

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Message from the President



Jung-Won Shin

The MMTA Collegiate Competitions were held on March 4 at Mississippi College. My sincere appreciation goes to Michael Rushing, our host for the competitions, and Dannel Espinoza who served as VP for Collegiate and National Competitions for organizing the competitions. 20 competitors participated in the competitions (piano, brass, woodwinds, and chamber music). This year, the Graduate Orchestra Concerto/Aria Division of the competitions was available for participants for the first time. A brass master class was given by the judge as well. I would like to invite you to enter your college students in next year's competitions held at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

A huge thanks goes to Rosângela Yazbec Sebba and Katie Johnson, Vice Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations, who generated and organized the numerous evaluation materials for the Pre-College Evaluations held last April; Janine Beasley, VP for Membership & Web Management, who updated our website upon various requests in a timely manner; and Treasurer Christ Ballard, who managed and processed all necessary payments and expenses. I appreciate all of our District Chairs and evaluation hosts who made the evaluations possible and successful.

This year's Pre-College Finals will take place at Jones College in Ellisville on Saturday, May 20. I would like to extend my thanks to Rebekah Schultz and Rebekah Lipscombe, Vice Presidents for Pre-College Performances, and Victoria Johnson, our host for the event, and all of our members participating in the Pre-College Evaluations and the Finals.

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I was very grateful to attend the MTNA 2023 National Conference held in Reno, Nevada, in March. I attended the State Presidents Advisory Council meeting, the Southern Division meeting and reception, the MTNA annual meeting, the Gala, and several conference sessions including master classes, presentations, guest recitals, and the national competitions. Congratulations to Luke Deaton, a student of Matthew Haislip, who won the MTNA National Senior Brass Performance Competitions! The MTNA Collegiate Chapter of Mississippi State University had a well-organized poster presentation during the national conference. Both Rosângela Yazbec Sebba and Jenna Klein, our new Vice President for Collegiate & National Competitions, presented conference sessions. Congratulations to all the presenters from Mississippi! I hope that we will present a MTNA Fellow from our state at the 2024 MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16-20.

Our 2023 State Conference will be held at Mississippi State University in Starkville on October 27-28. I greatly appreciate Carol Mahler, President-Elect and Conference Chair, and Rosângela Yazbec Sebba for organizing and hosting the conference respectively.

I hope that each of you will have a nice summer, and will look forward to seeing many of our members and students at the upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,

Jung-Won Shin

President-Elect's Report



Carol Mahler

The 2023 MMTA State Conference will be held at Mississippi State University on October 27-28, 2022. The following is the list of our Conference Clinician, Guest Artist, Commissioned Composer, and Speaker for the IMTF Luncheon for Fall Conference:

- Conference Clinician: Slawomir Dobrzanski, concert pianist and Professor of Piano at Kansas State University.
- Guest Artist: Joseph Kingma, award-winning pianist and Keyboard Division Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Piano at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida.
- IMTF Luncheon Speaker and Piano Judge for the Pre-College Concerto Competitions: Dr. Ronald Shinn, Professor Emeritus, Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, well-known for his stellar, award-winning students.
- Commissioned Composer: Joseph B. Earp, active published composer, clinician, and Director of Bands at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi.

MMTA's application for a \$5,000 Mississippi Arts Commission Project Grant was submitted last February. The grant was requested to support our Fall Conference which will be held at Mississippi State University and the Collegiate Competitions which will be held at the University of Mississippi on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

I would like to extend my thanks to Jung-Won Shin, Valentin Bogdan, and Victoria Johnson for their helpful advice and support for the 2023 Fall Conference and 2024 Collegiate Competitions, as well as the MAC grant application; Roseangela Sebba for agreeing to host the 2023 Conference; Elizabeth Moak for agreeing to host the 2024 Collegiate Competitions; Chris Ballard for help and support with the budget form of the MAC grant application; and Brian Murphy, Laura Broughton, and Jonathan Mitchell for securing the Guest Artist, the IMTF Luncheon Speaker, and the Conference Commissioned Composer, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Mahler
MMTA President-Elect

Treasurer's Report



Chris Ballard

As we near the end of the current fiscal year our overall income and expenses for July 1, 2022 through May 6, 2023 are almost even. Even though I hope and anticipate that we will finish the year in the black, it has been more difficult during this time period than usual to maintain a safe operating budget due to increased expenses. I am sure part of this is due to our leaving behind the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and having more face-to-face events. Because of this, as I alluded to in my last report in January, there has been an unusual increase in the amount we have paid out to judges for the various yearly events. There are multiple reasons for this increase. One of course, is having gone from 25 cents a mile to 30 cents for the judges' travel expense. As I have mentioned in the past, when it is possible to use fewer judges than are necessary for certain events it would be more cost efficient.

