
MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Message from the President



Valentin Bogdan

Dear members of Mississippi Music Teachers Association,

I am honored to start my term as president of this distinguished organization, and to give my first official report as MMTA president. I am inspired by the faith and confidence that my music teacher colleagues have in me to lead this organization. I will work hard and ensure that MMTA not only maintains its role as the premier music teaching organization in our state, but it will also expand its role, develop new audiences for classical music, embark on innovative endeavors and continue to use music and the teaching of music as a tool for good. I also want to thank our Immediate Past President, Dr. Victoria Johnson for her guidance and tremendous work she has done the past years, and I also want to thank the departing board members for their work in making this organization flourish.

There is no doubt that this past year has been challenging for everyone. I personally did not realize how much I miss the face-to-face interaction with my students and the classroom environment. However, our organization was able to adapt and succeed when faced with these new challenges. We had a wonderful virtual conference, with presentations and performances covering a wide variety of topics. We had good participation in the MTNA competition. Our Mississippi representatives did extremely well in the MTNA competitions, and received very useful comments from the judges (Hannah Heaton, the Young Artist Category state representative of the Music Composition Competition has also won the Southern Division and she is a 2021 MTNA National Finalist). Also, since our last meeting in November, we have reviewed and finalized the plans for the 2021 state conference. Please see the report of President Elect Jung-Won Shin for more info on that, and please join me in thanking her for her work as conference organizer.

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Message from the President (continued)

Our events in the near future will also be virtual. The board has voted to hold virtual pre-college auditions, as well as virtual Collegiate Competitions. I do want acknowledge and thank our pre-college competition VPs Dr. Rosangela Sebba and Dr. Karen Fosehim for their work creating an easy-to-navigate virtual environment where teachers and parents can complete the auditions while maintaining the high standards, the value, and the credibility of the process. We have also changed the date of the Collegiate Competitions to later in the Spring, with the hope of achieving greater participation. Please look out for an official announcement from our current VP for Collegiate Competitions, Dr. Danilo Mezzadri

I have attended the Southern Division presidents' meeting on January 14th over Zoom. It seems like most states are adopting a virtual approach over the next few months for concerts, auditions, etc. A few individual districts are employing the face-to-face route, but those are very few.

Finally, I want draw your attention to a new endeavor MMTA is developing – the virtual concert series featuring our members. Each month, we will have a compilation concert featuring our members, perhaps some of our students (if there is interest). This will be uploaded on YouTube and streamed on our MMTA website. For the month of February, we will have members of the Executive Board give performances (so please tune in, it would be great to get to know some of them artistically as well). Also, please look out for a call for participation I will send soon, for the month of March. It will be open to all our members and students, and the topic will be music by women composers (since March is Women's History Month).

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I wish you a great 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentin M. Bogdan, DMA

President, Mississippi Music Teachers Association
Associate Professor of Music

Mississippi University for Women

President-Elect's Report



Jung-Won Shin

The 2021 MMTA State Conference will be held at Hinds Community College in Raymond on November 5-6, 2021. Dr. Ken Renfrow, Alfred author and professor of piano pedagogy at Bob Jones University, will be the clinician for the 2021 conference. He is a prolific arranger, composer and author of leading textbooks in his field. The guest artists for the conference will be UAB Chamber Trio (trumpet, clarinet, piano). The trio performs nationally and internationally at concert venues and conferences of the College Music Society, International Trumpet Guild, and the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors.

I would like to extend my thanks to Alice Ballard for agreeing to host the 2021 conference, Valentin Bogdan for securing the clinician and guest artists for the conference, and Portia Davis and Jonathan Mitchell who will secure the guest speaker for the IMTF Luncheon and the commissioned composer for the conference respectively.

A proposal for the 2021 MAC Grant will be submitted for the state conference by Mar. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Jung-Won Shin

Treasurer's Report



Chris Ballard

At this point half way through the financial fiscal year the MMTA finances are in good shape. Due to the way covid-19 affected the running of the Fall Conference we had less expenses than we normally would. The income of the Fall Conference, including the MAC Grant, was \$6556.48 and the expenses were only \$3430.01. The MAC Grant we received allowed us to have a monetary gain from the conference, whereas if we had not received the grant, we would have actually had a loss. Thank you, Valentin, for your hard work in securing the MAC Grant.

