
MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

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Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Message from the President



Jung-Won Shin

Happy New Year! I hope that each and every one of you had a good start of the year.

I am honored and excited to represent our organization at the MTNA 2024 National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16-20. Theresa Sanchez, our MTNA Foundation Fellow of this year, will be recognized at the Gala during the national conference. I truly appreciated all your contributions to the MTNA Foundation Fund in honor of our MTNA 2024 Foundation Fellow.

All the MMTA members who will attend the MTNA conference are cordially invited to a reception hosted by the MTNA Southern Division during the conference. The Southern Division Travel Funds contributed by each state of the division will be awarded to all the MTNA Competitions Southern Division winners who will travel to Atlanta in March for the national round of the competitions during the MTNA conference.

Our Collegiate Competitions will be hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg on Saturday, March 2, 2024. I hope that many of our college students will participate in the competitions. I extend my thanks to Jenna Klein who will organize the competitions and Elizabeth Moak and her colleagues who will host the event.

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Message from the President (continued)

The MMTA Pre-College Evaluations will be held on April 6 and 13. This year, Group A Evaluations in Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, and Tupelo will be held on Saturday, April 6. Group B Evaluations in Cleveland, Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, and Vicksburg will take place on Saturday, April 13. Special thanks to Co-Vice Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations, Rosângela Sebba and Katie Johnson, and all of our District Chairs for their tremendous time and work! The Pre-College Finals will be held at Hinds Community College on Saturday, May 18. I appreciate Rebekah Lipscombe, Alice Ballard, and their colleagues hosting the event, and Rebekah Lipscombe and Rebekah Schultz, our new Co-VPs for Pre-College Performances, organizing the event.

The MMTA 2024 State Conference will be held at Belhaven University in Jackson on November 1-2.

I greatly appreciate Carol Mahler, President-Elect and Conference Chair, organizing the conference and preparing for the Mississippi Arts Commission Project Grant application on behalf of our organization. And many thanks to Laura Broughton, Adrienne Park, and Jonathan Mitchell for securing the IMTF Luncheon Speaker, the Guest Artists, and the Commissioned Composer respectively for the state conference.

I will look forward to seeing many of our members and students at the above events.

Respectfully submitted,

Jung-Won Shin



President-Elect's Report



Carol Mahler

MMTA's 2023 State Conference was held at Mississippi State University in Starkville on October 27-28, 2023. During the conference, attendees enjoyed an array of eighteen presentations including the three sessions presented by our clinician, Dr. Slawomir Dobrzansky, who also gave a master class for pre-college students. The MTNA Competitions were held concurrently with Friday's presentations. The Steinway Gallery of Spanish Fort, Alabama and Amro Music of Memphis provided a display of Steinway pianos. The New Faculty Recital featured six new faculty members in Mississippi, as well as the winner of MTNA's Young Artist Composition Competition. The premier of the Commissioned Composition by Dr. Joseph B. Earp, entitled "The Mockingbird Project," was performed by the 56-member Hinds Community College Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Earp. The 2023 MMTA Outstanding Teacher Award was presented to Theresa Sanchez during the banquet. The Guest Artist Recital

featured Dr. Joseph Kingma. Dr. Kingma also presented a masterclass for advanced students on Saturday morning. After the Gold Medalist Recital, the IMTF Luncheon featured Dr. Ronald Shinn, who served as the piano judge for the Pre-College Concerto Competitions, with Dr. Amy Catron serving as strings judge.

I would like to extend my thanks to Jung-Won Shin, Roseangela Sebba, Victoria Johnson, Janine Beasley, Stephanie McGee, Alice Ballard, Chris Ballard, Brian Murphy, Laura Broughton, Jonathan Mitchell, Jenna Klein, Rebekah Schultz, and Rebekah Lipscombe, as well as all the conference presenters and performers, our Performance Chairs, the Conference session moderators, and the MSU student volunteers for their contribution, work, help, and support in making the 2023 Conference a success.