Also, I noticed that for the pre-college evaluations that some districts tended to choose judges that lived quite far away from the event, while other districts tended to select judges that lived in the community or in close proximity to the event site. I know every situation is different and that judges close by are not always available. But, when possible, I suggest that each district try to find ways to cut back on judges' expenses.

I really appreciate all that each of you do to help hold down MMTA expenses throughout the year. I also appreciate the help and support you continuously give me as your treasurer. I definitely could not take care of the budgetary responsibilities without your assistance. As always, if you need any help from me concerning MMTA finances do not hesitate to reach out.

Vice-President for Membership and Web Management



Janine Beasley

As of May 5, 2023, 31 members are listed for the 2023-2024 year. There were 39 at this time last year.

Website changes:

Uploaded Evaluations Testing Documents (from Rosangela and Katie)

Updated calendar for new conference dates and sent announcement to membership (from Carol/Jung-Won))

Updated MMTA Collegiate Competition Information per Jung-Won/Douglas Mark

Changed deadline on website for MMTA competitions per Dannel Espinoza

Updated MMTA Auditions reporting documents (from Rosangela)

Updated Adrienne Park as MMTA Collaborative Piano Chair

Updated officer's page to include Victoria Johnson as College Faculty Forum Chair

Updated calendar for MTNA Competitions information and deadline

Uploaded the Winter 2022 newsletter (from Stephanie)

Updated meeting minutes from Fall Conference (from Alice)

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



Katie Johnson

The District Evaluations went well with a few suggestions for the Theory and Ear Training Exams. Thank you to the those who took the time to carefully send me the corrections. We had a good number of participants in the District Evaluations, and we want to increase participation. Here are the numbers of students eligible for State Finals per District:

- Gulf Coast: 47 entries – 33 Piano Solo; 2 Sonata/Sonatina; 4 Theme & Variations; 3 Ensembles; 14 Strings Solos; 5 Ensembles, 3 Theme & Variations
- Hattiesburg: 36 entries – 34 Piano Solo; 1 Sonata/Sonatina; 2 Theme & Variations; 4 Ensembles; 2 Strings Solo
- Jackson/Goodman: 93 entries – 88 Piano Solo; 10 Sonata/Sonatina; 7 Theme & Variations; 11 Ensembles; 5 Voice Solo
- Jones: 31 entries – 31 Piano Solo; 3 Sonata/Sonatina; 1 Theme & Variations; 6 Ensembles
- Oxford:
- Starkville/Columbus: 41 entries – 41 Solos; 4 Sonata/Sonatina; 2 Theme & Variations; 4 Ensembles
- Tupelo: 17 entries – 7 Piano Solo; 7 Strings Solos; 3 Voice Solo
- Vicksburg: 15 entries – 15 Piano Solo

We would like to thank all District Chairs, board members and officers for their support and work during the evaluations.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Johnson & Rosângela Sebba
Vice-Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations

Affiliate News

Gulf Coast Music Teachers Association's Affiliate Report

GCMTA's Annual Music Festival was headed up again by Chairman Bonnie Sheldon with her usual creativity and aplomb! On Saturday, March 4, 2023, 83 students of 9 members and 7 non-member teachers turned in 109 solo and ensemble performances. Seventy-seven of these performances qualified to be presented in the 5 Honors Recitals. Six students received \$25 Five-Year Awards. Festival judges were:

Dr. Joanna Burnside, professor emeritus, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College – Perkinston; Dr. Christina Mathis, Instructor of Music, William Carey University in Hattiesburg; Daniel Vernon, director of choral music at Gulfport High School; Curtis Staples director of choral music at West Harrison High School in Gulfport; and Professor Xie Song, strings professor at Belhaven University in Jackson. The event was held at MGCCC in Gulfport.

MMTA Pre-College Evaluations saw 47 piano, strings, and woodwind students participating, representing 6 teachers. Fifty-four performances qualified for State Finals. Judges for this event were: Dr. Jonathan Mitchell, Piano and Theory Instructor at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College – Jackson County Campus; Betty Hopkins, director of choral music at St. Martin High School; Hope Schotts Steiner, Jackson County Schools, and Dr. Latannia Ellerbe, assistant professor of strings at Jackson State University. Carol Mahler and Angela Hsu co-chaired the event, with help from Collegiate Member Lillian Eidson.

GCMTA's **Senior Awards Recital** was conducted on Sunday evening, April 30th, at Bible Fellowship Church in Pass Christian. Two seniors vied for \$1,000 in award money. Dr. Jonathan Mitchell, Piano and Theory Instructor at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College – Jackson County Campus served as adjudicator. Vice-President for Programs and the Senior Award Recital, Emily Mahler, chaired the event.