I am glad to say that we have had \$335.00 donated to MMTA in honor of Dr. Harold Thompson, who passed away in 2020. He was a driving force for keeping MMTA active and progressive. I was privileged to have taken music theory classes as an undergraduate and graduate student from Dr. Thompson. He had a unique sense of humor and had a passion for music that was always evident in each class I took from him.

Overall, during the first six months of the current fiscal year, including the Fall Conference, we have \$8,921.48 in income with \$4092.01 in expenses. At the moment, even with the covid-19 disruptions, I believe the MMTA financial outlook for the next six months is positive.

As always, if you have any questions or need help with any MMTA financial related issues please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted: Chris Ballard, MMTA State Treasurer

Vice Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations



Rosângela Sebba



Karen Fosheim

After our last board meeting, some members suggested to cancel face-to-face District Evaluations for the Spring 2021. A plan (document with a description of how to proceed with the evaluations online) was shared with all District chairs. Included in the file was all documents and exams, including keys. A meeting with the District Chairs has been scheduled for January 16 at 11:00 am, via Zoom.

The 2021 District Evaluations are still scheduled as follows:

Group B: Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg, on March 27

Group A: Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, Tupelo, on April 10

All Pre-College documents were revised and approved by the Board. The files were shared through a Google Drive to the following District Chairs:

Oxford: Adrienne Park

Tupelo: Sandy Coutoumanos

Columbus/Starkville: Edna Mae McCoy and Rosângela Yazbec Sebba

Jackson & Goodman: Donna Banks and Jacquelyn Thornell

Vicksburg: Barbara Tracy

Ellisville: Kelly Shows

Hattiesburg: Dixie Lawson

Gulf Coast: Carol Mahler and Angela Hsu

And Executive Board members:

Immediate Past President: Victoria Johnson

President: Valentin Bogdan

President Elect: Jung-Won Shin

VP for Membership and Website Management: Janine Beasley

Secretary: Yvonne McGrath

VP for Pre-College Performances: Michael Rushing

We would like to thank all area chairs and board members who contributed to the revisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Fosheim & Rosângela Sebba

Vice-Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations

Vice-President for Membership and Web Management



Janine Beasley

As of January 15, 2021, 137 members are listed for the 2020-2021 year. Of these 2 are adding Mississippi MTA and Tupelo, 2 are reinstating members, 5 are new members, 4 are new collegiate members.

Website changes:

Updated officer information with new officers

Uploaded August 2020 meeting minutes

Ongoing: miscellaneous updates as needed.

Continue to send mass emails to members as requested.

Updated member list with most current information; continuing to add new members as I get information. Unpaid members have been deleted.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Beasley

MTNA Competition Results

The 2020-2021 MTNA State Performance Competitions were held virtually in November under the supervision of Jackie McIlwain, VP for Collegiate and National Competitions. We would like to thank the Area Chairs for securing our three outstanding adjudicators: J.C. Barker, woodwinds; Robert Conway, piano; and Misha Galaganov. Another special thanks goes out to Victoria Johnson, President and Stephanie Holmes, VP for Public Relations, who offered great assistance in many ways.

There were 25 total entrants participating. There were 22 entrants in the Performance Competitions and 3 entries in the Composition Competitions.

The results of the Competitions are as follows:

MTNA STATE COMPETITIONS: STATE LEVEL

CATEGORY	NAME	TEACHER
PIANO PERFORMANCE		
JUNIOR CATEGORY		
Winner	Matthew Hatchett	Donna Reed
Alternate	Winn Brown	Charles Crider
SENIOR CATEGORY		
Winner	Caleb Owens	Gerardo Teissonnie
Alternate	Samuel Gaines	Kevin Chance
Honorable Mention	Jiyoung Seo	Jung-Won Shin
YOUNG ARTIST CATEGORY		
Winner	Boya Li	Ellen Elder
Alternate	Yeim Kim	Jung-Won Shin
Honorable Mention	Hannah Heaton	Valentin Bogdan
STRINGS PERFORMANCE		
JUNIOR CATEGORY		
Representative	Winn Brown	Charles Crider
YOUNG ARTIST CATEGORY		
Representative	Congcong Bi	Alexander Russakovsky
WOODWIND PERFORMANCE		
SENIOR CATEGORY		
Representative	Matthew Kim	Myung Kim
YOUNG ARTIST CATEGORY		
Winner	Chase Romans	Dannel Espinoza
Alternate	Morgan Webster	Dannel Espinoza
Honorable Mention	Jeremiah Parker	Dannel Espinoza

COMPOSITION**JUNIOR CATEGORY**

Representative

Miles Hansen

Portia Davis

SENIOR CATEGORY

Representative

Luke Zhang

Adrienne Park

YOUNG ARTIST CATEGORY

Representative

Hannah Heaton

Valentin Bogdan

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie McIlwain, MMTA

VP for Collegiate and National Competitions

Congratulations to Hannah Heaton, student of Valentin Bogdan, for winning Young Artist Music Composition at Southern Division. She will represent us at nationals.

