## Vice Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations



*Rosângela Sebba*



*Jung-Won Shin*

As decided by the Board in the middle of March, the 2020 MMTA Pre-College District Evaluations and the Pre-College Finals were cancelled for the safety of students and teachers under the Covid-19 outbreak. The 2021 District Evaluations are scheduled as follows:

Group B Pre-College Evaluations (Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg) on March 27

Group A Pre-College Evaluations (Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, Tupelo) on April 10

The theory/aural skills exams have been reformatted, and the proposed revisions, approved at the last Board meeting, will be applied to the 2021 evaluations. All changes will be announced in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosângela Sebba & Jung-Won Shin*  
Vice-Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations



## Treasurer's Report



*Chris Ballard*

This has certainly been an unusual year thus far for all of us. I anticipate that when I make my final year end report in August that we may have a loss for the year, particularly since we had to cancel the pre-college finals, our major yearly money maker. As we get closer to our new fiscal year, I will make a new budget, based on the then prevailing circumstances influenced by the covid-19 pandemic. I will present the proposed budget for your consideration at our next meeting in August.

Below is a report for your information, showing the increase in the amount of money paid to competition judges this past fiscal year due to the increase in travel reimbursements we enacted.

### Judges Mileage Expense Increase

**March 2019 - February 2020**

#### With mileage increase

Mar. 2019 - Collegiate Competition.....	\$235.80
Apr. 2019 - Pre-College Evaluations.....	115.75
May 2019 - Pre-College Finals.....	322.80
Nov. 2019 - Fall Conference..... (competition judges)	1078.80
Feb. 2020 - Collegiate Competition.....	936.90

**Total extra mileage expense due to new mileage rule..... \$2690.05**

**MMTA COLLEGIATE COMPETITIONS**  
**February 29, 2020**  
**The University of Southern Mississippi**

**WINNERS**

**Placement and Student**

**Teacher**

**Piano**

**Freshman/Sophomore Solo Division**

1st - Cameron Sullivan

2nd - Elijah Whitehead

HM - Jiayi Zhang

Jung-Won Shin

Theresa Sanchez

Elizabeth Moak

**Junior/Senior Solo Division**

1st - Yeim Kim

2nd - Sung-Eun Ryu

HM - Joseph Campbell

Jung-Won Shin

Karen Fosheim

Jung-Won Shin

**Graduate Solo Division**

1st - Gonzalo Andres Aguilar Valdizan

2nd - Yu Lei

Elizabeth Moak

Elizabeth Moak

**Strings**

**Freshman/Sophomore Solo Division**

1st - Jessica Achon Villar

2nd - Jonathan Frelix

Jorge Gonzalez

Jorge Gonzalez

**Undergraduate Concerto Division**

1st - Franco Galetto

2nd - Jonathan Frelix

HM - Alvaro Edgart Miranda Gamarra

Alexander Russakovsky

Jorge Gonzalez

Alexander Russakovsky





**Woodwinds**

## Freshman/Sophomore Solo Division

1st - Shawn Bellais

Jackie McIlwain

2nd - Rebecca Robin

Jackie McIlwain

## Junior/Senior Solo Division

1st - Lauren Carolina Lopez Ochoa

Danilo Mezzadri

## Graduate Solo Division

1st - Lauren Miller

Jackie McIlwain

2nd - Katerina Bachevska

Danilo Mezzadri

**Brass**

## Freshman/Sophomore Solo Division

1st - Joseph Mayfield

Anthony Kirkland

2nd - Ryan Perkins

Anthony Kirkland

HM - Addie Holston

Anthony Kirkland

## Junior/Senior Solo Division

1st - Blake Mauldin

Anthony Kirkland

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## 2020 MMTA Outstanding Achievement Award Winners



**Sarah LaRoux** is a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Madison Central High School in Madison, MS. She has studied piano under the direction of Mrs. Carolina Whitfield-Smith of Jackson for the past 10 years. During this time, she has participated in 9 National Federation Junior Festivals, receiving all Superiors in piano, hymn, and theory. Furthermore, she has competed in the Bach Festival for the past 8 years, receiving all Superiors as well. She has also produced and notated pieces for the Junior Composer's Contest, receiving multiple first place awards. Currently, she is president of MFMC Honors Society as well as the MFMC Jr. Division. Moreover, she plays piano for the youth service at Madison Heights Presbyterian Church and for the Madison Central High School Band's marching show.