Our **Spring Meeting for officer elections** will be a brunch, and will be held on Thursday morning, June 15, at the home of member Nelda Davis. GCMTA's Summer Planning Meeting will be held toward the end of July.

Respectfully submitted by
Carol Mahler, GCMTA President





JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

May 6, 2023

The JCMTA annual Ensemble Festival was held on February 18, 2023. Participation was significant, but lower than previous years; quality of the students' performance was exceptional.

Jones County Music Teachers Association participated in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations on April 1, 2023, at Jones College. Participation was

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.

Respectfully submitted,
Janine Beasley



Jones College
School of Art, Music, and Performance

Bruce Smith, Dean

Mike Boyd, Guitar	Lindsey Keay, Flute/Band
Ben Burge, Band/Woodwinds	Matt McGuffie, Music Industry
Josh Frans, Percussion/Band	Caleb Owenby, Brass
Victoria Johnson, Piano	Theresa Sanchez, Piano/Music Literature
Imgyu Kang, Choral Activities	Susan Schuman, Woodwinds
	Susan A. Smith, Voice/Theory/Ear Training

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www.jcjc.edu/programs/finearts
(601) 477-4203



March 4, 2023

Mississippi Music Teachers Association – 2023 Collegiate Competition Report

The MMTA 2023 Collegiate Competitions were held at Mississippi College under the supervision of Dannel Espinoza, VP for Collegiate and National Competitions. Michael Rushing served as coordinator and host of this event. Area Chairs secured the following three adjudicators: Irina Cunev, piano and chamber; Allen Parrish, brass and guitar; and Austin Smith, woodwinds and chamber. There were 19 total entrants: (14) in piano, (1) in woodwinds, (2) in brass, (2) in chamber, and (1) in guitar. The results of the Competitions are as follows:

Piano Solo Competition**Freshman/Sophomore Solo Division**

First Place: *Daniel Moraru, student of Kaitlin Moody*

Second Place: *Landon Thomas Maughon, student of Michael Rushing*

Honorable Mention: *Anna McKaime Patrick, student of Michael Rushing*

Junior/Senior Solo Division

First Place: *Shona Gordon, student of Rebekah Schultz*

Second Place: *Cameron Sullivan, student of Jung-Won Shin*

Graduate Solo Division

First Place: *Lewei He, student of Elizabeth Moak*

Second Place: *Jeferson Lopez Sarmiento, student of Ellen Elder*

Graduate Orchestra Concerto Division

First Place: *Wenwen Che, student of Ellen Elder*

Second Place: *Sichun Gao, student of Elizabeth Moak*

Chamber Competition**Strings Division**

First Place: *Belhaven Duo, coached by Kaitlin Moody*

Winds Division

First Place: *Zenith Reed Quintet, coached by Dannel Espinoza*

Instrumental Solo Competition**Freshman/Sophomore Division**

Brass First Place: *Faith Nicole Redden, student of Douglas Mark*

Guitar First Place: *Andrew Woody, student of John Jackson*

Junior/Senior Division

Brass First Place: *Matthew Brewton, student of Douglas Mark*

Woodwinds First Place: *Anna Baker, student of Olivia Boatman*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Espinoza'.

Dannel Espinoza, D.M.A.

VP for Collegiate & National Competitions

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PIANO DEGREES

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Bachelor of Music Education

Bachelor of Arts in Music

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Master of Music in Collaborative Piano

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Collaborative Piano:

Adrienne Park - apark@olemiss.edu



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Mark Your Calendar

**Oct. 27, 2023 – 2023 MTNA State Competitions– Mississippi State University,
Starkville, MS**

**Oct. 27-28, 2023 – 69th MMTA State Conference– Mississippi State University,
Starkville, MS**

**March 2, 2024 – 2024 MMTA State Competitions– University of Southern Mississippi,
Hattiesburg, MS**

**April 6, 2023 – 2023 MMTA Pre-College Evaluations, Group A – Goodman, Hattiesburg,
Jackson, Oxford, Tupelo**

**April 13, 2024 – 2024 MMTA Pre-College Evaluations, Group B – Columbus/Starkville,
Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg**

May 18, 2024 – MMTA Pre-College Finals – Location TBA

*Do you have an event you would like to be placed in the Mississippi Music Teacher? Contact
Stephanie McGee at sholmes057@gmail.com.*



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From the MMT Editor



Stephanie McGee

Editor

It's hard to believe the new school year is only a few short weeks away! Music teachers are always busy, but I am amazed at just how much we do in Mississippi for our students. It's a blessing to be in this profession with such great colleagues. I hope as the summer is beginning to wind down, you are getting a much-needed break from the hustle and bustle that takes place in our classrooms and private studios. Happy Summer!



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.