The 2024 MMTA State Conference will be held at Belhaven University on November 1-2, 2024. This year's Guest Artist will showcase the Patterson/Sutton Duo, a professional cello and guitar ensemble based in Memphis (see <https://celloandguitar.com/> video clips). Dr. Andy Sauerwein of Belhaven University is slated as the Commissioned Composer. Popular blogger and author Leila Viss will be the Guest Clinician and University of Alabama Piano Professor Kevin Chance will be the IMTF Luncheon speaker. A proposal for the 2024 Mississippi Arts Commission grant will be submitted for the State Conference and the Collegiate Competitions by March 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Mahler

Treasurer's Report



Chris Ballard

Our current balance is \$69,682. That Balance includes:

Checking Account: 37,745.06

Pay Pal Account: 6,559.47

12 Month CD: 25,377.47

We are half way through the fiscal year and have had \$16,990.85 in income and \$14,751.45 in expenses for a net gain of \$2,239.40. It is unusual to have such a strong gain at this time of year, especially since we almost always have a loss from the fall conference as we did last November. However, there are various reasons for our gain. We had ad sale payments from last year that came in after the beginning of the new fiscal year. Also, we had catch up income from different sources from the 2022 Fall Conference that did not show

up until this new fiscal year. And last, but certainly not least, many of you are responsible for this gain. When I sounded the alarm back in August last year that we were beginning to see higher expenses than income on a regular basis I know that you took notice. Because of your efforts in keeping expenses down as you plan and implement MMTA activities we are currently enjoying a positive financial standing. I thank you for your help and ask that you continue to be thrifty in your MMTA expenditures as you have already made a difference and I am sure will continue to do so.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Ballard, MMTA State Treasurer



MMTA 2023 Fall Conference Income and Expense Report

Income

MTNA Competition Rebate	1,600.00
Commissioned composer rebate	750.00
Attendee fees	2,635.00
Pre-College Entrance Fees	1,540.00
Steinway Sponsorship	600.00

Expenses

MTNA Judges	2,660.84
Commissioned Composer	1,500.00
IMTF Speaker	633.10
MMTA pre-college judge	76.20
Reimburse parking fees	150.00
Guest Artist/Clinician Exp	4,163.46
Conference Booklet	664.67
MSU Food Service	1,448.35
Past Presidents' Luncheon	100.24
Pre-College Printing Exp	35.53
PayPal fees	75.24

Total Income **7,125.00**

Total Expenses **11,507.63**

MMTA Income and Expenses 7/1/23 – 1/27/24

Income

Fall Conference	7125.00
Dues Rebate	3010.00
Ad sales	945.88
2022 Fall Conference	795.00
Foundation Fellow	1550.00
Interest from CD	377.47
MAC Grant	3187.50

Expenses

Fall Conference	11,507.63
MTNA Cincinnati Summit	
GoDaddy Web Service	1278.12
Business Expense	70.66
Foundation Fellow	1550.00
Southern Division	345.00

Total Income **16,990.85**

Total Expenses **14,751.41**

Vice Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations



Rosângela Sebba



Katie Johnson

We have been busy updating the MMTA curriculum, application process and evaluation formats. An Ad Hoc committee has been formed with: Donna Banks, Jacquelyn Thornell, Carol Durham, Debbie Barnes, Rebekah Schultz, Rebekah Lipscombe, Paula Henderson, besides Jung-Won Shin, Carol Mahler, and Katie Johnson. Together with the updates, the curriculum has been updated as well, which makes it harder to keep up with all that has changed. We hope to get it done by the summer.

I have been working with Dr. Cremaschi and according to his experience with other states, he thinks Mississippi rules and requirements are quite elaborate and takes a lot for him to put on the website. I also have had some personal health issues that made me slow down during the winter break. He does not think he will be able to get it ready to run for the Spring Evaluations.

Thank you to all who are volunteering to help the curriculum review and all the materials. We can do this!

Respectfully submitted,

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

Vice-President for Membership and Web Management



Janine Beasley

As of January 26, 2024, 146 members are listed for the 2022-2023 year (143 this time last year). Of these 1 is reinstating member/transfer from CO, 1 is transfer from IL, 5 are reinstating members, 13 are new members, 6 are new collegiate members, 1 is reinstating collegiate member.

Website changes:

Ongoing: miscellaneous updates as needed.

Uploaded approved August meeting minutes per Alice Ballard.

Continue to send mass emails to members as requested.

Continuing to add new members as I get information. Unpaid members have been deleted.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Beasley

Chair of Theory and Composition



Jonathan Mitchell

I am pleased to announce that our commissioned composer for our 2024 Fall Conference will be Dr. Andrew Sauerwein (<https://www.belhaven.edu/about/contact/faculty/sauerwein-andrew.html>). He has served on the faculty at Belhaven University since 2005, where he directs the composition program, oversees the theory and musicianship curriculum, and supervises the music computer lab.