In addition to her piano studies, she plays trumpet for the Madison Central High School Symphonic Band. She has been studying trumpet for 5 years and has participated in multiple clinics such as the Mississippi Bandmasters Association State Band Clinic. Over the summer, she attended Sounds of the South Band Camp to further her trumpet education. She is also a member of her high school's Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta team, Asian Culture Club, 30 Plus Club, and Speech and Debate Team. She serves as President for the Technology Student Association and is a proud member of the Engineering Academy. This fall, she plans to attend Madison Central High School as an 11<sup>th</sup> Grade student.





**Ella Lansford** is the daughter of Tom and Gina Lansford of Long Beach, Mississippi. A 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Long Beach High School, Ella began studying violin with Carol Mahler at age six, and piano at age seven, also with Mrs. Mahler. She has studied the violin with Emily M. McClung for the past two years. Ella has qualified for MMTA Pre-College State Finals every year since 2013, winning gold medals in the Solo Strings Division, and the Strings Ensemble Division at State Finals. She has also received the GCMTA Music Festival Five-Year Award, and participated in MTNA competitions, the Bach Festival, National Guild of Piano Teachers auditions, and the Hymn Keyboard Festival. Ella began studying flute in 2015, with Mary Ann Holt. Ella is first chair in the concert band at her high school, where she also participates in the marching band and plays in the school's jazz band.

An award-winning, championship level Irish dancer, Ella is also an avid sailor, sailing for the Bay Waveland Yacht Club where she has captured the Romac (2017), Breath (2017) and Pepperdine (2019) trophies. A straight "A" student, Ella plans to study medicine in college.



**Charity Elizabeth Miller** has studied music for twelve years under Janine Beasley. She is from Laurel, Mississippi, and is the daughter of Lisa Miller and the late Andy Miller. Charity is home schooled.

Her hobbies include song writing, performing Southern Gospel music in churches and concerts, and working on her family's farm. She has sung with "In Need of Music" choir for the past two years and is very active in her church's music program.



**Lauren Moss** is the sixteen year old daughter of Paul and Rebecca Moss of Laurel, Mississippi. Lauren has studied piano with Janine Beasley since age seven. She is a sophomore at West Jones High School and is a member of First United Methodist Church. In addition to piano, Lauren enjoys ballet and art.



**Rebecca Hahn** is a home school senior who lives in Vicksburg, MS. She began taking piano lessons in fall of 2011 with Susan Gambrell. Later, she took from Judy Buys and currently takes from Denise Ragsdale. Becca's favorite pieces include jazz music from W. C. Handy and music from the Romantic era, especially Claude Debussy.

Becca also enjoys taking dance lessons and experimenting in art and creative writing. Becca will be attending Delta State University this fall, majoring in Graphic Design.



**Davis Pool** is the 18 year old son of Jason and Allison Pool of Steens, MS. Davis graduated from Caledonia High School with high honors. He is the student of Edna Mae McCoy and has played the piano for 12 years, earning Superior ratings for 9 consecutive years in the Baptist Keyboard Festival. Davis has participated in the National Federation of Music Clubs Festival, where he has also earned 12 consecutive Superior ratings in Piano Solo and has earned his 4<sup>th</sup> Gold Cup for Piano Solos. He has earned 7 Superior ratings in the MMTA Festival and received the Highest Composite Score with a perfect score of 300 in 2011.

In addition to playing piano, Davis is an active member of Fairview Baptist Church, where he plays steel drums and handbells. He recently returned from his fifth mission trip to Guatemala with his

church youth group. In high school, Davis played on the Golf Team, where he has been a part of earning two state championships. He was a member of several clubs, including FCA, Anchor, Beta FCCLA, and FBLA and served as SGA Representative for his freshman class. Davis was active in 4H and competed in 4H Shooting Sports.

Davis will attend Meridian Community College in the fall on a golf and academic scholarship. He will be a part of the Honors College and he plans to major in business.

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## Affiliate News

### Vicksburg Music Teachers League

The Vicksburg Music Teachers Association held a group recital in early March, which was our last event for the Spring semester due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The recital theme was 'Around the World in Music,' and featured composer from America, Austria, Germany, Japan, and Spain. Also featured was the "world premiere" of teacher Jeanne Evans' "Serenade for Two Flutes," which she wrote after a college choir trip to Japan in 1978. Flutists Marcia Cochran and Mary Claire Allison performed the 3-movement piece.

Two of our teachers continued lessons online during the Quarantine. Barbara Tracy is using Zoom, and Jeanne Evans used mostly FaceTime. Teaching voice lessons is not as expeditious as piano lessons, because of the lag time between the internet and satellite connections. As both Barbara Tracy and I have been saying, it's "a whole new world." (Some will recognize that as a line from a song in "Aladdin.")