2020 MMTA PRE-COLLEGE CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS**STRINGS:****Elementary B****1st Place-Gold** – Winn Davis Brown Teacher: Charles Crider**Junior****1st Place-Gold** – Connor Hugh Carlisle Teacher: Susan Gaston**Senior****1st Place-Gold** – Sadie James Gibson Teacher: Hristo Hristov**PIANO:****Elementary A****1st Place-Gold** – Effia Wu Teacher: Katie Wallace Johnson**1st Alternate** – Max Bian Teacher: Rebekah Moore**2nd Alternate** – Justin Chung Teacher: Katie Wallace Johnson**Elementary B****1st Place – Gold** – Katie Chung Teacher: Katie Wallace Johnson**1st Alternate** – Ely Marie Hatchett Teacher: Donna Reed**Tie:****2nd Alternate** – Anya Rai Teacher: Roseangela Sebba**2nd Alternate** – Bruce Beichen Pang Teacher: Donna Reed**Junior****1st Place-Gold** – Matthew Hatchett Teacher: Donna Reed**1st Alternate** – Agatha Taquino Teacher: Roseangela Sebba**2nd Alternate** – Mary Holland Nichols Teacher: Rebekah Moore**Senior****Tie:****1st Place Gold** - Andrew Liu Teacher: Rachel Heard**1st Place Gold** – Anabel Olivia Morgan Teacher: Donna Reed**1st Alternate** – LeRoy Carman Teacher: Sandy Coutoumanos

Affiliate News

Music Forum of Jackson

Happy New Year to everyone! Hope all of you are doing fine and in the midst of preparation of our students for upcoming Festivals.

Our Sonata/Sonatina Festival was held in November virtually. That was a first for Music Forum. We had 13 teachers, and 65 students participate this year. Our judges were: Alice Ballard, Brenda Wilder, Angie Willoughby, and Barbara Tracy. A special thanks to Donna Reed for an outstanding job of chairing this festival, with all the Covid restrictions.

Bach Festival will be held on February 13, 2021 at Hinds Community College. Kathie Lott has done a fabulous job of providing this festival with Covid restrictions and working with Hinds. Thank you!

We had several "Zoom" meetings in the fall, mainly just catching up with everyone and sharing how each of us is dealing with teaching with restrictions.

On January 9, 2021, Amy McClland from Birmingham presented our program: "Teaching of (Healthy) Virtuosity From the Start." She demonstrated from her new method books which will be out this summer. The presentation was informative and made use of child appealing technology, including "Percy the Pug".

On January 15, 2021 Music Forum Board met to discuss some ideas for the upcoming semester. On Friday, February 5, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Donna Banks will talk with us by Zoom about the upcoming MMTA pre-college evaluations. Your invitation to the Zoom Meeting is: ID 8231923426 and passcode 7n9QVS. I hope each of you will join us for the informative meeting.

Our date for Evaluations is April 10 and State Finals will be May 15, 2021.

March 13-17 is our national NTMA virtual convention.

May 31 is the deadline for nominations for the MMTA teach of the year award. If you have anyone you would like to nominate, please let me know.

Hope to see each of you on Friday, February 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Patsy Simpson, President Music Forum of Jackson.

Hattiesburg Music Teachers League

HATTIESBURG MUSIC TEACHERS LEAGUE (HMTL) is continuing its full calendar of events this academic year, despite the Covid-19 challenges that we are all facing.

Our January 23rd general meeting and program featured our very own Janice Mesrobian, who presented “Jan’s January Jewels.” Her presentation featured many interesting historical facts about the founding of our league, as well as the interview process that she administers to all beginning students, and several of the basic skills that she teaches to students in her studio.

Three HMTL student recitals are planned for this year: our October 17th recital was pre-recorded and presented via Zoom using iMovie. Our February 6th and April 17th league recitals, as well as our April 25th Spring Concert will follow the same format. We appreciate the diligent work of Christina Mathis, Recitals Chair, and Brian Murphy, Spring Concert Chair.