As you can see from the above link, Dr. Sauerwein has produced a varied, beautiful body of work during his career as a composer and pedagogue. It is a nice touch that our premier for this conference will have been composed by someone connected with Belhaven University, since our conference will be held there.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Mitchell

Affiliate News

Gulf Coast Music Teachers Association

Greetings to all. All of us at the GCMTA hope that your 2024 is off to a great start.

We enjoyed multiple programs in the fall 2023 semester. We were privileged to host Professor Xie Song from Belhaven University on October 14 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gulfport. He gave an outstanding masterclass on selected movements from Vivaldi's "Four Seasons." Furthermore, we had a great turnout for our two GCMTA Fall Recitals on November 11 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Ocean Springs, MS. At these two recitals, we had 30 students from five teachers.

Our General Business Meeting for the spring was held via Zoom on Saturday, January 13 with four members present. As of January 13th, we have 15 members. At our meeting, we planned for more exciting events this spring. These include:

- 1) March 2-Piano Recital by Millsaps Piano Faculty member Dr. Lynn Raley at First United Methodist Church Pascagoula
- 2) April 28-Senior Award Recital at Bible Fellowship Church in Pass Christian.
- 3) June 13-GCMTA Summer Planning Meeting; location and time TBA.
- 4) August 17th-GCMTA Festival-MGCCC at Harrison County Campus

Respectfully submitted

Jonathan Mitchell





JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

January 27, 2024

The JCMTA annual Showcase Recital was held on Sunday, November 5, 2023, at Jones College. Student performers were highlighted at this event.

A business meeting was held prior to the above event.

The JCMTA annual Solo and Sonata Competition was held on Saturday, January 20, 2024. The competition is for students sixth through twelfth grade. 16 students were entered for this event. Our numbers were down again this year.

Several JCMTA teachers had students participate in the Mississippi Baptist Keyboard Festival which was held on Thursday January 25, 2024.

JCMTA will hold its annual Ensemble Festival on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

Jones County Music Teachers Association will participate in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations April 13, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Janine Beasley

Music Forum of Jackson Fall/Winter Report

Music Forum of Jackson members continue to enjoy First Friday luncheons at various local restaurants. It is a relaxed way to catch up with other teachers, bounce ideas off of each other and just enjoy renewing old friendships.

The following Sonata – Sonatina Festival Report was provided by Donna Reed, chairman:

SONATA – SONATINA FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 18, 2023

MILLSAPS COLLEGE

FORD ACADEMIC COMPLEX / YATES CHAPEL

TEACHERS	10
STUDENTS REGISTERED	74
PARTICIPANTS	69
HONORS AWARDED	
GOLD	24
SILVER	27
HONORABLE MENTION	15
EXCELLENT	3

JUDGES

- Dr. Donna Banks
- Joy Parker Graves
- Rebekah Lipscombe
- Barbara Tracy

Christ Church, Jackson presented Keyboards at Christmas on December 17, 2023. There were four grand pianos and an organ being played simultaneously, and in combinations, using nine pianists. Among those playing were Music Forum Members: Kathie Lott, Eva Hart and Patsy Simpson. The church hopes to make this a yearly event for the community.

Bach Festival Chairman, Kathie Gunn Lott, reported that there are 291 students registered for the 55th Annual Bach Festival, February 10, 2024. Kathy said that the number of entrants is about the same as last year.

We are looking forward to competitions and recitals with our students in the Spring!

Debbie Barnes
MFOJ Co-President

STUDY PIANO

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

PIANO DEGREES

Bachelor of Music in Performance

Bachelor of Music Education

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Master of Music in Performance

Master of Music in Collaborative Piano

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Generous opportunities available!

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Collaborative Piano:

Adrienne Park - apark@olemiss.edu



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Upcoming Events

**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.*

Mississippi Music Teachers Association invites musical groups, publishers, businesses, schools, and institutions to advertise in our three online editions of the Mississippi Music Teacher (MMT) and the November Conference issue each year. For more information, including prices and deadlines for various sized ads, you may contact Stephanie McGee by mail at 378 Harmony Rd., Duck Hill, MS 38925, phone at (662) 417-1390, or email at sholmes057@gmail.com.

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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.