Our Association is sad to announce that our member, Hannah Christenson, and her family are relocating to Colorado. We are all grateful for the energy, creativity, knowledge, and hospitality she brought to our group for two years in Vicksburg. We wish you all the best, Hannah!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Evans

### Golden Triangle Music Forum

We had a great fall semester ! Our annual Fall Musicale featured 18 piano students from 4 different teachers. Many students wear costumes to this recital, which helps them to relax and have fun. Our group had at least one lunch meeting in the Fall to make plans for the Spring. Our numbers are small. We usually have about 4-6 teachers at our meetings out of the 10 to 12 members. Of course, we planned for MMTA as usual (Thank you Rose Sebba for all the hard work!) and I also had applied for the Starkville Area Arts Council Grant that we apply for almost every year. Usually, we bring an artist for performance and masterclass in the Spring with the grant. However, last year we decided to combine our annual Honors Recital (students who make it to State Finals are featured in this recital and we hire judges and give awards. It is a way to prepare those students for State) and the Guest Artist event. The artist, Jeremy Samolesky of Auburn , performed for half an hour and then judged the student recitals afterward. It was a lovely event! This combined recital was a great solution to our problem of low student attendance to guest artist recitals because the families were coming for both events in one day. We had planned to combine the guest artist and Honors Recital again this Spring, featuring Dr. Ian Homonick, but had to cancel the event. Another unfortunate cancellation was MUW's Guest Artist and Masterteacher, Botond Socz. Our group was going to support the event financially and participate in the masterclass.

I know at least 4 teachers in our group who taught online after spring break. I don't know how successful it was for everyone else, but I was very thankful that none of my students dropped lessons. We pushed through and finished the semester with a "youtube" recital, for which each family sent videos of their children performing their pieces at home. It seems the students enjoy having something consistent in their lives - and what better thing to look forward to than music !!??

Thank you all for your wonderful leadership!  
-Katie Wallace Johnson



## JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

May 30, 2020

The JCMTA annual Solo and Sonata competition was held on January 25, 2020. There were 22 entries, ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Many thanks to Joanna Burnside for adjudicating.

The JCMTA annual Ensemble Festival was held on February 29, 2020. There were 10 duet entries for Elementary I, 7 for Elementary II, 18 for Intermediate I, 8 for Intermediate II, and 7 for Advanced.

A business meeting was held prior to the events.

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.

Some JCMTA teachers worked to continue teaching during the COVID-19 quarantine.

**Theresa Sanchez:** I did my school teaching from home after spring break, both an academic class and private lessons. My lessons were done through Google Hangouts, which was already part of our G Mail suite. Some students had pianos and some had just keyboards, and sometimes internet access was irregular. Somehow we stumbled on and made it to jury time, which was also done by video. One of my students didn't have internet access in the same location as the piano she used. She made recordings each week of her pieces, and emailed them to me. I gave feedback first through email, then we had a videocall without her piano, where I sat at my piano and talked through the suggestions. The key was being flexible, including rescheduling when internet problems occurred.

**Michelle Howells:** After receiving advice and positive encouragement from my son's cardiologist and my dear friend who is in charge of The Covid Clinic w/Hattiesburg Clinic, I resumed lessons in my studio April 4. I am wearing a mask, wiping the keys w/hydrogen peroxide after each student, and using hand sanitizer. A little over 2/3's of my students returned. The ones who did not were one senior who was "done" and ready to focus on her college plans which do not include music, and 6 students who just wanted to take a break and come back in the fall (and these were my students who don't practice!). I have approximately 7 students who will be taking lessons this summer during the month of June.

We did not have a recital. I refunded the parents whose students did not return and credited the students who did return.



## Music Forum of Jackson

Music Forum has been rather dormant since the Covid pandemic. Several of us have continued to teach, using FaceTime or Zoom. While we are fortunate to have virtual teaching at our disposal at our fingertips, I admit that it was most difficult, having to have duplicate copies of each assignment. If any of you have solutions or suggestions, I would appreciate them greatly, as I suspect that Zooming may be here for a while.