Our teachers and students are preparing for the District III MFMC festival on February 20th. A few students have elected to perform live at Mississippi Music in Hattiesburg (while following all Covid-19 safety protocols), while others have elected to record their selections. Anne Kathryn DeViney serves as chair of this event, and Jan Mesrobian serves as co-chair. We are also preparing our students for the MMTA Pre-College District Evaluations. Dixie Lawson will serve as chair of this event, with Joanna Burnside serving as co-chair. HMTL will also hold its annual scholarship auditions this spring.

Our May business meeting and luncheon is slated for May 20th.

We continue to press forward, and to prepare for all of the wonderful opportunities that this year promises!

All the best to everyone, and stay safe,

Ellen Price Elder

HMTL President

Golden Triangle Music Forum

Greeting from the Golden Triangle Music Forum! Wishing all a healthy and prosperous year.

A normal year with Golden Triangle Music Forum includes a Spring Honors Recital and a Fall costume recital for students of all members. This past year, most of our beloved events were canceled. Therefore, it was extremely special when Rosangela Sebba planned an outdoor recital put on by the MSU Community Music School. The event took place at the MSU Plaza on Main Street. Each brought their own chairs to surround the electric upright piano and sound system. A few teachers took turns cleaning the keys and sanitizing students' hands, and there was even a food truck nearby for families wanting to eat afterwards. People walking downtown stopped to listen and enjoy the music. At the end, one of the MSU piano majors performed, inspiring the young students with his level of musicianship.

Another event was also welcomed by our students. The Concerto Competition was a success - we learned to record our students and send in the videos, and our students gained a new performance experience. Many Starkville children placed, giving us all some excitement! This Spring, we look forward to MMTA District Evaluations and State Finals. Those of us who are knowledgeable about recording students will help other teachers who are new to technology. We have a few new members this year, a great start 2021! We look forward to having more face-to-face events and the opportunity to make music.

Cheers!

Katie Wallace Johnson



JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

January 16, 2021

The JCMTA annual Showcase Recital was held on Sunday, November 8, 2020, at Jones College. Strict guidelines were in place for mask wearing, social distancing, and cleaning of keyboard between student performances. Student performers were highlighted at this event.

A business meeting was held prior to the above event.

The JCMTA annual Solo and Sonata Competition is being held on Saturday, January 23, 2021. The competition is for students sixth through twelfth grade. 12 students are entered for this event. Our numbers are down significantly due to COVID. Strict guidelines are being observed.

Several JCMTA teachers will have students participate in the Mississippi Baptist Keyboard Festival which will be held on Thursday January 28, 2021.

JCMTA will hold its annual Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

Jones County Music Teachers Association will participate virtually in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations March 27, 2021.

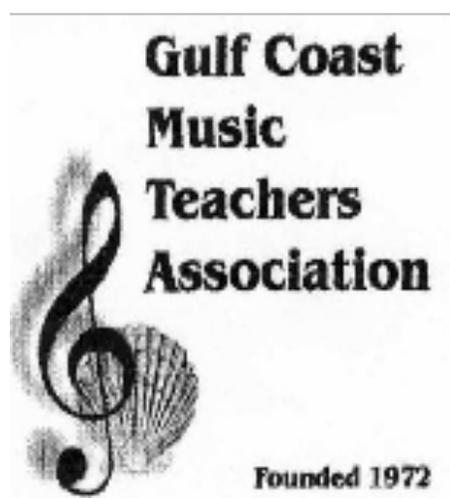
Respectfully submitted,
Janine Beasley

Mark Your Calendar

April 19, 2021 - MMTA Collegiate Competitions - Virtual

May 15, 2021 - MMTA Pre-College Finals - Millsaps College, Jackson

Do you have an event you would like to be placed in the Mississippi Music Teacher? Contact Stephanie Holmes at 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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From the MMT Editor

My apologies for the tardiness of the newsletter. My father had a stroke right before Christmas, and I have been navigating the world of healthcare during these crazy times the last few months. He finally got to come home at the beginning of March, and I'm just now getting around to the newsletter. Better late than never, right? 😊

I hope your semester is off to a great start! Best wishes to you and your students as you prepare for the upcoming auditions!



Stephanie Holmes

Editor

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

Stephanie Holmes, editor

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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.