We elected our officers for the coming year, with Patsy Simpson as our new president; past-president, Kay Johnson; and President- Elect: Jane Fox.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Moak, our MMTA's first Outstanding Teacher! Music Forum's nominee for Outstanding Teacher is well-known to you: Annette Joe! We were so pleased to honor her! The following is a list of some her accomplishments:

Annette graduated from MSCW, now known as MUW, with a bachelor's degree in music performance, with emphasis on piano, then received her bachelor of music education from Delta State University. She studied the Yamaha method of teaching piano and soon began using that method in her studio. In 1967 she began several summers' study with Dr. Robert Pace at Columbia Teachers' College, where she was soon awarded the title of International Piano Foundation Clinician, a position in which she traveled over the Southeast teaching other teachers the Pace method. Annette's record of students in master classes is endless, as well as countless festivals and MMTA evaluations. She has had many students to win scholarships to study at Brevard summer music camp. She has had Baldwin and Yamaha winners, some going to divisional and national levels. Among her students who have gone on to careers in music are Keith Ford, Colin McDearman, and Dorothy Claire Glover. Keith, after receiving a scholarship to study in England, now teaches in a middle school there and also composes. Colin McDearman recently performed at our fall conference, attended Kansas Conservatory and now teaches elsewhere in the United States at conservatory level. Dorothy Claire Glover has a piano studio here in Jackson and also serves as Music Forum of Jackson's program chair and Jr. MacDowell Club's co-counselor. She studied piano at Belhaven University with Dr. Stephen Sachs and pedagogy with Carolyn Sachs. Annette began her professional involvement by joining the Jackson Music Teachers Association, where she served as secretary, treasurer, and, for two years, chair of mass piano concerts. In 1959 she joined MTNA, where she has served as division certification chair and received her 50 year pin in 2009.

She has received the MTNA Foundation fellow at a national conference, which event she regularly attended for many years. Her memberships include MMTA, where she has held the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, and certification chair. Annette was in a group of Jackson area teachers who founded Music Forum of Jackson in 1968. In that organization she has served in several positions, including president. She was a member of a group of teachers who founded the annual Bach Festival, a festival enjoyed by Mississippians statewide, now in its upcoming 52nd year. Annette was part of a group from Music Forum who brought the MS summer music camp in existence. She taught improvisation and theory at the camp for two years. Annette has been a member of the National Piano Guild, entering students in its evaluations for several years. She was children's music coordinator at Parkway Baptist Church for many years. She is still a performing member of MacDowell Federated Music Club, affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs, and chairs the annual scholarship auditions for Jr. MacDowell Club, an organization for young musicians in the metropolitan area. Annette has been active in the MS

Federated Music Clubs' festivals, where students may be evaluated in performance and theory and where scholarships are offered on a competitive basis at different levels for summer study. Last, but not least, she is on the educational board of Roland Piano Company. Annette Joe, as one of the pioneers in the field of group piano teaching, has shown young pianists that piano teaching can be a good choice for a profession, that it is possible to build a good business. Her energy seems unparalleled!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Johnson, president



The graphic features a large photograph of a modern university building with a red brick facade and a central glass-enclosed section, set against a blue sky with white clouds. A large, stylized, flowing graphic element in shades of grey and white curves across the bottom and right side of the page. In the top right corner, the Mississippi State University logo is displayed, consisting of a red 'M' with 'STATE' inside, above the text 'MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY' and 'COLLEGE OF EDUCATION Department of Music'.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
Department of Music

Mississippi State University's Department of Music takes enormous pride in preparing the next generation of musicians. Through an exemplary program of intense studies, we provide students with the musical skills necessary to succeed in the changing arts world of the 21st century. Our students leave MSU prepared for whatever opportunities present themselves during their musical careers.

In 2015, the department announced its All-Steinway School Initiative with the intent of joining the small number of music departments in the world that have achieved this prestigious recognition. With a new music facility breaking ground in Fall 2019, current and future students will have access to state-of-the-art practice and performance spaces. What separates musical training at MSU from similar programs is the fact that at Mississippi State, our students have "Access to Excellence" every moment of their musical training!

**Degrees we offer:**

- Bachelor of Music Education
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  - Vocal Music
- Bachelor of Arts in Music
- Master of Music Education

662.325.3070  
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## Mark Your Calendar

**November 6-7, 2020 – MMTA State Conference –Virtual! Details to come later.**

*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 prices.



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## From the MMT Editor

I've been watching *Hamilton* a good bit since it premiered on Disney+, and I keep thinking of the lyric, "Look around, look around, at how lucky we are to be alive right now." It may not seem like it with everything going on in the world (teaching in the middle of a pandemic is not easy!), but what if COVID-19 stretches us and helps us grow as educators?

I'm sure we all miss our students. I keep telling coworkers that I just want to make music with my students for a sense of normalcy! Unfortunately, it's just going to look very different from what we're used to for the time being.

Best wishes as you enter this school year! May your internet connections be strong for all of the Zoom meetings and lessons! (And if you have any suggestions on how to teach class piano virtually to students who may not have a piano at home, please send them my way! ☺)



*Stephanie Holmes*

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### MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

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